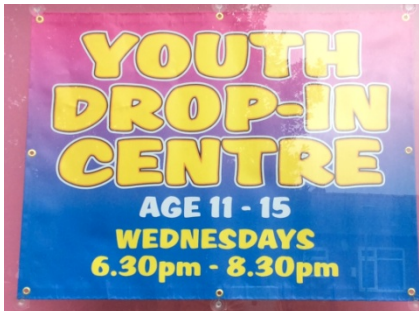


St Lawrence Denton Youth Drop In Centre

Putting together our Parish Profile to advertise for a new Priest-in-Charge and considering our



Mission Action Plan has led to a new form of outreach for St Lawrence Church in Denton. Our vision is to be a warm, welcoming worshipping community for all.

The main issues in our Parish are Low/No Qualifications, Single parenthood, Crime & Disorder, Unemployment and Ill-health/Disabilities. We are particularly aware of issues with young people on the streets in their leisure time looking for a purpose, and currently turning to drugs as the answer.

At our September Mission and Outreach meeting Pauline Blinston spoke passionately about a vision of a new outreach - a Youth Drop In Centre in the Parish Hall. She had been thinking about this for sometime – we have good regular older generation support and outreach (Worship services and Tuesday Cafe) but need to provide something tangible for the younger generation, set in a Christian context showing Gods love and care through action.

She, along with Jacqui Corless and Sandra Lomax researched the need and the possibilities by chatting with locals and identifying contacts such as youth workers in other areas, PCSO's and linking with our Secondary School Denton Community College. The aim is to provide a warm and welcoming space with activities including homework quiet space / help, table tennis, social chatting. Above all it was recognised that we need to provide what the youngsters want – we can't second guess their preferences.



Pauline, Sandra and Bill

Following DBS checks, and risk assessments the Youth Drop In was launched in January and the pictures show the young people having a great time. The thing they enjoy most is having adults to chat with about day to day concerns and about current news. They also love the tea and toast and craft work. We pray that this venture will grow and show the young people an alternative way of using their leisure time. (All have given permission for their photographs to be used)

