

# YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

Autumn 2017

## FUNDING AVAILABLE

Does your church have a project for children and young people that could do with a little extra financial help? I have some funding available: please apply by 30 November - just in time for a children's Christmas party, some extra Nativity resources, or whatever wonderful thing your church might be planning!

You can download an application form from the diocesan website [here](#). Below is the beautiful Godly Play Nativity set bought with a diocesan grant by St Margaret's Easter Road, for their Sunday morning storytelling with small children.



Diocesan Youth & Children Officer: Claire Benton-Evans

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## *The Sleepover by the Castle*



28-29 October 2017

*At St-Columba's-by-the-Castle, Edinburgh*

*Dress (optional): magical, medieval, fantastical, knightly*

It's not too late to sign your teenagers up for the Sleepover by the Castle! NO previous Glen experience necessary! S1s - S6s welcome, including this year's Glen leavers. All information and consent forms [here](#).

## THIS EDITION

- FUNDING for youth and children's work
- AROUND THE DIOCESE - holiday clubs and young people worshipping together
- NEW GUIDE to employing youth and children's workers
- PRAYER SPACES - helping children respond to terrorist attacks

# A MUSICAL OPPORTUNITY



**Do you know a musical young person who would like to know more about playing the organ?**

Sheila Chisholm is the Organist at St Peter's Lutton Place. She runs the Positif Organist Programme to encourage people of all ages, denominations and abilities, who all share a love of the organ, to broaden their skills and knowledge of church organ.

She is particularly keen to encourage teenagers.

Monthly sessions run in Edinburgh from September to June. *'A lively hands-on practical course for anyone wanting to explore and play more effectively 'The King of Instruments'.*

For more information contact: Sheila Chisholm  
Tel No: 0131 629 9085  
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[Website](#)

# AROUND THE DIOCESE POWERPOINT IN EDINBURGH

Powerpoint is a music-driven worship event which describes itself as “Scotland’s largest inter-city church youth event. Powerpoint unites secondary school age youth from different church denominations and backgrounds. Our events are a great opportunity for young people to learn about Jesus and unite in worship with their friends.” I asked a church youth leader to gather feedback from some of the teenagers she took to Powerpoint in Edinburgh recently: here are their honest responses!

- “Uplifting, refreshing and joyful.”
- “Church music is pretty rubbish and when you go to Powerpoint it’s very different. It’s nice to see younger people, and nice to see your crush!”
- “Somewhere I feel accepted and welcomed.”



There are Powerpoint gatherings throughout the year in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. For more information, visit [Powerpoint Scotland](#).

*Above: Powerpoint worship in Edinburgh  
Left: some of the teenagers from St Thomas's Church, Corstorphine*

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# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## HOLIDAY CLUBS



Rev Willie Shaw from St Mary's Grangemouth writes about the Grangemouth Holiday Club:

"From 14th-18th August the Grangemouth Churches (St Mary's and three Churches of Scotland), together with Scripture Union, got together to do a holiday club - the Guardians of Ancora! There hadn't been one run in the town by any of these churches for years. We gathered the team (about 20 people helped), put posters up, advertised in all the schools, and prayed.

We had a great time! We had between 13 and 16 children each day - sang songs, went on treasure hunts, did crafts, played games (limbo being a favourite), endured challenges (they seemed to like to get leaders messy), and learnt about Jesus through some of his miracles.

We intend to follow this up with regular Messy Churches and hopefully get more involved in the local schools. We're holding a debrief soon to work out how to/whether to do this or something else next year too."

*Above: the characters from SU's The Guardians of Ancora; below: the Holiday Club Garden at St Mark's Portobello (see next page)*



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## EMPLOYING YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKERS

Is your church thinking of employing someone to work with children and young people? Whether it is full-time or part-time, if this is a new appointment you will need help and advice.

**Step 1: talk to your Youth and Children Officer (contact details below).**

**Step 2: Research!** The Church of Scotland has recently published a handy guide which takes you through the whole process of employing a youth and children's worker, looking closely at three stages:

- **Motivation and Vision** - exploring, shaping and financing your church's vision for a youth and children's worker
- **Recruitment Process** - a step-by-step guide
- **Making it marvellous and keeping it great** - all about good line management, support and assessment

Most of this is applicable to SEC churches, too. You can download the guide from the [Church of Scotland website](#).

For an Anglican equivalent, see [Employing Youth and Children's Workers](#), published for the C of E and available to borrow from the diocesan office.

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# GROWING TOGETHER



Rev Dr Sophia Marriage from St Mark's Portobello writes:

"This summer we held our third Portobello Holiday Club jointly organised and run by five area churches: Portobello Baptist Church, Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (Church of Scotland), St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish, St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic Parish, and St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church. From 24 July to 28 July, 89 children filled the halls at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church and the church and garden of St Mark's. During the week, 50 volunteers took on various roles on the team at different points of the week. We were also supported by 16 additional volunteers who contributed baking, ran stalls at the parents' night, helped with training or clean up. We had an amazing team!"

During the week, the children participated in worship, games, reflective prayer space, arts and crafts, bible study, drama, fun with food, table games, team challenges and gardening with a few extra surprises along the way. Our club ran from 9am to 1pm and we based our holiday club bible study material on the Scripture Union curriculum called *Guardians of Ancora: Treasure Seekers*. This curriculum looks at God's plan to save his people. The children are invited to understand the stories as treasure – stories that are of great value. As the children seek the treasure of these stories, they will also be encouraged to seek and find their own place as part of God's ongoing story.

Have you used any of these ideas? What were the responses from children and young people? Please let me know - it's important that we hear their voices, too, so that we might truly 'Grow Together'.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE HOLIDAY CLUBS

CONTINUED...

As the week closed, the Holiday Club Garden at St Mark's was fully updated for this year's theme with beautiful plants and more about the Bible Stories we learned during our week. The children had also created a large willow creation with tissue paper which will travel between our five churches to decorate the church as a reminder of our time together at holiday club. It is a gorgeous creation which also represents what wonderful things can happen when we all work together ecumenically.

We are already thinking ahead to holiday club 2018 as the children and volunteers have all had such a wonderful time and we are looking forward to doing this again next year."



*The children's willow creation, representing their ecumenical Holiday Club*

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ACTIVE: The supersize slider



You will need: a long sheet of lining paper and an empty washing up bowl to create a sliding scale.

Say: "You go to see a film with your friends and your local cinema has run out of popcorn. How bothered are you?" The bottom end of your slider represents "Meh" (or "not at all") and the top end represents "TOTALLY!" Ask young people to run to whichever bit of the scale represents their feelings about popcorn. Move the washing up bowl to where the majority are gathered.

Ask these questions about the Church, followed by "How bothered are you?" and an invitation to run up or down the sliding scale. Take a photograph (with permission) of each result.

- The Church needs to help people in need and care for our world.
- The Church needs to involve children and young people in everything it does.
- The Church needs to make its leaders, members and buildings strong.
- The Church needs to show people how to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.
- The Church needs to show and tell people what God's love is like.

DRAWING: My dream church



You will need: paper and felt pens.

Invite children and young people to draw their ideal church. What would it look like? Who would be in it? Where would it be? What would it be for?

WRITING: A To Do list for the Church



You will need: a large board decorated to look like a fridge door; lots of post-it notes and pens.

Say: "Many families leave notes on the fridge of jobs that need doing. What jobs do you want to remind the Church to do?"

Encourage young people to think about what the Church is for, what work it has to do in the local community and in the wider world. They write down as many jobs as they can think of and stick them on the fridge door.

WONDERING: Love it or lose it



You will need: lots of photographs of things your church does, both on Sundays and during the week, in church and in the community. Take these from your website, your church magazine, online publicity or posters.

Invite children and young people to sit and think about the pictures. They don't have to say anything if they don't want to. They should sort the pictures into 2 piles: 'Love it' and 'Lose it' (they may also want to have a 'not sure' pile in the middle). Which things that the church does do they love and want to keep? Which things that the church does do they think we could do without?

