

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



March/April 2017

Grants for youth & children's work

DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH



Do you need a little extra help with funding an activity for children or young people in your church? The diocese has small grants available (usually £50-100, maybe more in exceptional cases). There are two opportunities to apply, with deadlines in May and November. Applications are warmly encouraged: deadline 15 May. Please contact me or see the diocesan website [here](#).



HE IS RISEN!

The play church altar, decorated for Easter Sunday by the children of St Peter's, Peebles

THIS EDITION

- PLAY CHURCH in Holy Week
- MESSY CHURCH in Dalkeith and Lasswade
- HOLIDAY CLUB IDEAS - Scripture Union's resources
- GRANTS AVAILABLE for youth and children's work
- GLENALMOND YOUTH WEEK - a delegate's view
- 20 YEARS! - St Mary's Cathedral hosts Provincial celebrations of the Youth Week
- RESOURCE ROUND-UP - Youth Alpha and Youth for Christ

Diocesan Youth & Children Officer: Claire Benton-Evans

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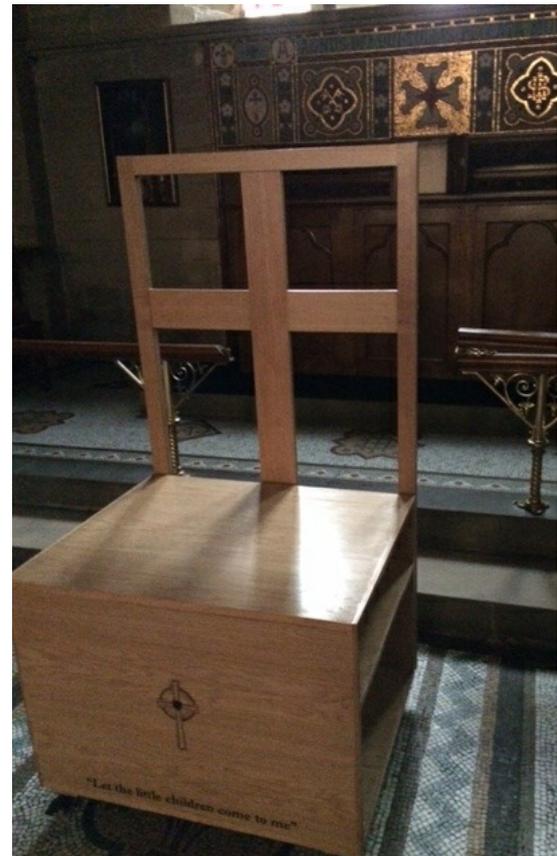
IN PICTURES: THROUGH HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WITH THE PLAY CHURCH

AT ST PETER'S PEEBLES



Palm Sunday: children were invited to make 'palm' leaves with cut-out hand prints, and to use these and a gold crown to decorate the play church altar. They spontaneously decided to recreate the story on the altar with all the figures from the church toy box, complete with a 'red carpet' of palm leaves made from the off-cuts of the hand prints. All their own work!

