Dear Parents/Guardians

We’re writing to let you know about an exciting event that [church name] youth group will be taking part in soon. On Friday August 23rd we’ll be [attending/livestreaming] the Liberty Christian Ministries Youth Event with Ed Shaw.

Ed Shaw is a same-sex attracted, single, celibate Christian minister from the UK. He has written a great book called ‘*The Plausibility Problem: The Church and Same-Sex Attraction*’, and contributes to a terrific website (livingout.org) where same-sex attracted Christians like himself are able to share their stories. You can see Ed’s own story here: <https://www.livingout.org/stories/ed>

At the Liberty event, Ed will be speaking about matters related to sex and sexuality under the title ‘Jesus is Great News for a Rainbow World!’. Ed’s talk will help teenagers think about same-sex attraction from a Christian point of view, as explained in the Bible and in the context of the hyper-sexualised world which they are expected to navigate.

There will be testimonies from same-sex attracted Christians, and a question and answer time with Ed. There will also be a Bible reading and some great music.

Here is how we are presenting the event to the teens in our youth group:

*Jesus loves us even more than we love ourselves. He’s more committed to our ultimate happiness than even we are. At the Liberty Youth Event, we will discover how Jesus’ love and forgiveness helps us to better understand what he says about human sexuality and why trusting and following him, though not always easy, is definitely always worth it. Whether you are Christian or non-Christian, same-sex attracted or not, we’d love you to join us as we open the Bible and explore why Jesus truly is great news for our rainbow world.*

In today’s world, these issues are relevant to our tweens as well. They too are forced to navigate a minefield of overtly sexual messages – some of them explicit – every time they turn on the TV, iPad or computer, as well as through friends and classmates in the playground. In many ways, today’s twelve-year-old faces issues that were only raised in the mid-to-late teens for those born in the 70’s and 80’s. As such, the Liberty Youth is open for all young people from Year 7 to Year 12.

That being said, not all teens have the same life-experience! As such, the intention of this letter has been to give you a little more clarity on what Ed will be addressing, so that you can decide if you think the content is appropriate for your child. We are also aware that some youth may find the idea of hearing about this at an event with other youth a little confronting – that’s ok too.

Though we’d love to them to join us on the night, we do understand that there are a variety of reasons why you might decide it would be best for your teen to not attend – in which case we’ll look forward to seeing them at youth group again the following week.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me: [phone number]

In Christ,

[Name]

Youth Minister/ Senior Minister, [church name].