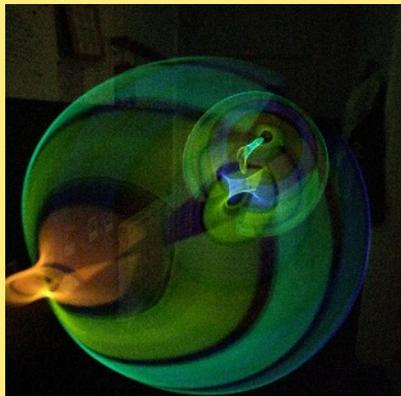
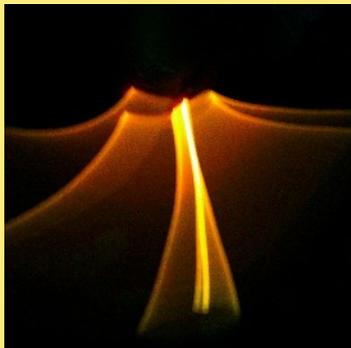


SCI-FI SLEEPOVER



Some of the older delegates got creative with glow sticks: they made an amazing glow-stick skipping rope and took these spectacular action shots in the dark!

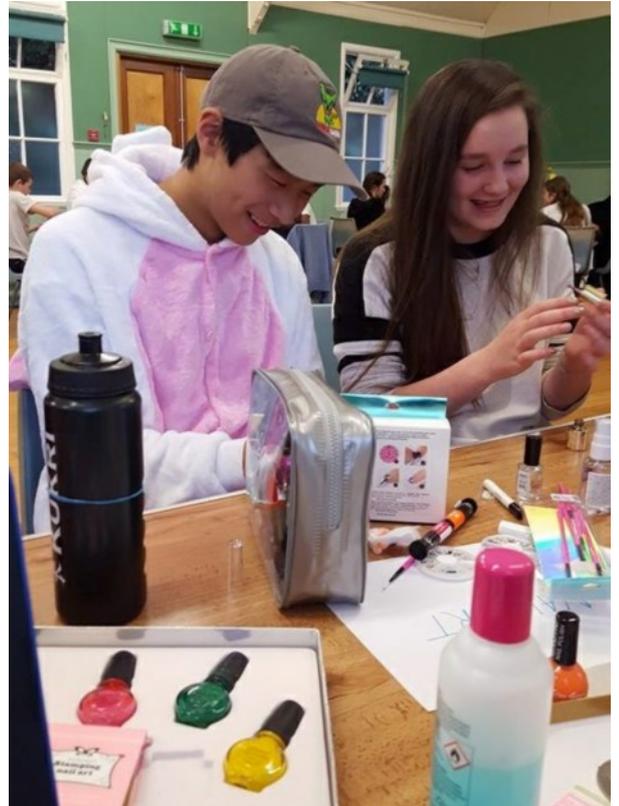


Photos by Aidan Poon



Young people from all over the Scottish Episcopal Church gathered at the Church of the Good Shepherd in October for the Sci-Fi Sleepover - an opportunity for Glen delegates and friends to get together, and an excuse for lots of dressing up (or 'cosplay', as it is known these days!).

There were Glen style activities and silly games, followed by a sit-down feast and an opportunity to 'bag a bishop': we were delighted that Bishop John and Clare joined us for supper and a group photo. Later that night, we said Night Prayer outside with candles, before settling down with hot chocolate for a midnight movie.



Nail art...

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"OUR MISSION: TO BOLDLY SLEEP OVER WHERE NO ONE HAS SLEPT OVER BEFORE"*

*SINCE LAST YEAR

Our first visit to the Good Shepherd was for the Superhero Sleepover last year, which saw delegates leading the Service of the Word on Sunday with such imagination and energy that Rev Dean Fostekew and his congregation warmly invited them back again! This time, the young people not only acted out the Gospel reading, offered their reflections in the 'sermon slot' and led us in creative prayers, they also made a significant musical contribution to the service, with the help and encouragement of The Good Shep-

herd's organist, Pat Warren. A group sang the Taize chant 'Ubi caritas' as a call to worship, and for a Communion anthem, singers treated us to 'Bless the Lord' ("10,000 reasons") to the accompaniment of a djembe. Lastly, after Communion, Olivia Smith from St Columba's by the Castle sang a beautiful setting of the Celtic Blessing. After the service, delegates and leaders offered hospitality to our hosts and invited the congregation back to the hall for coffee, cake and sandwiches.