## WAYS OF FINDING OUT WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CHURCH

### DISCUSSING: What makes a church?



You will need: some or all of the following questions on individual cards, with the bold headings on the reverse. Invite young people to pick out questions and discuss them. NB you are looking for their ideas, not the 'right' answers!

#### What makes a church?

1. What makes a church? What can't the church do without?
  - o Things like an altar and a cross?
  - o A beautiful building?
  - o Beautiful music?
  - o A prayer habit?
  - o A worship habit?
  - o People?
  - o Something else?

#### What is the church for?

2. Is the church for praying together?
3. Is the church for meeting each other?
4. Is the church for meeting God?
5. Is the church for welcoming people?
6. Is the church for helping people?
7. Is the church for doing or being?
8. What else is the church for?

#### Who is the church for?

9. Is the church for Christians?
10. Is the church for other people?
11. Is the church for me and my friends?
12. Is the church for outsiders?
13. Is the church for human beings or God?
14. Who else is the church for?

*These questions have been inspired by Lucy Berry's hymn, 'Is the church a building?' in Songs for A Servant Church © Kevin Mayhew 2014.*

### VISUAL: Rainbow jars



You will need: small glass jars (e.g. for herbs and spices); 5 (or 6) bowls with different colours of dry sand coloured with powder paints or salt with coloured chalk (pour a heap of salt on sugar paper and rub it with chalk. The chalk will gradually colour the sand.)

Explain that each colour represents something different that the Church does (you may also want to provide this information on a label next to each colour)

- *Pink:* helping people in need and caring for our world.
- *Blue:* working with children and young people.
- *Green:* making strong leaders, church members and buildings.
- *Yellow:* showing people how to follow Jesus.
- *Red:* showing people what God's love is like.
- (Optional) *White/natural:* Other – an opportunity for children to identify something they feel the church should be doing, but which hasn't been mentioned.

Invite each young person to fill their glass jar carefully, in layers, with proportions of coloured sand/salt to show what they think is most important about what the church does. They may end up with lots of blue and only a touch of green, or have equal stripes of each colour, or something else. Photograph the jars with the colour code.

*Sand jar picture under Creative Commons license: Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike2.5 Generic (CC BY-NC-SA 2.5)*

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# GODLY PLAY SCOTLAND

Godly Play Circles are a great way to stay in touch with Godly Play. Margaret Grant says this: "If you've never been to one, do try it. It's great to hear a story you are not telling yourself! And the discussion which arises can range over anything from your latest Godly Play disaster (or triumph) to adding your voice to a national debate about the way forward for Godly Play. Not to mention the coffee, cake, and fellowship!"

For more information visit [Godly Play Scotland.](#)

## DIARY DATES

28-29 October  
Sleepover by the Castle

14 November  
Godly Play Circle  
Old St Paul's, Edinburgh  
7:30pm to 9pm

30 November  
Youth and Children Grants  
application deadline

16 December  
A Glen Family Christmas  
(18+ youth event) at St Peter's Lutton Place - more  
details to follow...

# HELPING CHILDREN RESPOND TO TERRORIST ATTACKS



When terrorist attacks hit the headlines, it is hard enough to deal with our own responses: how can we help children wrestle with their own feelings of shock and sadness? Here is some information from Prayer Spaces in Schools, which can be equally useful for churches:

"A few hours after the attack on a Mosque in Finsbury Park, Mary Hawes, the Church of England's National Children & Youth Adviser, emailed us: "Having woken to yet another headline that makes us cry out, 'Oh God, why?', the need for safe space for prayer or reflection in schools seems more vital than ever. Are there any immediate, easy-to-set-up prayer activities that a school could use at times like this? An easy-to-set-up prayer space (in a corner, in a hall, online for pupils to access) could be an incredible ministry."

At the time, the answer was no, we didn't have any prayer activities like this. But we do now! Please click on the following direct links to the new prayer activities;

- [Where Is The Love?](#)
- [Remembrance Ribbons](#)
- [Dove Of Peace](#)

Thanks so much to those of you who helped with these – the best prayer activities, as always, are the ones that have been created, tried and tested in local schools just like yours. If you've created any new prayer activities, please let us know so that we can share them with others."

For more information, visit the [Prayer Spaces in Schools website](#).

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