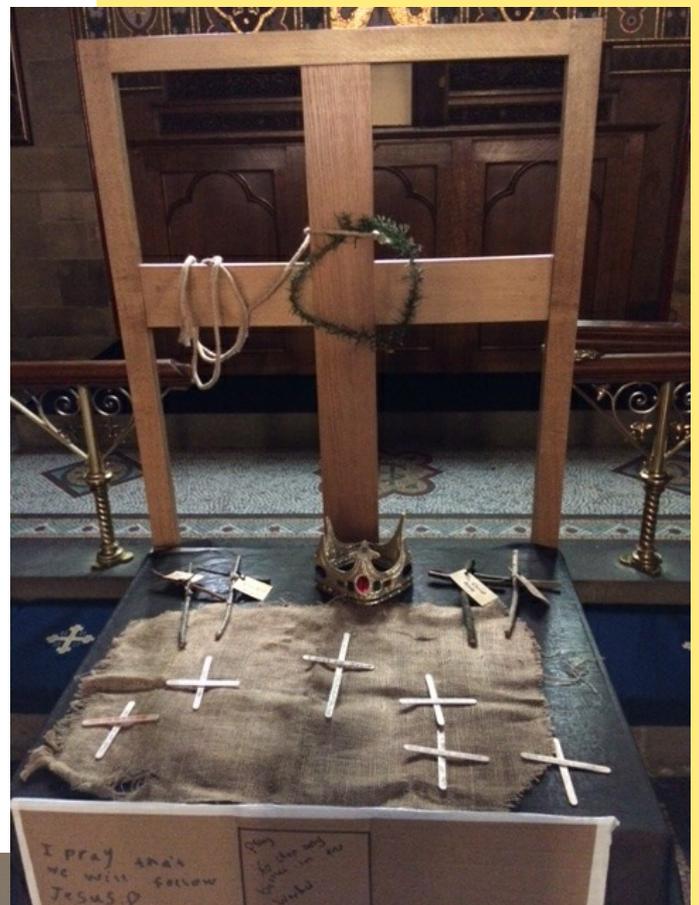
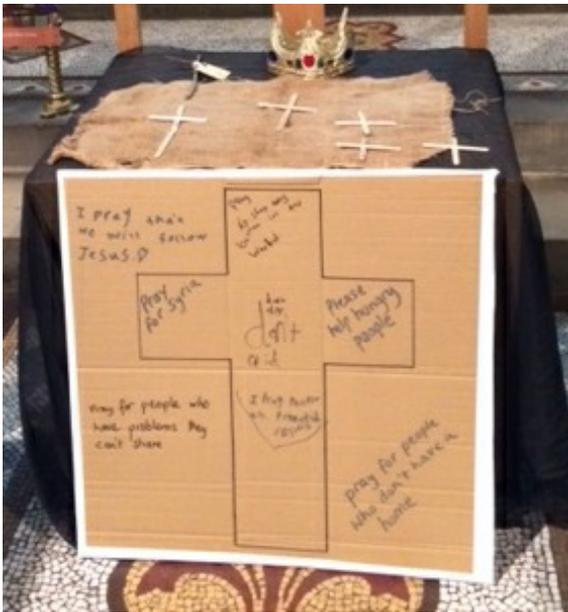
Maundy Thursday: after foot-washing and an all-age meal of lamb and bitter herbs, during which we re-told the story of the Last Supper, children helped to strip the main altar and the play church altar. Everyone then left the church in silence.



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Good Friday intercessions were written on this plain cardboard cross, on labels attached to rough wooden crosses and on plain wooden lolly sticks.



Good Friday: an all-age Stations of the Cross concluded with Jesus' death, represented by the play church cross. Children were invited to make the cross look sad and solemn: they chose black fabric, sackcloth, rough rope and a crown of thorns. They covered the altar with their Good Friday prayers, and chose to re-use the gold crown from Palm Sunday. This was a poignant visual representation of the sign which read "The King of the Jews".

Easter Day: in a busy all-age Baptism service, children made paper flowers to decorate the play church. They chose to use gold fabric, the crown (again) and lots of candles to make the altar look beautiful, in honour of this very special day. After the purple and black of Lent and Holy Week, Rev Jim described Easter as the church's "Golden Time" - a phrase that every school child knows means a special treat and time for celebration.

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ALPHA YOUTH PIONEER INITIATIVE



The New Alpha Youth Series will be available for free download on 1 October 2017. It aims to empower teenagers to invite their friends to explore faith and life together.

The Youth Alpha Pioneer initiative is a chance to find & invest in young leaders in your church, empowering and equipping them to invite their generation in an authentic and relevant way. The idea is really simple: leaders come to a regional Alpha Youth Pioneer night with two or three of their young people, then encourage and support them to plan and run their Alpha, their way for their friends.

Edinburgh event:

Destiny
52 Gorgie Road
Edinburgh
EH11 2NB

Wed 7 June 2017
[Find out more here.](#)

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT GLEN?

A DELEGATE'S EXPERIENCE OF THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK

By Olivia Mackenzie Smith

current Glen delegate from St Columba's-by-the-Castle

“So what is Glen? Well, it's a youth camp organised by the Scottish Episcopal Church. But it's not the only Christian camp out there and it's not the only one I've been to, so why am I writing an article about this one in particular? The first thing that's different about Glen is the worship.

Glen worships are the stuff of legend. Funny, weird, moving, and sometimes a little bit scary. If you see a congregation staggering out of a church with confetti in their hair, splashmarks on their clothes, and big laughter-lines on their faces you know they've just experienced a Glen worship. But what's really different about them isn't just the UV paint, the paper aeroplanes or the rather fetching hats. It's the fact that we, the youth, organise them.