THANK YOU

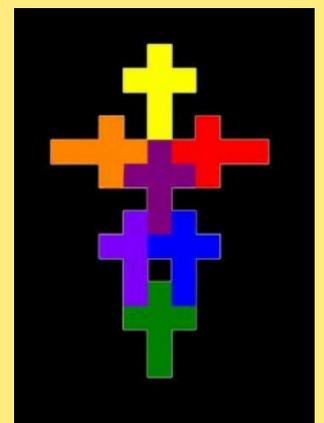


Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen, especially the many leaders who travelled from across Scotland to spend 24 hours in church, including not many hours' sleep on the hall floor! Thank you to the parents who enabled their children to attend, and to everyone at The Good Shepherd for making us so very welcome. Most of all, thank you to the young people who made this an event to remember.



A sit-down supper...

A deliciously messy biscuit-decorating activity...



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THE PLAY CHURCH DEDICATION



“Your house will be my house too, Lord, I’m coming home to You”

The wonderful Fischy Music got us all singing in St Mary’s Cathedral at the recent dedication of the play church. Their song expresses the spirit of joyful inclusion which characterised this special all-age service, and which makes the play church project itself so special.

The children who came did indeed make themselves at home, by dressing up in the play church vestments and wedding clothes, by dancing in the aisles, by sitting on the steps next to Bishop John and by making themselves comfortable on cushions right at the front, where they got the best view. Most importantly of all, children gathered around the play church altar (inscribed with Christ’s words, “Let the little children come to me”) and helped the Bishop bless the altar. Together they all sprinkled holy water (some people’s aim was better than others!) and joined Bishop John in making the sign of the cross in holy oil. Everyone joined in the responses to the



prayers, which were simple and enthusiastic - like this:

“Generous God, we give thanks for the gifts freely given to our play church. We ask you to bless them: may they inspire play, wonder and worship. YES!”

You can see a video of this interactive dedication on the Edinburgh Diocese Youth and Children Facebook page.

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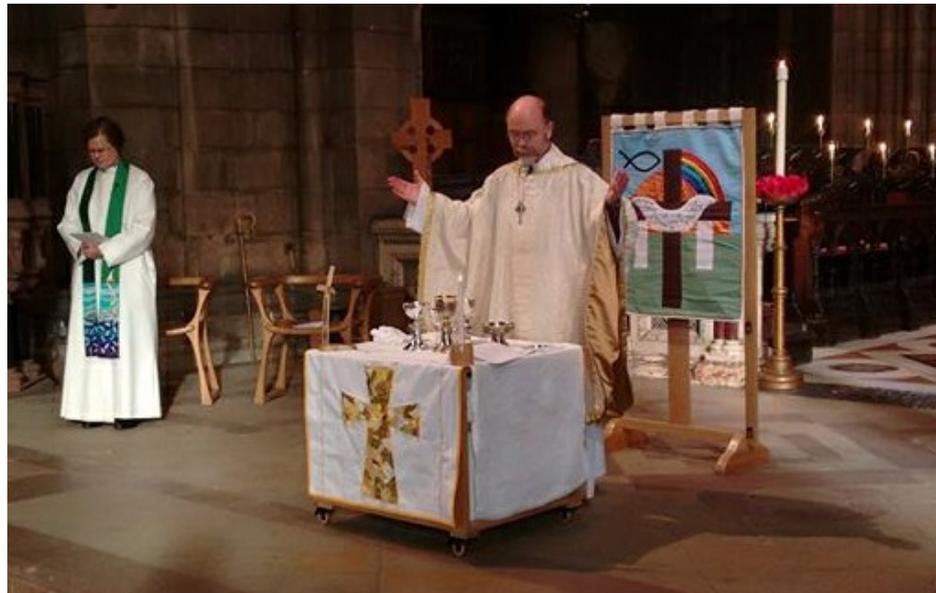
Young people from St Cuthbert's Colinton acted out the Bible readings, led the prayers and served at the altar.



*"I was like a child by His side.
I was playing every day" (Proverbs 8:30)*

"And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:16)

Bishop John celebrated Holy Communion from the play church altar, bringing young and old together to share the bread and wine.



At the end of the service, the play church was officially declared open for its first visitors - and the children couldn't wait to get stuck in! Some opened all the boxes and spread out all the contents: font, flowers, baby doll in Christening gown et al. Others set up the altar very solemnly, and immediately acted out the celebration of Communion they had just witnessed. Toddlers held the child-safe candles and marvelled at the flickering 'flames'...

