

Witney Benefice Youth Council Report

In June 2020, we began the process of setting up a Witney Benefice Youth Council, in order to give children and young people a voice in the mission and ministry of the church. The idea for this came from the Rev'd Ross Meikle, following the release of Oxford Diocese's 'Disciples Together' report. Other adults who have helped to establish this include Kate Lockwood, Kayleigh Lucas and Alison Spicer. The first meeting was held at the end of July, with 8 young people present. The council is open to all young people in secondary school, however we also invite someone from primary school to become our Junior Representative, ensuring that children of all ages are heard. Other roles on the council include a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. At our monthly meetings we discuss a range of topics, primarily focussing on how the church can better cater and serve our young people. We have our own prayer, created by one of our members, which we use at every meeting. This is the start of an exciting, and much needed project, which draws hope for the future of young people in the church. If you would like to know more about the council, please do be in contact with me (youthchair@witneyparish.org.uk).

Nadia Whiffin – Chair of the Benefice Youth Council