What's really good about young people organising the services is that instead of having the word of God spoken at us, it gives us a chance to get up and touch, hear, hold, even taste (that's another story) the word of God. It also helps us to take these stories and teachings and express them in a different way. A way that will speak to more people and fuel their imaginations. Because let's face it, if these letters and lessons are



Praying with balloons at Glen '15

imprisoned on paper nobody's going to want to study them.

That's not the only thing that's different about Glen. Another thing that's different is the house groups. In these house groups we take a look at different stories and teachings from the Bible and we talk about what they mean, what God's trying to tell us, and how we can apply that in everyday life. Of course we have differing views on this, but we don't see it as a bad thing, we embrace it. We open ourselves up to other people's opinions and we're never afraid to share our own. And the result is that it helps us to under-

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How many delegates can you fit on a house group sofa?

stand what these prophets and disciples were perhaps trying to say. For me an important part about being a Christian is discovering new things about my religion and opening my mind to change. And it's stuff like that that Glen encourages.

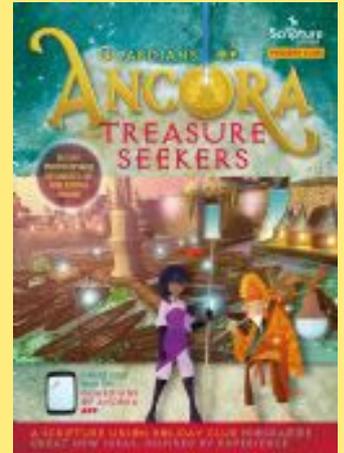
But for me the best thing about Glen is the fun, welcoming atmosphere. On the way back from Glen 16, just as I was wondering how long it was until Glen 17, my mum turned to me and asked 'Do people ever get homesick at Glen?' To which I replied: 'No, but when people get home they get Glensick.' This is because Glen isn't just a place to mess about and talk about God. It's a family. A big warm, friendly, if slightly dysfunctional family. Like a utopian society, everybody's kind to and supports each other, they don't look for conflict. It's just so happy and peaceful that going back to the real world full of stress and terror is quite an emotional separ-

ture. But it's okay because we know it won't be long till someone decides that enough is enough and it's time to have a reunion.

But everything I've just told you shouldn't just be limited to Glen. We're living in a world where religion has become the stuff of ridicule with people saying it's boring, prejudiced, and has no place in a modern society. I say it's time to prove them wrong. Get young people involved in the services (and not just carrying incense). Discuss the Bible and don't just shout it at people. Experiment with different prayer techniques. I believe that God doesn't picture its followers sitting in a grey church with no central heating. It pictured them going out into the world discussing their beliefs with others and finding new ways to reach people."

NOW BOOKING FOR GLEN 17! SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

HOLIDAY CLUB RESOURCES



It may still be spring, but you can get ready for the exciting summer break by buying your holiday club resources now.

Scripture Union has a vast range of club resources available. Each club is designed to accommodate, teach and entertain children of all ages and abilities, both within the local community and church.

This year, *Guardians of Ancora* returns for a brand new adventure! **Treasure Seekers** is a great interactive programme for 5–11's. Introduce the life and times of Jesus through flexible sessions, including activities such as craft, games and creative prayer. Complete your holiday club with the Resource book and accompanying booklets: *Treasure Store* for 5–8's and *Treasure Chest* for 8–11's.

Explore the full range of Scripture Union Holiday Club resources [here](#).

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

OF THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK AT STRATHALLAN AND GLENALMOND

GLEN-STYLE
ACTIVITIES



St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh recently hosted a weekend of celebrations to mark twenty years of the Provincial Youth Week. This ever-popular summer camp for Scottish Episcopalian teenagers was held first at Strathallan School and latterly at Glenalmond College. Celebrations lasted all weekend!



Pictures (clockwise from left): Making chainmail with Rev Tembu Rongong; walking the prayer labyrinth; a multisensory prayer tent pitched in the Lady Chapel; storytime and Winnie the Pooh Boot Camp with Claire Starr.



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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

On Saturday 1 April, St Mary's Cathedral and grounds were buzzing with a variety of much loved Glen-style activities, including a labyrinth, a prayer tent, chainmail-making, outdoor sports, supervised snoozing and the Winnie the Pooh Boot Camp. In the evening, over 100 delegates, former delegates, leaders and their families came together for an energetic celebration Ceilidh and a delicious hog roast.



