

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

Spring 2018

Play Church on the move...

The diocesan play church is continuing its pilgrimage around the diocese.

Play Church has visited St James the Less Penicuik & St Mungo's West Linton for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and is now at Christ Church Morningside for Lent and Easter. Please contact me if you would like to host Play Church next year!



Lighting the Advent wreath at St John's, Jedburgh



Play Church last Easter at St Peter's Peebles

THIS EDITION

- YOUTH & CHILDREN'S GRANTS - how charges benefited in 2017
- 2018 THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE
- PISKY YOUTH - Provincial youth sleepover in Perth
- HOME FOR GOOD - helping churches to be nurturing places for adopted and fostered children
- REFRESHED - training for Sunday school leaders
- GLENALMOND 2018 - booking now open!

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DIDDY DISCIPLES

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S GRANTS

In the second half of 2017, grants were awarded to St Peter's Linlithgow, for a Sunday School Christmas outing to a local pantomime; to St Mungo's Balerno, to contribute to a youth weekend away; to St John's Princes Street, for resources for a Christmas craft workshop, and to St John's Jedburgh, to contribute to a joint 'Messy Christmas' event in the town.



This is a really exciting new Lectionary-based resource which I can definitely recommend for churches working with babies and toddlers. It can be used on a Sunday morning, or as outreach in a mid-week group.

Diddy Disciples uses songs, actions, repetition, movement - all the things small children love! Written by a priest and theologian who is also a mum with small children, it is thoroughly road-tested and comes highly recommended: you can find out much more about it on the [Diddy Disciples website](#), or buy the book [here](#).

If you would like to experience a Diddy Disciples session, please get in touch about my Sunday School training event. (See p8)



St John's Sunday School says: "Thanks once again for the grant - it made a huge difference being able to get some proper materials together. Both the craft workshop and the Christingle were really wonderful events."

Photos courtesy of St John's Sunday School

A youth weekend away at Lendrick Muir for young people from St Mungo's Balerno

Photograph from Lendrick Muir's website



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MESSY CHRISTMAS IN JEDBURGH

Rev Andrew Cooper writes:

"We did something different for Christmas in Jedburgh. As well as our beautiful traditional services, we decided to build on our growing combined churches Messy Church ministry with a combined Messy Christmas in the Jedburgh Town Hall. Folk from St John's Episcopal Church, St Mary's Catholic Church and Old and Trinity Church of Scotland decided to work together to bring Christmas into the centre of our Town with a service aimed at families of all ages, particularly those who might not otherwise come to a church service.

A grant of £100 pounds from the Diocesan Youth and Children Fund, matched by funds from the Catholic and Church of Scotland communities allowed us to hire the Town Hall and all the necessary equipment and provide a gift of a beautiful coloured nativity book for every family. The Town

Hall was a great neutral space and allowed us to spread out, do lots of action songs and have fun telling the Christmas story together. It was also great to have a follow on from the Advent themed Messy Church we held a few weeks earlier.

Feedback included one mum who said '*I asked Lilly what she would like to say about the Messy Christmas. She said the best thing about Messy Christmas was making the Christmas angels and the flower pot.*'

Always energetic 7 year old, Arthur, said '*The best thing about Messy Christmas was having a glo stick!*' Great with dim lights and Silent Night waving.



I Like the panto very much because it was funny. I liked the witch because she was a really good actor. Rebecca and Judy were fantastic. Thank you very much.

By Rosie pink

One of our teenagers, Susannah, said '*The best thing about the Messy Christmas, was the enthusiasm of the visitors to get involved with dressing up and joining in.*'

Age was not a barrier to getting an active role in our messy nativity! The response was so positive we have decided to build on it with a lively family focussed Messy Easter. Watch this space!"

