

*Transforming Lives; Transforming Communities*

# Year of the Child 2009

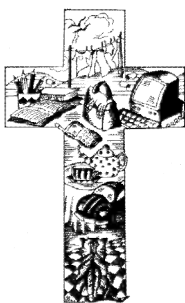
**Celebrate**

**Review**

**Challenge**



What you said about  
"My Life"



# Children on "My Life"

The best thing about being me is ...

My family	I am good at things	The ambitions I have
My Friends	Climbing Trees	I am helpful
	The positive future I can look forward to	

The things I like and dislike doing are ...

LIKES		DISLIKES
My Wii	Toys	Sprouts
Holidays	Maths	School
Dancing	Playing	Homework
Music	Gymnastics	Tidying up
TV & video	Trampoline	Boring Stuff
Cross stitch	Praying	Going to Bed
Writing	Seeing the sun	My brother crying

What I am doing this week ...

School	Rainbows	Seeing a play	Cubs
Dancing	Guides	Swimming	Sunday Club
Sponsored Walk	Making Gingerbread people		Work

What I would like to change about my life ...

To be smarter	Less sensitive	My maths
To be fitter	Better looking	My head teacher
To be more confident	Cut my hair	Naughty people

When I am older I would like to ...

Be a teacher	Be a doctor
Be a police officer	Join the army
Get good exam results	Have a nice house and wife
Fly around the world buying fashion	

# Reviewing "My Life"

How can God be part of the things you are doing?

He gives me a good direction for life  
Helps my future be more positive  
Stops me getting selfish  
Helps people going to Church  
Helps me be good and caring  
When I pray to him

How can God help you in your hopes for the future?

Helps me to be gentle, kind and not to smoke  
Helps me keep on the right side of the law  
Keeps me motivated  
God makes the future  
Helps to keep us safe  
Helps me look after others  
By being there

In general many of the children and young people seemed positive about life. There were plenty of things that made them feel positive about themselves and about their lives and futures. There were more "likes" than "dislikes" in every list. All the children and young people seemed to have very busy lives, which echoed the large lists of communities they had told us of in an earlier topic.

There were some really significant difference in the responses to this topic from different age groups.

The young people talked more about themselves than the younger children. The things they wanted to change were very personal such as wanting to be more confident or better looking.

# Challenging the Church

How can a Church service be relevant to your life?

Give a good influence and help us to remember sacrifices (poppy day)

Praying

Singing

What can the Church do for you to help your future?

"Make it funner"

Be more positive so that I can be more positive

Make me a better person

The differences between the younger and older children responding to this topic highlights perhaps a change in value structures as children grow older. The youngest children see the world as a place where people naturally fit together. They appear to feel a natural sense of "being a part" of life. The older children and young adults generally have values which are about "fitting in": "I would like to be better looking" or "more confident". There seems to be a dynamic of moving from what I can do and enjoy towards what I have to do to be accepted.

The Children and young people are clear that the Church has a positive message about our simple human value. Jesus came to give us life in all its fullness - a simple message of God's love for us. And it is a love that makes us part of the human race, taking away the need to conform.

Perhaps in church we are sometimes so eager to teach facts about God and our faith that we forget the value of the love we have to share.