A week at the Salmon Youth Centre
FOREWORD

Is your diary important to you? Mine is! I am not sure I would even be able to exist without one. In an attempt to capture activities taking place at the centre throughout any given week, we are presenting this year’s Annual Report in the form of a week in our diary.

The truth is, because we are involved in a dynamic ever-changing environment, Salmon will never truly be able to fully capture all that has taken place. Below is a list of selected highlights which point in the direction of a very busy last year:

• 800-1000 young people visited the centre every week;
• we ran over 40 sports, arts, training and club activities in the afternoon and evening, plus many daytime activities every week;
• we introduced three new regular events: Black History Month, D:Session and Salmon Celebration;
• we launched our new website and newsletter The Salmon;
• our young people and four Government Ministers officially opened our new building.

Looking forward, we really are not sure how full our diary will be for the coming year. Economic and financial pressures along with changes of Government administration mean that we do not know the level of support we will receive going forward. Cuts to provision are inevitable; we are sadly already planning for these.

We would ask anyone reading this Annual Report to help and support us in any way you can. Through volunteering, prayer or, if you have the means, funding our work, enabling us to run the centre and employ workers who develop the programmes and activities.

Having now completed the redevelopment project, Salmon has one of the very few state-of-the-art youth centres in the UK! As great as this achievement is, it means nothing if we do not continue to play a positive part in the life and soul of Bermondsey via youth work, which this organisation has done for over 100 years and... please be assured will continue to do, to the best of our abilities!

Mark Blundell, Executive Director

"Salmon is like a second home to me. I’ve had so much fun and opened up to other people, not being the usual me. I have changed as a person. Even my mum has noticed!"

Michael Emberson, 18
“Salmon is a very good place to get more on your C.V., whether it is AQA’s in sports and trampolining or just experience in working with young people through being a young volunteer.”

Emma Tierney, 18

Monday

PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Group English</td>
<td>KS 2, 3</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trampoline Club</td>
<td>13-19’s</td>
<td>4.30 - 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Club &amp; Boxing Training</td>
<td>10-13’s</td>
<td>5.30 - 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed Club &amp; Boxing Training</td>
<td>10-13’s</td>
<td>6.30 - 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Club</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>8.00 - 10.00pm</td>
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Study Group

Every week around twenty-five children attend our study sessions.

There is also an adult literacy class running during the daytime for those over sixteen with no English qualifications.

Emma Tierney, 18

“Salmon is a very good place to get more on your C.V., whether it is AQA’s in sports and trampolining or just experience in working with young people through being a young volunteer.”

Emma Tierney, 18

Trampoline Club

Recently, a trampoline has been added to our equipment. We have been swamped by the response! Groups of young people, particularly teenage girls, who would usually engage in very little physical activity, are now queuing up to get a good workout on the trampoline!
**PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cliffhanger Climbing Club</td>
<td>7-19’s</td>
<td>3.30 - 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Group English</td>
<td>KS 4</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon Tigers (Football)</td>
<td>8-13’s</td>
<td>5.00 - 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Volunteers Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.30 - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S:Tunes (Gospel Choir)</td>
<td>8-12’s</td>
<td>6.00 - 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Award</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>7.30 - 9.00pm</td>
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</table>

We now have a thriving Adventure programme, with hundreds of participants per month taking advantage of the indoor ‘Leap of Faith’, Jacob’s Ladder and Bungee Trampolining, as well as the outdoor climbing and abseiling.

**Michael on his year at Salmon:**

“Hi, my name is Michael and I live in Bermondsey together with my mum, two sisters and younger brother. I grew up in London and have lived in four different areas. When I am at home, I often meet up with my mates. They come to my house and we just hang out there and drink.

Three days in the week I go to college to do bricklaying. Most of the other days you can find me at Salmon. I was sixteen when I came to Salmon for the first time. One day I just walked in and asked if I could become a volunteer. I wanted to get more experience in sport instructing. Soon, I started doing adventure work with Razz. I have learnt how to do climbing and know how to use most of the equipment here.

Being a volunteer means getting a lot of experience and watching kids having fun at the same time. It has been great to work with Razz. He has taught me how to watch people and make sure they are safe. But also how to calm down and not be uptight around other people. I have learnt to be nice to other people. As a result, people have opened up to me and are nice to me in return.

Salmon is like a second home to me. I’ve had so much fun and opened up to other people, not being the usual me. I have changed as a person. Even my mum has noticed. She came up to me and said: ‘You’ve changed a lot!’ It feels great to hear this from my mum…”

Michael Emberson, 18

**Emma on being a Young Volunteer at Salmon:**

“Last year, I have been doing some singing in S:Tunes and it has become one of the best things I have done this year, because in S:Tunes you get the opportunity to sing in front of lots of people.”