Pictures (clockwise from above): the Ceilidh; outdoor games; +Mark, Tembu and lunch; all-age Lego; the 20 year time line for memories of the Youth Week.



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20 YEARS: A PROVINCIAL CELEBRATION

BISHOP MARK'S SERMON: JOHN 11.1-45



On Sunday the celebrations continued in the cathedral's Lent Eucharist. Bishop John presided, and welcomed everyone present to this Provincial event which Edinburgh was delighted to host.

The service began with the ceremony of assembling the Glen cross – a free standing wooden cross composed of seven smaller crosses, each of which represents a diocese in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Delegates from every diocese brought forward their cross, just as they do at the start of each Youth Week. Bishop Mark Strange, who formerly led the Provincial Youth Week, preached movingly about young people being the life of the Church. The text of his sermon is featured on the following pages.

“Well if I had had to choose a gospel passage for a sermon on the 20th Anniversary of our Youth Camps, I don't think I would have chosen the raising of Lazarus. The cynics might suggest that youth work in their church needs a Lazarus moment but I remain convinced that it isn't youth work that needs the Lazarus touch, but congregational life. Let me explain.

In the Gospel, we hear both Martha and Mary having a real go at Jesus. Martha goes to meet him to tell him that if he had hurried, her brother would be okay. Mary also knows that if he had got to Bethany in time her brother would still be alive. It is irrelevant to her what else he was doing, he should have been there. His concern now isn't enough, he has let her down. She who has sat at his feet listening to him, she who has put aside the housework to be with him, she who is the holy one: how could he have let her down.

Well Bishop John, that is not an unusual response to my concerns. “+Mark if you had just been here it would be okay.” Mind you, I also get “+Mark if you had just stayed away everything would be alright” as well.

So how does this fit into the youth camps of our church or more particularly the youth of our church? Well I believe it is to do with fellowship, the church being a fellowship rather than a place that we gather

to ask God for things. It is the difference between Mary and Martha as a family that Jesus felt loved in, and Mary and Martha in their sadness and grief demanding he does something.

Twenty or thirty years ago the life of much of our church had changed and one of those things that had begun to change in many of our smaller rural charges was that the congregation lost the ability to provide the type of care and family fellowship that our young people needed. The church became concerned with single acts of worship on Sunday mornings, and places where people came to ask God for something. At the same time in many of our large city churches youth work became a paid occupation that provided youth work but often little connection with the congregation, the family of the church.

Twenty years ago, it became clear that as the church lost the critical mass to provide congregational-based youth work and youth care, then the remaining young people became very lonely in church. So an annual camp

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BISHOP MARK'S SERMON CONT.D



"Glenbombing" at St James' Goldenacre © Angela Daye

(originally to be once every two years) was established to provide worship, prayer and fellowship for our young people, giving them a glimpse of a church filled with contemporaries, allowing them to find other young Episcopalians and, yes, to say thank you for them still being here. It also provided a space where young people of Faith could be open about that Faith, something that the society we live in can make very difficult: too many of our young people have faced ridicule because they attend church. The Camp started at Strathallan School and then moved to Glenalmond where it continues to provide fellowship, worship and prayer but also much more. It provides a sense of belonging to this church. Today at General Synod I watch as former delegates arrive as Lay members, I hear of youth events, church

planting, vocational discernment; through Facebook and Twitter I see so much that is good being done by those who were once delegates, and not just for the church: active in community, politics, science - the list goes on, but doing these from the perspective of a firm Christian background.

But I also need amongst the congratulations, to give a hint of warning: these young people turn up for events across the country but often they struggle in their local churches. The Youth Camps have developed among the delegates a sense of ministry, leadership and mission; they need to feel part of that in the churches they worship in otherwise many will become like the angry Mary asking where God and the Church went when they were needed.

The church needs to be like the house at Bethany, a place that allows the space for the ideas and fresh expressions of our young people to be part of the mainstream of what we do, and the church and the congregations need to learn to love them and to notice them and have them serve on Vestry, talk at Synods, lead the prayers, offer the Word and who knows maybe some more of them might one day stand here to be ordained.

Strath and Glen have been inspirational in creating a huge group of church youngsters who want to serve.

I AM SO PRIVILEGED TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THIS for so many years. The love I receive from the delegates new and old sustains me in my ministry. Please pray for the camp, please pray for our churches to be as adventurous and loving as the camps, so that new birth in mission and ministry will be natural. Bless you all, leaders and delegates, you are a treasure to this church and as we know - 'Where your treasure is, there is your Heart.'

