

How Youth Emmaus was born

Emma and Peter were a couple of 14 year olds in the parish. They asked if they could be confirmed. Emma was really keen and knew a little. Peter was more interested in Emma than God and thought that church was a waste of time. Two days later in a local primary (yes primary!) school, the head teacher asked if there was anything to help a group of 10/11 year olds find out more about Christianity other than through assemblies and RE.

So Youth Emmaus was born. Based on the Adult Emmaus nurture course, Youth Emmaus provides a safe place for exploration and discovery about the Christian faith. Youth Emmaus aims to make a connection with God, with the church and with the lives which young people are living. It doesn't try to be over trendy, but to provide a safe place for young people to explore what the Christian faith means for them in today's world. It tries not to fill the head with facts, but to fill the soul with love. It also tries to help the church shape a place for young people, rather than trying to make them fit in with everyone else.

Youth Emmaus contains 14 sessions with additional hot potato sessions. It can be done in lots of different settings and is for those of little or no faith, or for those who have been brought up in the church. It works as a confirmation course, and it works as one-off sessions for youth groups, or as material to use in an after school or school lunch club and other settings. It's yours to adapt to your local setting.

What happened to Emma and Peter? They are both about to start college and university in 2005. They are both active Christians and part of the church. .
What happened in the school? They still run Youth Emmaus.

The journey continues..... Young hearts continue to burn along the road through an encounter with the risen Jesus.

Tim Sledge