Emma Tierney, 18

**Young Volunteers Group**

Young Volunteers give young people in Bermondsey proof that it is possible to be young and from a working class background, and still make a success of your life, help others and make a difference in the community.

**Emma on being a Young Volunteer at Salmon:**

“Young Volunteers meet every Tuesday. We start our training by going round and saying a good thing that has happened that week. Over the last year we have been involved in different projects and learnt how to work as a team in different situations and communicate positively.

I have been given a lot more responsibilities as a volunteer in this last year. I now teach the 6-9’s dance every week. I also fill in for the dance teacher and receptionist when they are away. This responsibility has helped me grow up a lot faster. I love the way I can now show how mature I have become.

In the future I want to be a mental health nurse. Being at Salmon will help me get some experience. I also want to keep on helping young people like I do now; even if this means just volunteering at a youth centre for a couple of hours a week.”

Emma Tierney, 18

**Michael on the climbing wall**

**S:Tunes**

“Last year, I have been doing some singing in S:Tunes and it has become one of the best things I have done this year, because in S:Tunes you get the opportunity to sing in front of lots of people.”
### PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cliffhanger Climbing Club</td>
<td>10-19's</td>
<td>3.30 - 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Group Maths</td>
<td>KS 4</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-art (Art)</td>
<td>7-12's</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.D. (Dance)</td>
<td>7-12's</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Tennis Coaching</td>
<td>8-13's</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SC-art (Art)</td>
<td>Drop-in session</td>
<td>13+</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.D. (Dance)</td>
<td>13+</td>
<td>5.30 - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-a-Side Football</td>
<td>10-12's</td>
<td>6.00 - 7.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.M. (Music Production)</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>6.00 - 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.D. (STO/P session)</td>
<td>12-16's</td>
<td>7.00 - 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-a-Side Football</td>
<td>13-15's</td>
<td>7.15 - 8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trampoline Club</td>
<td>Girls only</td>
<td>10-19's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-a-Side Football</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>8.30 - 10.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What a busy day!

Lot's of arty stuff to do! And sports as well!!!

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**SC:art**

We have spent this year designing giant murals for our outside walls, creating one-off t-shirts and plimsols and even making stained glass windows! There is always something different to try and a change to laugh and have fun.

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**Five-a-Side Football**

We have seen a great number of young people attending our Wednesday night football tournaments, where teams compete for trophies and sportsmanship awards. They have also worked with our Health Worker Jess, to build a better attitude towards regular exercise and healthy living.

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"I was Member of the Month in June. It felt great receiving the award in recognition of my hard work and it was also just after my birthday! I didn’t expect to receive a prize but it was a great incentive and will help me to keep on going in college."

Zara Kelly, 16

"For the past months I have been coming to Salmon to do arts. I have worked with people from Dulwich Gallery. Each week we made things that are going to be in an exhibition. I’ve also been making stencils to spray graffiti on the tables in the social area."

Rachel Salawu, 17
**Thursday**

**PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Group Maths</td>
<td>KS 2, 3</td>
<td>4.00 - 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCG Football Coaching</td>
<td>8-16's</td>
<td>4.30 - 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCompany (Drama)</td>
<td>8-12's</td>
<td>4.30 - 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCompany (Drama)</td>
<td>13+</td>
<td>6.15 - 7.45pm</td>
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<td>Mixed Club</td>
<td>6-9's</td>
<td>6.15 - 7.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.M. (Live Music)</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>8.30 - 10.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Club</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>8.30 - 10.00pm</td>
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S.C.A.M. started out as a group of young people who wanted to get together and make music. Not much has changed! We meet on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights for music production, MCing Sessions and Live Band Rehearsals. There are opportunities for studio recording, mixing your own tracks and training for aspiring music leaders and artists of the future.

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SCompany meets on Thursday evenings for all young people who love to chase the drama. In each session we play games, laugh and chill out as well as shine in the spotlight. After the curtain goes down there is time to have fun with regular socials and theatre trips.

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Elina about the SCompany residential to Edinburgh:

“Edinburgh was sick!!! It was such a fun-packed, inspirational, motivating and funny trip that I am so glad to have gone to. When I first heard about it I thought, Scotland? Why not some other festival where it is sunny all the time and there are tons of beaches or something? However... when we got there and began to take part in the festival, watching entertaining performances, we enjoyed ourselves to the fullest. We bonded together as a group so well, for example, we cooked meals on different days in turn and even turned it into a “Come Dine With Me” game like on TV, and took videos rating each other’s meals. I would say my favourite part of the trip would be the “Midsummer Night’s Madness” performance by Hackney Empire and the “Alive” performance by various American performers. Last but not least, I cannot miss out the vast variety of shops! I enjoyed the experience of the festival, learning about Edinburgh and Scottish history and seeing the lifestyle difference over there. I would definitely love to go again.”

