

# 2009: Year of the Child

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the United Nations' **International Year of the Child.**



Dear Friends,

All across the country, church communities are using this year as an opportunity to celebrate the place of children and young people in their midst - and to be challenged to see how we could do things differently and even better! Here in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds, we want to invite you to take part in an exciting project, which will enable the voices of our children and young people to be heard not just in your parish, but at a Deanery and Diocesan level too.

## What is happening:

- Each month, for 8 months beginning in February 2009, a pack will be sent out to participating churches with a topic to think about, e.g. my Community, my School, the Church, God's World, the people of God's World, my Life etc.
- The topic can be explored in a way that suits the children and young people in the group - through talking, writing, drawing or craft work. It could be done as part of a normal group or a separate group set up specifically for Year of the Child.
- The work is then gathered with feedback and returned to us.

## We will then:

- Collate the information and give you regular updates, with a view to presenting the complete findings to our Bishops and Archdeacons in due course.
- Respond with training, support and resources to any particular needs.
- Invite all those who have taken part to a celebration and display in late 2009.
- Continue to listen to the children and young people of the Diocese.

We very much hope that your church would like to take part in this process! If you would, please could you return the slip with details of a contact person to whom we can send the monthly packs - and other ideas and suggestions to support you in the year ahead?

With our thanks and prayers for your ministry,

Clare MacLaren

Leeds Archdeaconry Children's Work Advisor

Nic Sheppard

Diocesan Youth Work Advisor

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## YEAR OF THE CHILD PROJECT

Yes, our church would like to participate in this project.

Name of Church:..... Deanery:.....

Name & Address of .....

Contact Person

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**Please return this to:** Kath Hinchcliffe, Diocesan Offices, St Mary's Street LEEDS LS9 7DP  
or email [kathh@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk](mailto:kathh@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk)