

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH Autumn 2016

Still booking...



Do your teenagers always leave things until the last minute? Don't panic! There is still time to book for the Sci-Fi Sleepover for S1-S6 on 29-30 October.

Back by popular demand, this sleepover event is both a get-together for Glen delegates and friends, and an opportunity for potential delegates to experience a little bit of what Glen is all about. There will be silly games, food, a film and preparation to lead Sunday worship at the Good Shepherd. Please encourage your young people to come along!

Consent forms and information can be found [here](#).



Keynote speaker Tom Wright in conversation with Dave Richards at the children's ministry conference 'Seen and Heard', devised and hosted by Ps and Gs

THIS EDITION

- SEEN AND HEARD - Children's Ministry Conference
- PLAY CHURCH - coming soon!
- CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION - all-age competition to design Bishop John's Christmas card for 2016
- TRAINING EVENT - Teenagers and mental health

Diocesan Youth & Children Officer: Claire Benton-Evans

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SEEN AND HEARD

ADDRESS BY DAVE RICHARDS

“What I want to do this morning is just say a few things about why we have put this conference on, and how we view children's ministry at Ps and Gs. I want to speak as a leader of a local church, as a father of three children and as someone who did not grow up in a Christian family.

As a local church minister, I believe passionately that children are not the church of the future. They may be the future of the church, but they are definitely part of the church of today. That's why we don't use terms like Children's Church, crèche or even Sunday School around here. These imply that what happens for children in our church is something other than **real church**.

For me, it was a journey of discovery about children and faith. I was taken to church from an early age (and am so grateful for the people who taught me, and prayed for me, in Sunday School over 50 years ago). They gave me an awareness of God that never left me, but I drifted away from church when I was about 9. Well, not so much drifted as refused to go! I didn't commit my life to Christ until I was 17. And as everyone believes their norm is

the norm, I assumed therefore that children couldn't have real faith.

Later, working with University students, faith was to be understood, reasoned and grown-up. Then a friend asked me to give a five minute talk at the end of a Drama Club she was running for P5-P7's in our church. By now, I was on the staff of a church as an evangelist and she asked me to speak on prayer. I began by asking the kids how they understood prayer and their answers blew me away. One after an-



other spoke about how God gave them another language to pray in, some had pictures - here were children exercising the gifts of the Spirit of tongues and prophecy and interpretation. They had real faith, probably deeper than mine! My experience made me rethink my theology, and study the Bible in a new way. Re-reading Scripture, I realised that children were used and spoken to by God all the way through the Bible. From Moses to *(cont.d opposite)*

CARING FOR CHILDREN'S WORKERS



Those who attended Seen and Heard were very well looked after: plentiful refreshments were provided, as well as lunch and lots of tea and coffee. There was also a quiet space where people could relax, think and pray - or even enjoy a hand massage. Thank you to the teams of volunteers who helped look after us all!



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Mary, Joseph to David, Samuel to the disciples who some people think were teenagers - children's faith counted. It was different to the faith of adults but it was no less real and often more profound.

Once I was ordained and moved to another church, I again encountered children who had something I had not grown up with - a living, growing relationship with Jesus. It struck me as odd that we gave out Communion to adults without questioning their faith, particularly on Christmas Eve, when we were denying children bread and wine just because of their age. Why were we treating them as not yet Christians when the reality was that they were not yet adults? We had baptised them so why deny them the other sacrament?

Moving to Scotland we have been so grateful to be part of a church that believes in children. We have been so grateful to the volunteers and staff members who have worked with our kids. To Stephen, Hazel, Gemma who were paid to but also to the many church members, like you, who served week by week in our children's groups. Celebrating twenty years at Ps and Gs this summer, one of the things we wanted to say thank you for was a church that has helped all our children to grow up loving Jesus, and His church. Not all pastors' kids do, and we don't take that for granted. But it didn't just happen.

As a church, we invested in children's ministry - in time, money and people. We prayed for our kids and, as a church, recognised the primary place for Christian growth and instruction is supposed to be the home, as outlined in Deuteronomy. But we now live in a nation where only 5% of the population are to be found in church on a Sunday - where fewer parents than ever have a living faith them-

selves. Where Scotland, the land of Livingstone, Liddell and Slessor is now officially an unreached people's group in terms of world mission.

