

press release

26 January 2010

CPAS marks 75th anniversary of Pathfinders

CPAS is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Pathfinder movement.

Pathfinders were formed in 1935 as a ministry for 11-14 year olds. It grew during the second half of the 20th century and – in the 1970s and 1980s in particular – reached thousands of individuals and churches across the UK.

John Dunnett, general director of CPAS, said: 'During the second half of the 20th Century, thousands of young people came to faith and grew as followers of Christ through Pathfinders.

'CPAS was closely involved in the co-ordination of Pathfinders for many years, and still continues to organise the programme of Venture holidays which began as an integral part the Pathfinder movement about 50 years ago.

'In the last 20 years there have been dramatic changes affecting all forms of work amongst children and young people, and the Pathfinder network declined sharply in the parishes as did other similar movements.

'However there will be individuals, churches and Pathfinder groups who once felt themselves to be part of this movement, but who have subsequently lost contact with CPAS. We want to use this anniversary to re-connect with those people so that we can offer support to the leaders involved.'

Venture holidays provide Christian residential holidays for more than 4,500 children and young people each year, with a further 500 from disadvantaged backgrounds attending Falcon Camps. Holiday details can be found at www.ventures.org.uk.

Last year CPAS launched the *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* course to help grow teenagers in Christ-like leadership. There are also book reviews, specialist advice and articles for youth leaders available at www.cpas.org.uk along with free downloadable resources from the CPAS back catalogue.

John added: 'CPAS is now focused on developing and equipping mission-focused leaders to help grow local churches. This includes an ongoing commitment to youth and children's work, and the leaders of these ministries, based on the same principles of mission that led to the formation of Pathfinders 75 years ago.

'We want to support and equip all youth leaders who share an aspiration that the young people in their churches and local communities should have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel message.'

Ends

For further information please contact Olly Du Croz on 01926 458443 or oducroz@cpas.org.uk.

Notes to Editors:

CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

For further information about the CPAS, please visit www.cpas.org.uk.