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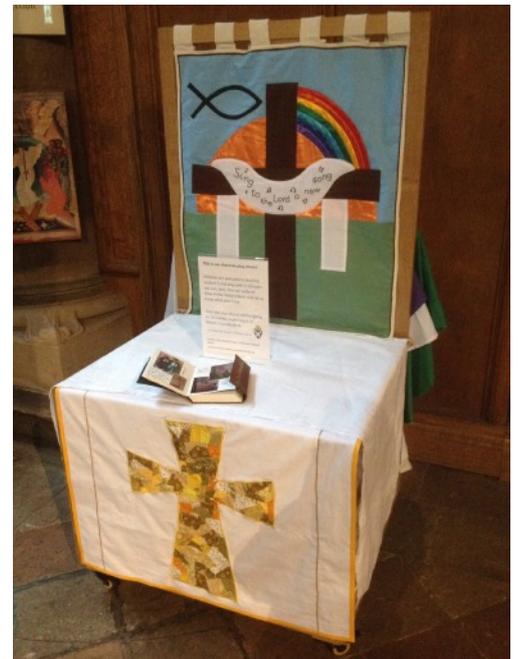
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Pictures (clockwise from top left): Bishop John and Jadon, wearing the play church bishop's vestments from Cape Coast, Ghana; the full contents of the play church, which fill the boxes that hide inside the altar; the finished play church altarscape; playing after the Dedication service.

It was a particular joy to see a truly all-age congregation at this service of dedication: the children came, with their parents, but so did the project's supporters and those who had helped to make and equip the play church. Carpenters from Grassmarket Furniture presented the altar itself, and we offered thanks for their woodworking skill in the name of Jesus the carpenter. Volunteers of all ages from across the diocese have created beautiful things in wood and fabric for the play church, and donors have given everything else, from the tiny silver Communion set to the children's Bibles. It was wonderful to see so many of these talented and generous people at the service.

So after two years of planning, the fully-equipped play church has now been launched on its journey around the diocese. It will be visiting six host churches a year, and has already been booked until summer 2018. If your church would like to host it, please let me know as soon as possible. It is currently at St Ninian's Comely Bank for Advent and Christmas, and will then be moving to St Mark's Portobello for Epiphany and Candlemas. You can track its progress on Facebook and Twitter, and via the diocesan website.



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A SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR CHILDREN FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE



St Mungo's Balerno

Christmas Deliveries.

A free Christmas event for families with children under 5 (older siblings are welcome). An hour of games, activities and songs exploring the Christmas story, followed by refreshments.

Where: Balerno High School, Drama Studio

When: Sunday 11th December 10.30am (doors open at 10.20am)

Who: Contact andrea.brewster@stmungos.org



Christmas Carol Event.

Where: On 11 December we have a 4pm service in Balerno held at Balerno High School with groups for 0-P7. And On 18 December we have a 4pm service in Livingston held at St Margaret's Academy also with groups for 0-P7.

When: Sunday 11th December 4pm and Sunday 18th December at 4pm.

Holy Trinity Church, Melrose

Christingle 24th 5.00pm Our popular Christingle service for children and families, where we go hunting for the characters that make up our Crib Scene. Bring a torch, oranges are provided!

Epiphany Family Service 8th January 11.00am

A family-friendly service featuring three wise men, lots of presents and Horrible Herod.

Contact Rector: Philip Blackledge
philipblackledge@gmail.com

St Peter's Peebles

Christingle 11 December 5pm A family-friendly service and a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas. If you can, please bring a new toy, that will be collected for 'Mission Christmas' and donations will also be collected for the Aberlour Childcare Trust

Christmas Eve Crib Service 4pm at St Peter's Church

A family-friendly service. Come dressed as a Nativity character!

Contact Rector: Jim Benton-Evans jimbentonevans@gmail.com



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AND THERE'S MORE...

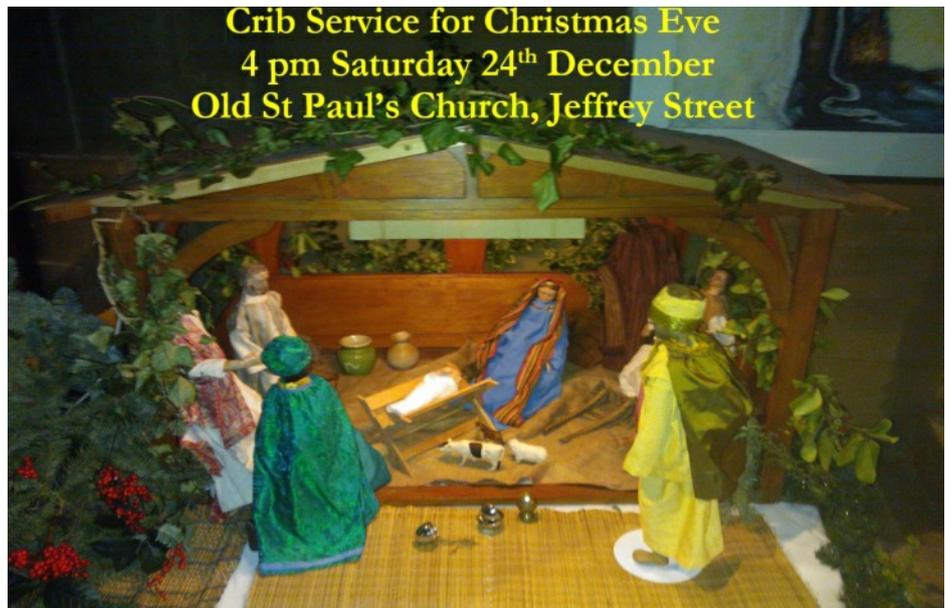


JUMP UP AND DOWN FOR CHRISTMAS!

