

## **SALT Youth Group: Awards and Admission Policy going forward...**

The SALT youth group has been a huge success this year with 11 group members regularly attending Wednesday activities and 4-5 regularly attending the Sunday services. We're really excited about this new opportunity to build relationships and develop our Christian faith together while enjoying various outdoor activities.

Due to the success of the youth group, more young people are interested in coming than we have space and resources for, and because of this we have been considering how best to manage the group's membership. The criteria proposed reflects our original aims of the youth group, being that we want it to be a place where 11-14 year olds in the parish can find space to discover and develop their faith alongside peers. We've found that of the current members of SALT that come to the activities regularly on Wednesday evenings, less than half come to the SALT on Sunday activities. The concern is over how we manage the group for young people outside of the church and manage new families who may join the church and then want their children to join the church youth group. At a recent Sunday School planning meeting there was concern over whether it was quantity or quality. It was a difficult choice but the quality, the depth of relationships and intimacy of a smaller group were greatly valued. So...

We have developed the following proposal, as of April 2015:

- Youth Group is for 11-14 year olds (Key Stage 3) who are church members.
- These children have priority over those who do not attend church.
- If we have spaces (up to max of 12) after church members are accommodated these will be offered to other local young people who have registered interest.
- The membership is confirmed each July for the following academic year.
- Unfortunately, this could mean a young person who doesn't attend church could lose their place if we had a large intake of new church members. However, by regular attendance on a Sunday they could ensure they don't lose their place.
- Those attending currently would have their place confirmed at the end of the summer term when we know the intake for September.

The attendance criteria for being a part of the SALT youth group continues to be Key Stage 3, (11-14 year olds), within North Blackwater Parishes. After the SALT member becomes 14, there's an opportunity to continue being involved in Fellowship Afloat through volunteering or be invited to become a young leader for SALT. If there are any questions, or if you wish to be placed on the waiting list, please email [salt@fact.org.uk](mailto:salt@fact.org.uk)