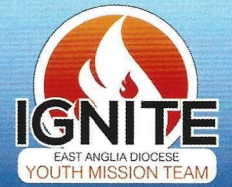




# Annual Newsletter from the Diocesan Youth Service



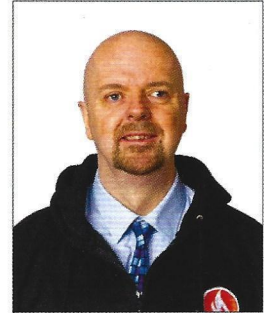
Diocese of East Anglia

November 2024

The news can sometimes be quite depressing - war, climate change, political unrest - the list goes on. Yet there is hope... His name is Jesus. This past year I've been privileged to meet a number of young people who have found that whatever or whoever they were putting their hope in, has ultimately let them down, compared to the hope they have found in discovering or re-discovering their faith.

Soon we will be entering into the Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope', the theme Pope Francis has given us. Please pray for all those working with young people, that they can effectively share this hope; and for all young people that they may know this hope in their lives.

Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Service



It's been another busy year - along with events, a pilgrimage to Santiago, online assemblies and a strong social media presence, we've visited more schools than any year since the Ignite team began. Here are some of the highlights:

## Ignite Festival

*'When I came here I didn't have that much faith in God, but these two days have given me faith and hope'. (One of the young people at the Ignite Festival)*



This year, the Ignite Festival moved to St. Benedict's School in Bury St. Edmunds, with over 250 young people coming.



## Walking the Camino

Led by Bishop Peter, a group of 30 went on pilgrimage walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. 120km in the summer heat of Spain - challenging, rewarding and for some of the group, life changing!



## Donate

On the Feast of Christ the King (this year the 24th November), many churches will have a second collection for our Diocesan Youth Services. If you would like to give to help continue our ministry but you are not carrying much cash, or you would like to give at any time throughout the year, you can give online. Please see [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth) for more information.

*'We need the oxygen of the Gospel, the breath of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, to reignite in our hearts.'* Pope Francis



# Looking ahead to 2025

## Key Dates for Young People

**15th March**

### FLAME

The Diocese will be taking a group to join around 10,000 young people in Wembley Arena, experiencing the best in speakers and musicians from around the world.

**3rd - 4th May**

### IGNITE FESTIVAL

An amazing weekend of music, entertainment, food and faith. For everyone Year 8 upwards.

**28th July - 4th**

**August**

### PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

(see below)

For more information on all our events, please see our website.

## The Ignite Team

Last summer we said goodbye to Adam Dodd who came to the end of his 'gap year'. Alex Thanickal has stayed on for another year and is joined by Alex Curley-Warren from Wisbech and Luc Wallace from Bury. Both have amazing testimonies of how knowing Jesus has changed their lives.

The team share their faith with young people throughout the Diocese leading 'Glo' days (similar to the

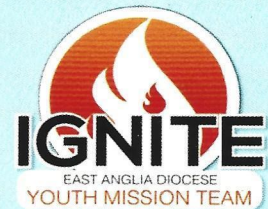


Ignite Festival in a day), retreat days, running events, and working with First Communion and Confirmation groups. If you would be interested in the team visiting your school or parish, please get in touch.

## If you are age 18 - 30 why not join the Ignite Team ?

- Inspiring young people with the Gospel Message
- Grow in your own faith
- Gain experience and skills working with children and young people
- From September 2025 - July 2026
- Accommodation, food and allowances are provided

Not able to join the team full time but would like to be involved? Join Ignite Lite, our volunteer team open to all those aged 16 - 35



## Pilgrimage to Rome

As part of the Jubilee 2025, in the summer we will be leading a pilgrimage to Rome, joining with hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the world. If you will be age 16 - 30 come and join us! See [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth) for more details.



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