

Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2021



The 2021 Diocese of London Lent Appeal will focus on **Youth Violence**.

Youth violence, which is prevalent in London, is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others by young people aged between 10-24 years. It typically involves young people hurting peers who are unrelated to them and who they may or may not know well. Youth violence can include fighting, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. A young person can be involved with youth violence as a victim, offender, or witness. In England and Wales there were 47,349 Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to June 2020 [\[1\]](#)

There has been an 85% increase in knife crime in England and Wales since 2014 (comparing the 12 months from Jun 19 to Jul 20, with 12 months from Apr 13 to Mar 14)

24 children aged just 17 or younger were murdered with a knife or sharp object in 2019. This represents the highest number of children murdered in over a decade.

The lent appeal, which begins on Wednesday 17 February, will focus on both raising awareness of the issue, and raising money for three charities that challenge it.

[1] *Statistics from benkinsella.org.uk*

[The charities we are supporting – please see overleaf](#)



[XLP](#) stands for 'The eXcel Project'. In 1996, in response to a stabbing in a school playground, the school's headmaster asked Patrick Regan, who was then a local church-based youth worker, to come into the school, work with their students and teachers and help with difficult behavioural issues. XLP now operates across nine inner-city boroughs around London, working with over 4,500 young people each year through education, mentoring, sport and the arts.



[TLG](#) work through a nationwide network of partner churches, and are committed to reaching out to some of the most vulnerable children in the UK. With expertise in school exclusions, emotional wellbeing and holiday hunger, TLG is one of the UK's fastest growing children's charities.



[Redthread](#) embeds specialist youth workers in hospital A&E departments across London and the Midlands. They meet young people during times of crisis, fear and trauma and endeavour to transform their experience of health systems and professional networks. As a result of working with Redthread, 95% of young people are less likely to be harmed again.

Please see the Diocese of London website for a video about this appeal.

To make donations:-

Please put '**Lent Appeal 2021**' on your envelopes, or in the on line reference, for any donations for the Diocese of London 'Challenging Youth Violence ' Lent appeal that are sent to the Parish Office. Cheques made payable to Feltham PCC.