Your role as leaders and workers in churches across Scotland is so important therefore - as you work with not the church of the future but the future of the church. My hope and prayer is that you leave today challenged but equipped, encouraged and enthused, empowered and committed to ensure that children in Scotland get the chance to see and hear about Jesus - the one who welcomed little children - and the one whose church changed and shaped the way the rest of the known world viewed children, then and ever since.

Thank you for all you do - for all the services and sermons you have missed - for all the hours spent preparing, cutting out and gluing - sorry for when you get taken for granted - for when you have to battle your minister or church leader, Kirk session, Vestry or deacons - sorry for when you have to battle over that meeting space, money needed or more cupboard space - but remember that you hold in your hands the future of God's church, and He believes in children more passionately than you - after all, He became one!"

Thanks to Dave Richards for permission to reproduce this talk, given at Seen and Heard.

SEEN AND HEARD

ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WORKSHOPS AND WORSHIP



Thank you to Dave Richards, Gemma Stoddart, Emily Nairn and all at Ps and Gs for making Seen and Heard such a great success.

There was a great choice of workshops led by expert practitioners. These included:

- How to talk so children listen and listen so children talk
- How to make a multi-age group effective
- How to make the Bible alive and relevant for children.
- How to do worship and prayer with children.
- How to help children discover who Jesus is.
- How to serve the children in your local community.
- How to cast a vision for children's ministry.

The day began and ended with worship. We were reminded what an important job it is we do when we nurture children's faith, and how it is part of our own faith journey, too. We sang and prayed together, remembering that although we come from different churches of all shapes and sizes, we have this vital ministry in common.

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THE PLAY CHURCH - COMING VERY SOON...

It's nearly here! The play church project is designed to help children explore worship and wonder about God and his amazing family, the Church. It's about engaging children's interest and encouraging them to learn through play. The diocesan play church is portable and will travel to six churches in the diocese each year - so get ready!



The play church altar has been built by Grassmarket Furniture, one of the social enterprises in the Grassmarket Community Project. Trained carpenters work with volunteers to create beautiful, bespoke pieces like this. In the process, the workshop helps to transform the lives of the volunteers who develop their skills there.

All sorts of talent and creativity have been involved in the play church project. See the next page for details of the beautiful banner that will hang behind the play church altar and the special play church cross... Elsewhere in the diocese, church groups are creating decorative frontals and sewing altar linen, while others have donated everything children will need to play at baptisms, weddings and even Holy Communion.

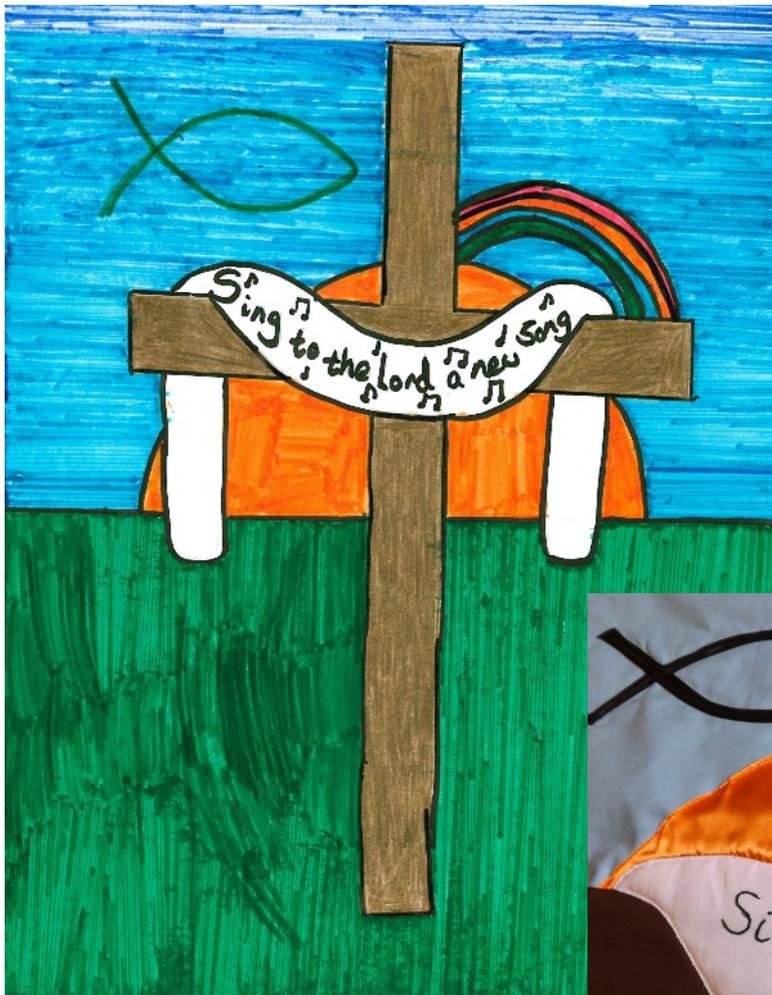


Our play church features quarter sawn oak, the grain of which is alive with the patterns left by the tree's veins. Many altars have carvings, but ours is decorated using pyrography - intricate designs are burnt into the wood using a hot wire. For the cross on the front of the altar, I am delighted that we have permission to use the design for Bishop John's pectoral cross, created by the Edinburgh silversmith, Sheana Stephen. It features the city's distinctive skyline, as well as the hills of the Scottish Borders, suggesting the breadth of our Diocese.

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COMPETITION WINNER

Children were recently invited to design a brilliant banner for Play Church. All the entries were colourful and welcoming, but the winner was Phoebe Pryce (age 11) from St Mark's Portobello. Phoebe's design is wonderfully bright and bold: it has now been created in fabric by Rev'd Ruth Green from St David's Pilton. The full banner will be unveiled at the dedication of the play church on 12 November at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.



A SPECIAL CROSS FOR THE PLAY CHURCH ALTAR

This beautiful cross was carved especially for the play church by Peter Tucker of St Andrew's Kelso. It is made of spalted beech. The black patterns (or 'spalting') come from a fungi that has invaded the tree. For Peter, these dark intrusions into the wood represent our sin. The cross is not smooth all over – some of the tree's bark has been left on – because the cross Jesus died on would have been made of rough wood. Peter explains that the cross has an abstract shape which follows the natural line of the wood, rather than being straight and rigid. It is leaning towards us, as if its arms are reaching out to us. This represents the fact that in today's world, when people are falling away from faith, the cross is crying out to us. It is a symbol of God's love, which is always reaching towards us.

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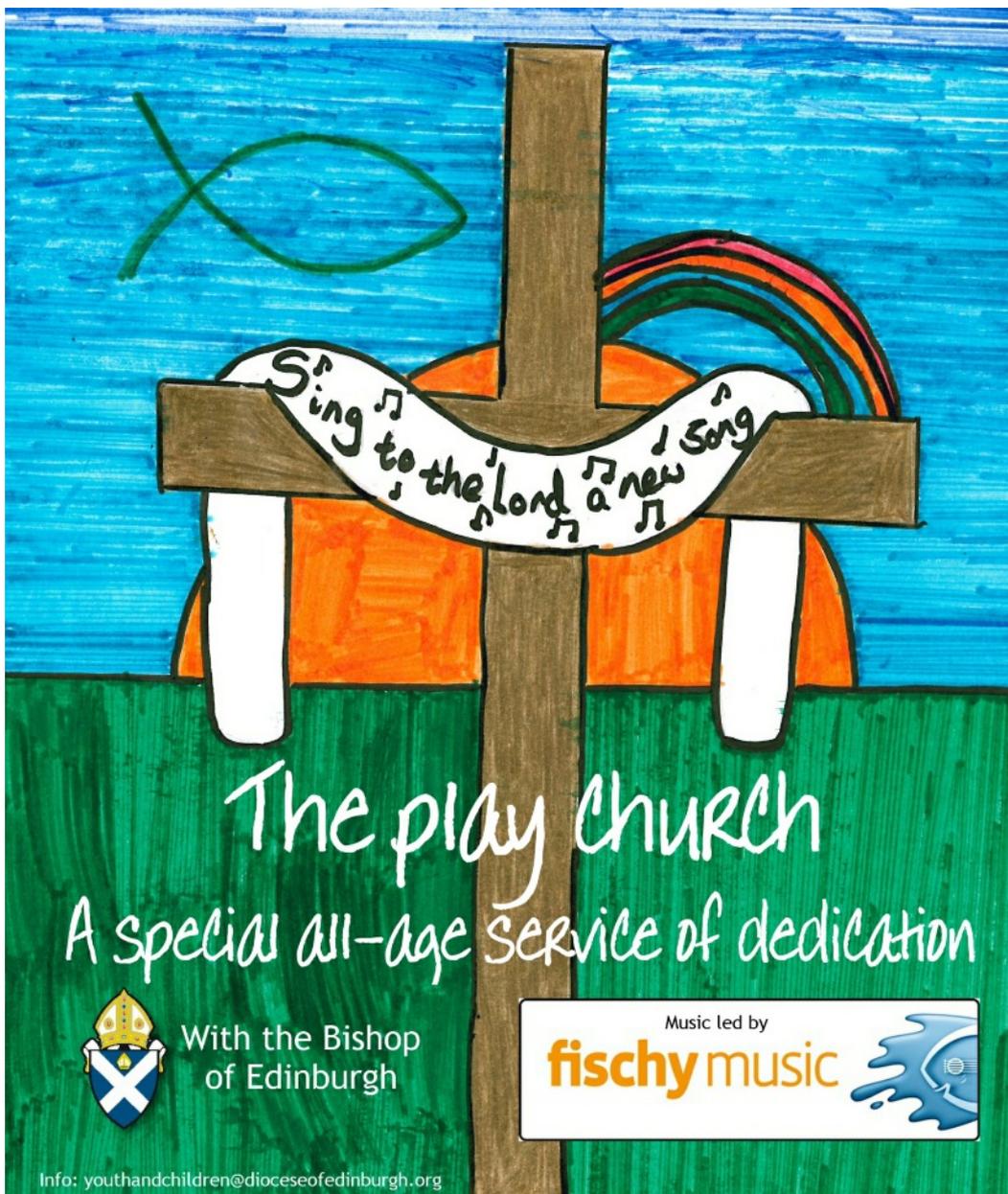
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EVERYONE WELCOME!

