



Young People's Programme

11- 15s Minute

YMG 2021

25 friends gathered together for this week online, young people aged 11–15, and adult volunteers and staff. A peer arrangements committee worked with support to plan the event with the theme 'Exploring Truth, finding Hope'.

Community building started early on, focussing on introductions, community boundaries and games both in base groups and the whole group. The base groups were a safer and smaller community to explore issues. As the week went on people became freer to contribute, a sign that they felt secure and welcome. Community building continued throughout the week through social games, activities and crafting.

We started the exploration of our theme through philosophy games with Rosie Carnall, considering truth through metaphors. We thought of truth as a cake deciding they should be straight forward and that we should see through the decoration to the truth. Truth should present its true self and might not be as palatable as we wish. Slices of truth cake should not be too big so we could eat the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

With Thomas Penny, the Swarthmore lecturer, we considered why we believe lies? Are the people who believe the lies as guilty as the people who tell them? Where do we get information from? How do we balance bias and what in our lives nurture the seeds of truth?

With Lee Lester we thought about active hope, what are our hopes for the world? How we keep hope and prevent activism burnout. We concluded by writing our own mission statements on how we wish to work in the world, recognising the skills we can bring including educating the world on climate change and equality, striving towards a better world and helping bring struggling communities out of conflict or poverty.

We explored different perspectives on the effect of climate change, deciding policy and actions need to be taken at a community level and hoping we can influence those decisions and ensuring we are aware of those who do not have a voice but are affected.

We worshipped together to start our sessions and in daily epilogue. We used different ways to help centre in worship and also used prepared ministry of words, images, music, film. The worship relaxed us and brought us together as a group; getting us ready and helping us take in the day.

This year's YPP required a different commitment, energy and motivation but our community still allowed us to persevere, explore, and have fun together.

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