

**Young Faith Matters report**

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| Title | Message Bus Summer 2021 |
| Diocesan Vision objective: | * 1. shift the focus of church life to outreach, the joy of service, partnerships and outward-facing projects that make a difference to people’s lives in our communities.

1.4 strengthen our links with partners in the wider global church.2.3 encourage and nurture children, young people and young adults in addressing and exploring matters of faith.3.1 engage with parishes to build a confident and joyful local church serving their communities. |
| Activity: | Message Bus deployed across 6 locations: St Teilo’s CinW High School, Abercynon, Porthcawl, Pontypridd, Penrhys and Bettws. |
| Objective: | Acted as a pilot to explore opportunity of connecting with youth through technology. |
| Comments: | We visited 6 vastly different communities and engaged in multiple conversations about faith in a diversity of differing social settings. |
| Schedule/ plan |
| Time: | Comments: |
| St Teilo’s school: 2nd 4th 6th August | Time spent was focused on building relationships as the Bus was deployed at the school for 3 days. Mt Lloynd (headteacher) was thrilled with the bus and expressed desire to integrate it as part of regular school life. |
| Abercynon: 11th August | Engaged with over 40 kids throughout the session. Kids were more responsive and open to conversation once they received food and drinks from the local contact Peter Lewis. Peter shared a message off the back of the Pot Noodles (food tokens for which had been provided and planned to incorporate into his talk from John 10:10). This led to good conversations with the young people. Alongside the bus, the football pitch beside was utilised for a football game which provided variety.Peter is keen to use the bus again in sessions looking to launch alongside a café at one of his churches. |
| Porthcawl: 19th Aug | This event was hosted by Mark Broadway and Gilgal Baptist Church. It cemented a good supportive relationship between the Anglican and Baptist Church with both their Youth Worker (Owen Hughes) and their children’s administrator (Cathryn Hodges) taking ownership. The bus was strategically positioned along a main walking route to the amusement park, leading to a steady flow of interest throughout the afternoon. Alongside the bus, Gilgal Baptist Church were also operating a beach event for children close by. |
| Pontypridd: 20th Aug | Organisers insisted on an early start which didn’t bear fruit, very little interest in first few hours of event. In the afternoon the bus attracted the interest of 20 or so young people coming onto the bus between 1:30 and 4. Rev Charlotte Rushton was very supportive and keen to utilise this relationship with the Message Wales in the future. There was also support from the local ecumenical youth club who brought some of their youth along. They also expressed an interest in future projects allowing for the promotion of the Beach BBQ event held in Porthcawl in September. |
| Penrhys: 24th Aug | Families were waiting in anticipation for the bus. The Church had planned their cafe event around the buses time so to maximise reach. 58 children ranging from 2-17 interacted with the bus. Later, more volunteers joined and really enjoyed being a part of the bus session. A group of teenage boys played FIFA chatting very openly about their lives showing that the situation had meant they were comfortable and trusted the leaders present. Near the end of the session, we had another member of the Church come take a look around and he said that they had never had anything like this come to Penrhys before. Interest was expressed about the bus coming back another time. |
| Bettws: 25th Aug | Suzanne Brumwell and the Boys and Girls Club in Bettws put on the final summer bus session. Learning from Penrhys, the session was done in time slots and had 3 team members from the Message Trust manning it. The nail bar was utilised the whole time and had kids queuing up to be pampered, giving opportunity to connect with them. The Christian booklets generated interest amongst a 9-year-old who read it triggering discussions around Church. Again, Interest was expressed about the bus coming back another time. |
| Impact**:** |
| The bus worked better in poorer, less affluent communities, being appreciated greatly by those who do not generally have personal access to PlayStations, X Boxes etc. This pilot had great impact on the churches supporting them. Abercynon for example is using the bus again in the future. In terms of session length, 4 hours is a long time, and a better use would be to keep them shorter 1 ½ or 2 hours. It was noticed that local ownership generated greater interaction from the youth present. It also, creates an opportunity to become recognised by the youth they wish to serve. |

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