

Youth Group Vision Statement

Purpose

To provide a welcoming and supportive environment where young people can build deep friendships, engage with meaningful discussion, and be equipped to navigate the transition into adult life with confidence and Christian conviction.

Aims

- **Connection:** To foster genuine, supportive friendships and a strong sense of community among the teenagers in the group.
- **Exploration:** To create a safe space for open, honest discussion about complex issues related to faith, the world, life choices, academic pressures, and future planning.
- **Growth:** To encourage personal, social, and spiritual development, equipping members with practical skills and spiritual resources for their next steps after school.
- **Integration:** To facilitate smoother integration into the wider church body and encourage active participation in serving the community.

Ethos

- **Inclusivity:** We commit to being a welcoming and non-judgmental group where every member, regardless of background or belief stage, feels valued and respected.
- **Authenticity:** We prioritise genuine relationships and encourage honesty and vulnerability, ensuring discussions remain confidential, within safeguarding parameters set out by the Church of England and according to St Edmund's safeguarding policy, and trust is maintained.
- **Responsibility:** We treat the space, the leaders, and each other with mutual respect, taking ownership of the group's positive culture.

Christian Distinctiveness

- **Biblical Foundation:** We ground our teaching and discussions in the Bible, exploring what it means to apply a Christian worldview to real-life challenges faced by this age group.
- **Discipleship Focus:** We encourage practices of faith, such as prayer and reflection, relevant to the lives of young people preparing for independence.
- **Service & Mission:** We seek opportunities to serve others, both within the church community and externally, demonstrating the love of Christ in practical ways.