Elina Daitey, 14

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Elina about SCompany:  

“I have been coming to SCompany for around two years now and during that time I have experienced many things, such as how to improve my drama skills and I have seen a vast variety of plays and performances. This time has boosted my confidence in performing and has shown me that you can do anything in drama.

SCompany is a good club to go to for all ages, because it shows you many skills.”

Perry Mould, 16
**PROGRAMME**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Group</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>3.30 - 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Club</td>
<td>13+</td>
<td>7.00 - 8.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Club</td>
<td>13+</td>
<td>7.00 - 8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Club</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>8.30 - 10.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.M. (Music Production)</td>
<td>14+</td>
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**D:Session**

D: Session is about young people showcasing their talent. It is a platform for the artists of tomorrow to share with their peers what they have to say today. For the artists we work with it is a safe place to try out new work, be supported and develop their skills and confidence. For our audiences of 200+ it is a chance to see something new, to celebrate music, dance and the arts and of course to have a lot of fun.

We believe we have a whole host of talent at Salmon and hope for even more opportunities in the coming years where people can sit up and take notice of the young, fresh, emerging talent in South London. It also encourages young people to work towards the goal of performing at the next event.

Miranda Baxtor, Disability Worker

**Disability Group**

A lot has been going on in Disability Group over the last year, numbers have continued to increase and there is a good atmosphere every Friday. Trips and activities have included Ten-Pin Bowling, Chessington World of Adventures, Horse Riding, London Eye, our first residential at Hindleap Warren Outdoor Centre and as I write this I’m looking forward to a four-day city break to Birmingham that starts tomorrow.

One of the best things about this year is that the club members have begun to take more ownership of the club, e.g. designing the new name ('Mixables') and logo. Some young people have started coming to events and clubs at Salmon besides Disability Group (e.g. D:Session and Friday evening 14+ Club). Two highlights for me have been presenting a film about Disability Group made by the young people (with the help of Ability Media) at D:Session, and also working alongside a group of club members as they ran a bag painting stall at Bermondsey Carnival.

It has been excellent to see the young people enjoying themselves and increasing in confidence. As we spend more time together we’re able to understand each other a bit more and talk about important issues in a positive way.

Miranda Baxtor, Disability Worker

“When D:Session first began in December 2009, I used to enjoy just being in the audience, but this D:Session (July) I was asked to host the event. I am very thankful that they asked me to host as it has made me realise something I am good at, and has led on to bigger events and working with Reprezent Radio.”

Lorelle Lambert, 18

“D:Session is helpful and exciting because it helps young talented people get exposed, and it’s quite a big thing because nearly every young person from Bermondsey comes to watch or take part. It’s cool/awesome and totally social. I like it all.”

Kai Taliana, 17
Saturday

PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.C.A.D. (Dance)</td>
<td>7-11's</td>
<td>10.30 - 11.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.C.A.D. (Dance)</td>
<td>12-16's</td>
<td>12.00 - 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Club</td>
<td>10-13's</td>
<td>5.30 - 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Club</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>8.00 - 10.00pm</td>
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Mixed Club

We run Mixed Club on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays. It is an open club for anyone between 10-13 and 14+. Over the year, Salmon has seen an increase in numbers and facilities and sessions are open until 10pm.

On a typical open club evening, young people use the social area which has pool, computers, XBoxes, Nintendo Wii and table football. They can also play sports in the sports hall, join in the music sessions, work with Razz on adventure equipment in the sports hall or the climbing wall, take part in art or cooking. Mixed Club gives young people a safe place to meet their friends and new people and to try out something new.

The music session is one of the most popular aspects of Friday night club, where young people come and make music using their own beat and lyrics, or simply to come in to chill in the music room and listen to others.

SCAD

SCAD has met on Wednesdays and Saturdays in term time for all dancers – beginners to pros. Shimmy, Salsa or Street, we love to explore new dances, get creative and perform at regular events – at Salmon and across London.

“I like coming to SCAD because it lets me show what I want to do in my life.”
Gilles Babri, 11

“I come to SCAD because my bro told me too. I like dance around the house and special things happen...”
Okein Anderson, 11

“I love going to SCAD because my teacher encourages me to dance. I don’t believe I can dance, but since I have been going to SCAD, I have realised my potential and want to dance some more :))”
Gabby Famoboi, 12

“Mixed Club is very fun because it is a chance to meet new people. I like doing dance and trampolining.”
Kezia Gill, 12

“In the Mixed Clubs I like going to the art room and building up my portfolio with Eugene.”
Rachel Salawu, 17

“I like conversing with everyone in Salmon to inspire me in what I write about in my lyrics.”
Massai Lawrence, 15
We have now completed and paid for the redevelopment of the building to provide one of the best purpose built youth centres in the UK. During 2009/10 the revenue grants we received rose significantly to enable us to employ 30 staff and provide high quality youth services to our local young people. These revenue grants start to run out in 2010/11 and we will have to adjust accordingly. With the help of funders and supporters, we aim to continue to provide high quality youthwork into 2011/12 and following years.

