



press release
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CPAS on a mission to grow teenagers with new leadership course

A new course to help develop the next generation of Christian leaders has been launched by CPAS.

The Warwick-based mission agency has created *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition*, designed for 14-18 year olds. The course recognises that many young people already hold leadership positions at school and within community groups yet have little or no training in what it means to be a godly leader.

Ruth Hassall, CPAS youth and children's leadership development adviser, said: 'Many young people are in positions of leadership at school, sports clubs or in the home, as well as their involvement in church groups.

'Growing Leaders – Youth Edition is all about growing them in Christ-like character and equipping them to fulfil all leadership roles to the best of their God-given abilities.

'Research indicates that the teenage years are the key time to invest in people as leaders. We want to train young people for godly leadership and create a whole new generation of young leaders, invigorating teenagers in churches across the UK.

'At CPAS we are passionate about developing young people's leadership potential and we are excited about the impact that *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* can have on the lives of many teenagers and those who they influence.'

A book written by Ruth Hassall to accompany the course, *Ready to Lead*, has been published and is available at www.cpas.org.uk. Next month the book *Growing Young Leaders* will also be published, aimed at people involved with mentoring teenagers.

A national training tour for those interested in leading the course is scheduled, with three regional events in Warwick (7 March), Twickenham (4 April) and Sheffield (27 June).

Over the past year *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* has been piloted by seven churches and a school, covering a wide range of backgrounds with children from inner city and rural areas. Leaders and participants provided feedback to assist CPAS with the final stages of development.

Andy Castle, youth pastor at St Stephen's Twickenham who led a pilot course, said: 'This has been the single most effective training I have done for young people seeking to develop their leadership. It's focused, down-to-earth and inspiring. I can't wait to run it again.'

The course is based on the CPAS *Growing Leaders* course, which launched in 2006 and has already been run by more than 500 churches across the country.

Ruth added: 'This new *Youth Edition* takes the successful model of *Growing Leaders* and translates it into a relevant and engaging course for a new generation of Christian leaders.'

'CPAS has a long history of supporting youth and children's work through helping to bring the good news of Jesus to young people across the UK and Republic of Ireland. We continue to work with youth and children's leaders both in the local church and on Ventures and Falcon Camps, which are enjoyed by more than 4,500 youngsters each year.'

'*Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* builds on that foundation by inspiring and equipping teenagers to realise the potential that God has in store for them through Christ-like leadership.'

Ends

For further information or to arrange an interview with Ruth Hassall please contact Olly Du Croz at CPAS on 01926 458443.

Notes to Editors:

- CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and Republic of Ireland. It enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.
- CPAS helps churches become more mission-focused by developing effective leaders at all levels: training, resourcing, empowering and inspiring men, women and young people who point others to Jesus.
- The CPAS vision includes equipping local churches to train a generation of young people for leadership.
- A full outline of the Growing Leaders – Youth Edition course is available at www.cpas.org.uk