A lively event for children including a bouncy castle! Come along for fun, energy and creativity with a Christmas twist.

Suitable for: children and their families

When: Saturday 17 December, 10.00 am–12.00 noon



Old St Paul's

- Crib Service, with favourite carols as the children lead the Holy Family to the Crib. Followed by refreshments.
- 4 pm, Christmas Eve
- Contact for more information:
children@osp.org.uk



St Peter's Episcopal Church, Linlithgow

Our Nativity service will take place on Sunday 18th December. The service starts at 9:30am. All welcome.

Our Christingle service will be at 4pm on Christmas Eve. All welcome.

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...AND MORE!

St Ninian's Comely Bank

Contact: Frances Burberry – rector@stnilians-edinburgh.org.uk



Get Ready for Christmas

A morning of fun activities for everyone with coffee and mince pies:

- Decorate the Christmas Tree
- Hear the story of the Christingle (and make one—or two!—and take it/them home)
- Enjoy our Advent Wreath Craft Workshop

Where: St Ninian's Comely Bank

When: Saturday 17 December 1000 to 1200

Family Communion Service for Advent 4

Our Young Church will present a Nativity Procession/Play in place of the sermon.

Where: St Ninian's Comely Bank

When: Sunday 18 December at 1030



Crib Service for Christmas Eve

Where: St Ninian's Comely Bank

When: Saturday 24 December at 1600



Play Church

Where: St Ninian's Comely Bank

When: Sunday 27 November 2016 to Sunday 1 January 2017



Las Posadas

This tradition has origins in Spain and symbolises the trials which Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay where Jesus could be born, based on the passage in Luke (2.1-9). Families and individuals within our community will be scheduling a time for the Posada to be held at their home in the week before Christmas Eve—there will be a separate tri-fold leaflet with full details.

When: Saturday 17 December to Friday 23 December

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VACANCIES

Part-time Children and Family Worker The Priory Church, South Queensferry

Salary: £5,200 plus expenses.

Children and Family Worker required to work 12 hours per week for 40 weeks (School Terms) plus 1 week of 40 hours in the summer. This post is for one year with the possibility that this may be extended.

Job purpose: From the existing ecumenical Messy Church and Holiday Club contacts, develop further activities with the children and their families, including:

- Helping to run a monthly Messy Church
- running a weekly After School Club and
- a monthly Children's Cinema Club
- encouraging and building a team of volunteers

All of this is aimed at further developing a 'Fresh Expression' of Christian Community.



This appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure check through the Scottish Episcopal Church system. References will be requested and taken up.

Person Specification: You must be: experienced in working with children and have a proven record of developing and leading Christian programmes for families; energetic, creative and resourceful; a confident leader of volunteers; a team player; and a good communicator with children and their parents/carers.

You should have an understanding of, and sympathy for, the principles and traditions of the Scottish Episcopal Church and ecumenical Christian collaboration.

Application: by CV with covering letter.

Closing Date: 16th January 2017

Interview Date: Mutually agreed date in February

A job description is available from and applications should be sent to Rev Terry Harkin at: tjharkin@priorychurch.com or by post to: 6 Wellhead Close, South Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH309WA

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VACANCIES



Full time Youth and Children's Worker St Peter's Musselburgh

St Peter's is a dynamic, developing, evangelical church on Musselburgh High Street, at the edge of Edinburgh. We are part of the Scottish Episcopal Church and world-wide Anglican family. We want to flourish as a family of disciples, attempting to change lives through God's love and grace.

So we're looking for a creative, inspiring adventurer to lead our young disciples in God's call on their lives.

You ought to be someone who:

- has a track record in, and is passionate about, releasing children and youth into their fullest potential.
- 'pioneers' resiliently in non-Christian environments.
- is responsible, self disciplined, determined to develop personally and professionally, and to use their initiative, always!
- can lead and inspire committed volunteers.

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practising Christian and a PVG registration with Disclosure Scotland will be required.

Email Andy Reid at: revreidserving@gmail.com for further enquiries or to request an application pack.

£22,000 - £25,000 Depending on experience.

Closing date: Friday 6th January.

Interviews: week beginning 16th January

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

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