The difference between overall income and expenditure is explained by the investment in redevelopment, as shown by the increase in assets.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE HISTORY**

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ending</th>
<th>Income Total</th>
<th>Income Redevelopment</th>
<th>Income Excluding Redevelopment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31-Mar-2008</td>
<td>£1,593,792</td>
<td>£1,181,891</td>
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<td>£1,349,373</td>
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<td>£540,314</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Mar-2010*</td>
<td>£2,316,545</td>
<td>£766,304</td>
<td>£1,550,241</td>
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**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ending</th>
<th>Expenditure Total</th>
<th>Expenditure Redevelopment</th>
<th>Expenditure Excluding Redevelopment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31-Mar-2008</td>
<td>£541,209</td>
<td>£134,549</td>
<td>£406,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Mar-2009</td>
<td>£752,836</td>
<td>£257,710</td>
<td>£495,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Mar-2010*</td>
<td>£1,490,287</td>
<td>£168,363</td>
<td>£1,321,924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* provisional

**TOTAL INCOME**

Income excluding Redevelopment Income £1,550,241 67%
Redevelopment Income £766,304 33%
Total Income £2,316,545 100%

**INCOME EXCLUDING REDEVELOPMENT 2009/10**

- Grants for Youth Work including Arts & Sports £1,322,414 85%
- Donations £128,490 8%
- Lettings £48,890 3%
- Residents Fees £27,497 2%
- Subscriptions, Investment Income & Other Income £22,949 1%

**EXPENDITURE EXCLUDING REDEVELOPMENT 2009/10**

- Youth Work including Arts, Sports & Residents £1,230,994 93%
- Governance Costs £12,486 1%
- Fundraising £78,444 6%

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

Expenditure excluding Redevelopment Expenditure £1,321,924 89%
Redevelopment Expenditure £168,363 11%
Total Expenditure £1,490,287 100%

Our Trustees’ Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year to 31st March 2010 will be available on request, once approved.
Sunday

Andy Wilson about Salmon Sunday:
Salmon Sunday is one of our new monthly events. It is a session in which young people get the opportunity to explore their spirituality. No, it is not a normal club session and also not a traditional form of church. The umbrella title of the meeting is ‘Life is for living’. This is a paraphrase of Jesus’ words found in John 10v10 where he declares that he has come to give life to the full.

Salmon is a Christian youth centre and one of the questions we are often asked is whether we are open, accessible and interested in all young people. YES WE ARE! We see Jesus as a person who expressed the most complete form of humanity and thus, it is our role to help young people to become themselves in their humanity. This will mean supporting them in growing in new ways of creativity, social aptitude, self-awareness and knowledge.

So are we trying to make all young people Christians? Of course we would like anybody and everybody to know Jesus for themselves. However, the more important task is to help young people to explore their own spirituality and show them resources to help make choices in their lives. If they want to know more about faith issues we will be there to help them.

During the last Salmon Sunday session we imagined ourselves interviewing God. The young people came up with the following questions:

God, do you ever change your mind?

God, is heaven real?

God, why are there so many religions?

God, do you approve of sex?

God, is it wrong to be angry?

God, why do bad things happen to good people?

God, why do you allow natural disasters?

God, do you ever make mistakes?

Salmon staff are helpful. The place is a good centre. The players look good.

Omar Durani

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GAP-YEAR STUDENTS (4), MUSIC TRAINEES (4), PLACEMENT STUDENTS (1), RESIDENTS (6), YOUNG VOLUNTEERS (20) AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS (12) FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK DURING THE LAST YEAR. THIS PLACE WOULD NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOUR PRESENCE AND CONTRIBUTION!
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS:

The JW Laing Trust  
The Jerusalem Trust  
Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation  
Maurice and Hilda Laing Charitable Trust  
The Draper’s Company

OUR MISSION
THE SALMON YOUTH CENTRE IN BERMONDSEY AIMS TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL, TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE AND DISCOVER MEANING AND DIRECTION FOR THEIR LIVES.

OUR VISION
OUR HOPE IS THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE MAY RECOGNISE AND RESPOND TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, WHICH IS THE BASIS OF OUR WORK, AND WHICH WE BELIEVE GIVES TRUE MEANING AND DIRECTION FOR LIFE.