

## Youth Weekend Away - 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Last weekend, 11 young people and 5 leaders from the Bromley Circuit went away to Otford Methodist Church to think about 'Discipleship in 21<sup>st</sup> Century'.

We received great hospitality from the church and enjoyed meeting up with their youth group on Saturday evening for games including newspaper hockey and table tennis. On the Sunday morning we joined in the worship at Otford with some of the young people performing a sketch based on the calling of the disciples and two of them sharing testimony about the weekend.



At the beginning of the weekend the young people said their expectations would be to have fun, for everyone to enjoy themselves, to explore different ways we can be disciples, to spend some time with other young people who are religious & to learn more about what it is like to be a Christian in a modern world.

For some of the young people they may decide this weekend has moved them towards confirmation and church membership; for those who are already confirmed or not yet at that point they still learnt more about following Jesus and being part of his family, the church.

At the end of the weekend they felt they had been able to interact with new people, get a better understanding of what they were previously unsure about, to learn more about the Methodist church and other denominations. They also got to think about their personal discipleship & realise that God may be calling them personally.

As leaders we were moved by the depth of engagement and honesty that the young people displayed as we looked together at a variety of topics. We enjoyed spending time with them and, despite putting the clocks forward, we even got some sleep! We hope we can organise another weekend before too long.

*By Revd Karen George*