SPECIAL ALL-AGE SERVICE OF DEDICATION

TEENS AND MENTAL HEALTH



The play church

A special all-age service of dedication



With the Bishop
of Edinburgh

Info: youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Music led by

fischy music



Saturday 12 November at 11am

St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh

Everyone welcome! Come on your own, with friends or
bring the whole family

Please join us for coffee, juice and pastries after the service

HealthLink360 is offering a day's training to help you spot and respond to mental health issues in the young people you work with. It's open to ministers, youth leaders, anyone who has a key role in pastoring young people.

- Looking at the major mental health problems that afflict young people
- Practical skills to help you work alongside a young person who you think might have a mental health problem.
- Helps you equip Christian young people to engage their faith and God's word in managing mental health problems.

Thursday 17 November,
9.30am to 4.30pm at
HealthLink360's centre at
Carberry, near Mussel-
burgh. £27 per person.
Tea and coffee are provid-
ed; bring a packed lunch.
Free parking.

Interested? Email
admin@healthlink360.org
or call 0131 653 6767.

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YOUTH WORKER VACANCY

Mayfield Salisbury
Parish Church
Edinburgh

Youth Worker

We are a large, active and theologically liberal congregation on the south side of Edinburgh with 3 Services of Worship on Sunday. We seek a youth worker to help us strengthen our provision for younger people of secondary school age and above.

The successful candidate will help nurture faith and provide pastoral support. The post is for 3 years in the first instance with an annual salary in the region of £20,000 based on a 30 hour week.

For all enquires, please contact Revd Scott McKenna on 0131 667 1286 or SMcKenna@churchofscotland.org.uk For further details, please visit us at www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

ALL-AGE COMPETITION!



Bishop John invites people of all ages to design his official Christmas card for 2016. The theme is 'Let us go now to Bethlehem': you can respond with a

- Drawing
- Photograph
- Collage
- Model
- Tableau
- Sculpture

or something else...

'The shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."'

Luke 2.15

Bishop John comments: "Let us go," say the shepherds. They do not just say it, they do it; God's action spurs them to action. And they discover something amazing. Christmas is full of words and good intentions; but its true wonder is found when the Christ child inspires us to respond in acts of loving service. Our present world needs this more than ever.'

Closing date: 5 November
Entries in digital format or hard copy to
youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org
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Closing date 5 November! Please encourage people of all ages to get creative and enter this competition. The winner will receive a prize and a set of Christmas cards featuring the winning design.

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