Bishop Mark Strange of the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness

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YOUTH FOR CHRIST RESOURCES

New resources for Summer 2017 are now available on-line! Check out the highlights and links below...

Rock Solid

For 11-14s, featuring:

- Looking at giving and identity through mini series
- An age-appropriate look at addiction and war
- Minecraft and creativity
- Music, worship and a 'summer playlist'

Lumen

A discipleship resource for 11-14s:

- Getting young people passionate about praying for their mates
- Exploring how young people can have pure relationships in a world that is becoming more online focused
- Exploring leadership, looking at the letters to Timothy and Titus

Mettle

For 15-18s:

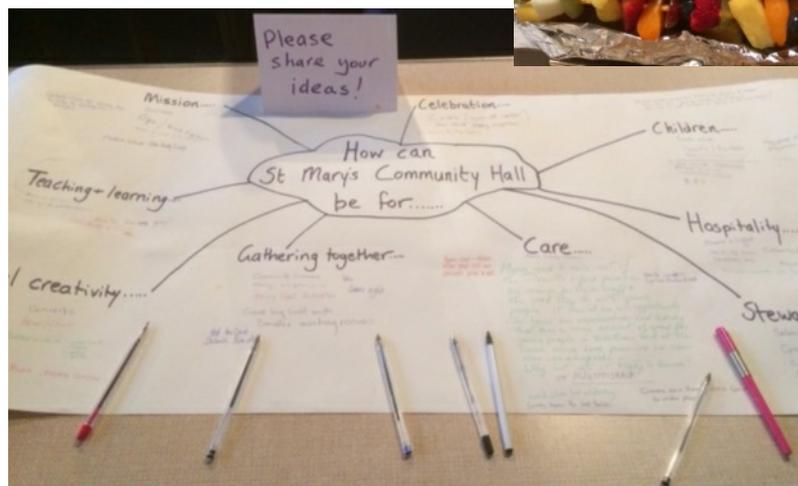
- Exploring the first 5 beatitudes
- Exploring suffering and forgiveness in 'The Shack'
- 'Jesus, Trump and Brexit': exploring how we should respect leadership, whilst maintaining a heart for love and justice

MESSY CHURCH AT ST MARY'S DALKEITH



The theme was Noah and the Ark: a wonderful opportunity for colourful and messy activities at St Mary's, Dalkeith.

Activities included icing animal biscuits and sharing ideas for using the Community Hall. Adults and children shared a hot meal together and particularly enjoyed these rainbow kebabs for pudding!



I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Messy Church at St Mary's, Dalkeith. The whole event took place in the church building, which was alive with colour, activity and happy children. Activities were stationed around the church, then we moved to a side chapel for the storytelling and singing. The open area at the back of the church accommodated all of us - children, parents and helpers - sitting down for a hot meal together. This was a great example of a team of volunteers working well together, especially as each Messy Church is delivered twice: once at St Mary's and again at the linked charge of St Leonard's, Lasswade. Thank you to Rev Peter Harris and the team for making me so welcome!

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GOT SOMETHING
COMING UP AT YOUR
CHURCH?
ADVERTISE IT HERE!

DIARY DATES

1 June - Glenalmond
booking deadline

7 June - Alpha Youth
Pioneer event,
Edinburgh

23-25 June - Solas
Festival at the Bield,
near Perth

23-29 July - Provincial
Youth Week at Glenal-
mond



NOW BOOKING!

GLEN '17

at Glenalmond College, Perthshire

Fantastical Beasts

“Fearfully and wonderfully made”



Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Week

23rd - 29th July 2017

Glenalmond College,
Perthshire

Want to do something different this summer?
Come & join the fun! The Youth Week is open
to anyone in secondary education.

Enjoy a week filled with fun, fellowship,
learning, and sharing - not to mention the
great activities and workshops!

Download an application form, which
includes full details, and for more
information:

<https://www.facebook.com/secpyc>

For more details, please contact your
Diocesan Youth Officer, or e-mail The Revd
Tembu Rongong rector@stpj.org.uk

<https://secpyc.wordpress.com>

General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Scottish Charity Number SC015962

Do you have teenagers (S1-S6) in your church? Glenalmond Youth Week is for them! Bookings are now open. Posters have been sent out: please display one in your church. If you have a question or would like more information, please contact me. The application form is available on the Diocesan website [here](#).

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