

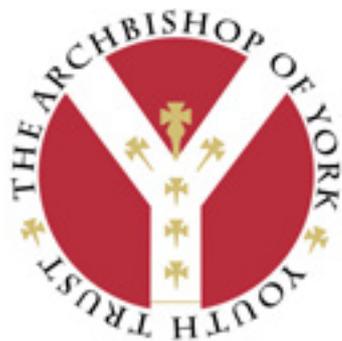
# National Younger Leadership Groups

## Dream and Celebration

### Report 3 - July 2021



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND





## About the National Younger Leadership Groups

The National Younger Leadership Groups formed out of a partnership between the Archbishop of York Youth Trust and the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership. Both organisations strategic plans currently have priorities focused on youth voice, developing student leadership and growing faith amongst young people. In connection with this, the Church of England's new vision and strategy, led by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, has a focus on 'growing younger', which makes regular consultation and engagement with children and young people for the future vision of the church an absolute necessity.



Every Diocese across the country was invited to join the project, and Diocese Education Teams were asked to nominate young leaders from their school networks to join groups and attend the sessions. There are up to 300 young leaders in total, 100 from primary schools, 100 from secondary and 100 from the further education settings.

The groups met three times over 2020-2021, with a different focus for each session. For each session, young leaders explored key leadership skills and character virtues, rooted in the Bible and Christian teaching, whilst also gaining confidence to share their voice on themes and topics that are important to them. Each phase was hosted as separate events, so three sessions would run for each theme; one for primary, one for secondary and one for further education. These sessions were hosted by the Archbishop of York Youth Trust team.

## Session Overviews

### November 2020

#### **'What church would you like to see?'**

These sessions focussed on providing input to the 'Growing Younger' aspect of the Church of England's vision and strategy group.

### April 2021

#### **'Learning to Love...' (LOVE) and 'Be the change...' (EXAMPLE)**

These events explored the teachings of Jesus, in particular the greatest commandment to: "Love the Lord your God and to love your neighbour as yourself". We explored what some of the barriers are to loving God and loving others, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. We focussed on some examples of leaders who we can take inspiration from.

### June 2021

#### **Celebration 'I can do all things...' (ACTION and DREAM)**

This event reviewed the journey of the last year with the participants and celebrate their growth in leadership, character, and faith. Alongside this, we focussed on the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28, encouraging the young leaders to write down their dreams for a better world, remembering that all things are possible through Christ Jesus.

Note - Due to government guidance around school closures, our sessions have been condensed from five to three sessions.

# Session 3

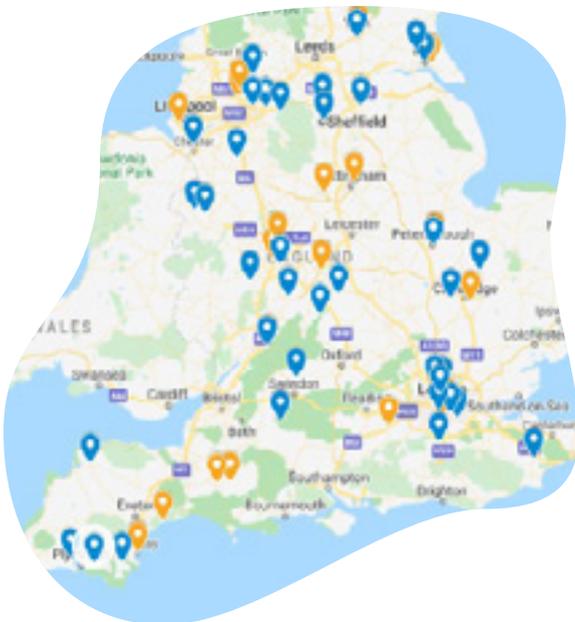
## Dream and Celebration

Throughout the National Younger Leadership Sessions, we are following the principles of LEAD.

L - Love  
E - Example  
A - Action  
D - Dream

For each of the previous sessions, we ran separate calls for the primary, secondary and further education young leaders. However for the final session, as it was a celebration, all three groups joined together for one large session. There were around 100 schools from across England represented for this final session of the year.

We were also pleased to have a group of secondary school young leaders host the breakout rooms for the first time. The young leaders helped facilitate and lead the discussion times for their local areas. They were a brilliant addition to the session.



# Session 3

## Dream and Celebration

### AIM

To give the young leaders a voice and opportunity to think about their dreams for the future and to celebrate completing the first year of the National Younger Leadership Groups.

- Engage in a new learning experience
- Grow in leadership and character
- Gain confidence to articulate vision and values

“I hope that more young people can get involved next year... I have found it great fun and helpful.”

“Thank you - it has meant a lot to have an opportunity for my voice to be heard.”

**Young Leaders**

### ACTION

We asked the Young Leaders three questions:

- What is your biggest dream?
  - What do you want to see change in your community?
- What can you do about that?



# Session 3 - Focus 1

## Called to be like salt and light

For the first focus of our final session, we looked at Jesus' call for us to be like salt and light in the world.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**Matthew 5:13-16**



### Spotlight

We looked at how Marcus Rashford is as an example of a young leader who dreams of a better world and is doing something about it.







# Session 3 - Focus 4 Celebration!

All young leaders were presented with certificates to celebrate the end of the first year of National Younger Leadership Groups.



# Session 3 - Focus 5

## How would you sum up your experience of the NYLGs?

To close, we asked the young leaders to sum up their experience of the National Younger Leadership Groups in three words. Here's what they said:

<b>Inspiring moral-boosting fun</b>	Inspirational fun brilliant	Fun inspirational brilliant	Inspiring informative fun	Amazing inspirational educational
It was brilliant!	Fun inspiring interesting	WONDERFUL AMAZING INSPIRING	Interesting inspiring educational	<b>Fun challenging valued</b>
AMAZING FUN EDUCATIONAL	Learning experience	Very inspiring opportunity	Helpful inspiring unique	Fun inspirational great
Inspiring hopeful fun	Fun inspirational knowledge	Fun eye opening inspiring	YOU ARE GREAT!	Incredibly inspiring unforeseen
Encouraging inspiring fun	Happy amazing inspirational	Inspiring fun interesting	Inspiring educational fun	<b>Young voice love</b>
IT IS AMAZING	Fun spiritual interesting	COOL INSPIRING FUN	Unique interesting inspirational	Informative educational Inspiring
Inspiring fun proud	Great Great Great	<b>Inspiring Educational One-of-a-kind</b>	Incredible inspiring interesting	Interesting inspirational educational
Phoniminal brilliant amazing	Extrodinary inspiring enjoyable	Inspiring fun interesting	Insightful inspirational eye opening	Inspiratioel informative brilliant
Fun fascinating INSPIRING	Informative fun amazing	Beneficial educational helpful	<b>Strengthened faith</b>	Inclusive dynamic fun

# Where we're going next

We are currently planning for the next cohort of National Younger Leadership Groups. If you have questions about the project, or would like to get involved, get in touch with us.



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