St Peter's Sunday School Trip to see Camelot the Pantomime

"I went to the pantomime with my brother, my Dad and lots of my friends from St Peters Church. The pantomime was called Camelot. Some people from church were even in the pantomime. I also saw my teacher from school, Mrs Hogg, and my teacher from last year, Mrs McAlpine, playing parts in the pantomime. I sat next to my brother, Euan, and Orin and her Dad. Rosie, Fearghas and his brother Lochlan were there too. My favourite part was when Laughalot kept saying 'help me, help me'. My brother liked shouting 'it's behind you' every time the ghost came on stage. It was very funny and we had a good time."

By Gillian Emery

Picture: Fearghas on stage at the panto! He thought it was "way funnier than the other panto they went to see, I loved it".



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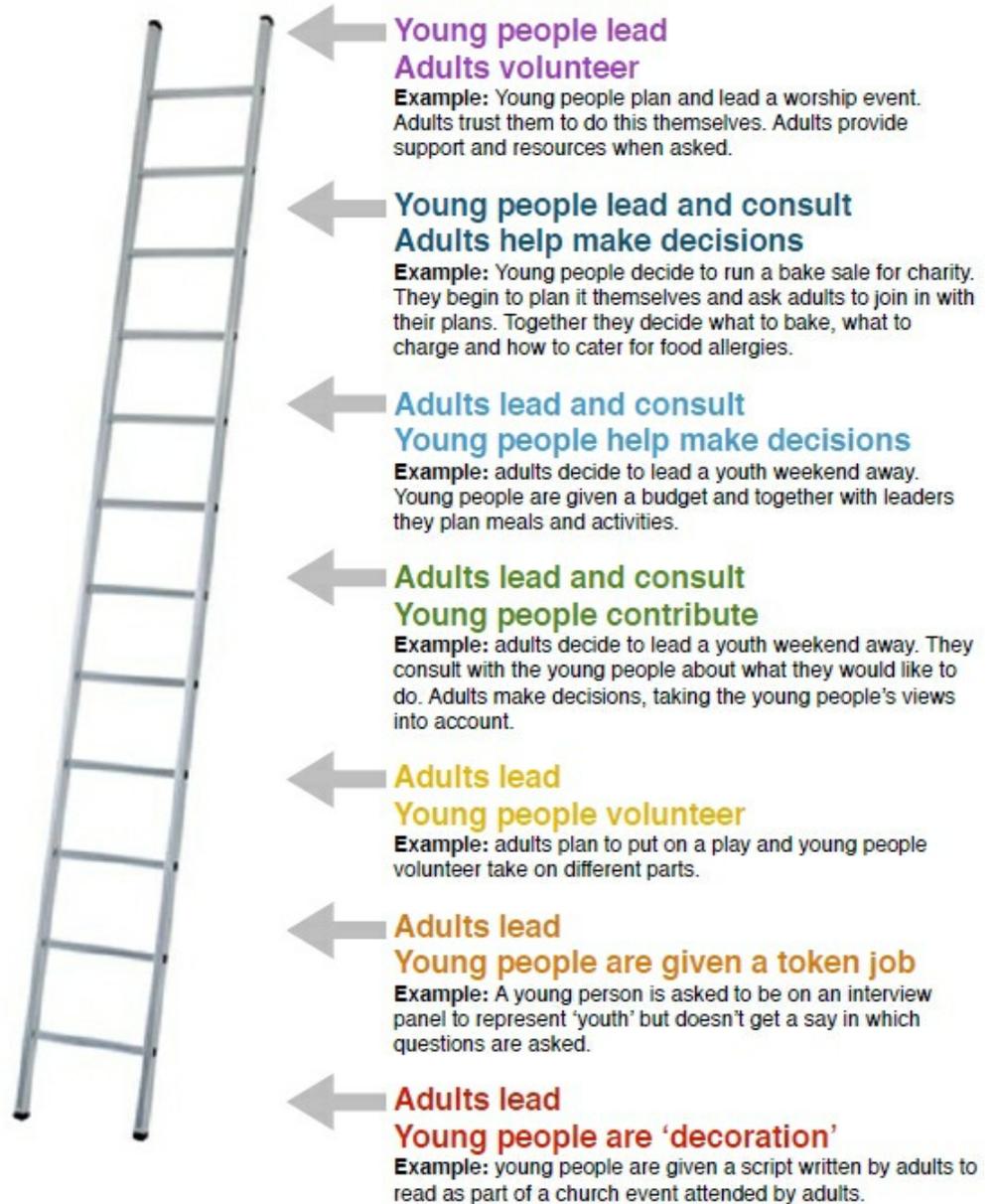
2018: THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE

2018 is the Year of Young People, and churches across Scotland are responding in various ways, with challenges and characters, projects and new initiatives.

In the Diocese of Edinburgh, the Year of Young People is about two things: **Platform** and **Participation**. Firstly, I want our churches and our communications media to give young people a platform for showing and telling us what they would like us to know, about their lives, faith and church experience, in words, pictures, videos and audio files. Secondly, I want our churches to promote **youth participation**, using the ladder of participation (opposite) as a challenge and guide.

The following pages explain in more detail how you - and especially, your young people - can get involved...

“The Participation Ladder” Young people and Church



The Ladder of Participation was developed by sociologist Roger Hart for UNICEF. It is a tool for involving young people and progressing from tokenism to citizenship. It has been adapted here for use in a church context, where the ultimate aim is young people's full participation in church structures and activities. Such 'citizenship' reflects the kingdom of God, which "belongs to such as these".

On which rung of the ladder does your church mostly find itself? How could you move further up the ladder in 2018?

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IN PICTURES: Here are some things you and your young people might do:

- Photograph something your church does with children every month this year
- Invite children to take photos of what their church family means to them
- Photograph children's engagement with Play Church
- Give teenagers a video camera and invite them to make a documentary about your church or a church event
- Ask teenagers to take a church selfie with the congregation
- Film a church service from a child's eye view and share what they see (or don't see!)
- Film or photograph young people leading worship

Remember to get consent from everyone who is identifiable in your pictures /videos! SEC forms and guidelines are available [here](#). The images and videos will be shared (without naming individuals) in diocesan publications and on our website and social media platforms. Please send them to me (details below).

2018: THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE



The Diocese of Edinburgh

in the Scottish Episcopal Church

Every year is the Year of Young People



What
will YOU
share?



IN PICTURES: This year we will be showcasing the great things children and young people are doing in our churches. I'll be creating an interactive gallery of pictures and videos like this to share what young people themselves, and all of us who work with them, would like everyone to see (with appropriate consent, of course).

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THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE CONT.D

"Seek us out and let us in. Involving young people is important because we can affect your present as well as your future. We can help you prove to the world that church isn't a thing of the past, you're still present and growing today."

Olivia Smith (under-18 PYC rep) speaking at Diocesan Synod



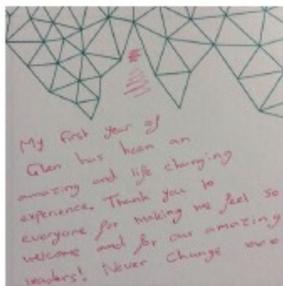
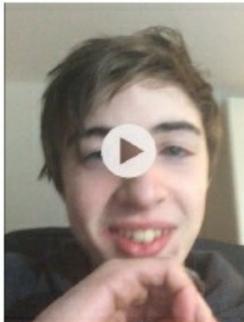
The Diocese of Edinburgh

in the Scottish Episcopal Church

Young people speaking for themselves

Thank you for the Sunday School outing:

"I went to the pantomime with my brother, my Dad and lots of my friends from St Peters Church. The pantomime was called Camelot. Some people from church were even in the pantomime. ... My favourite part was when Laughalot kept saying 'help me, help me'. My brother liked shouting 'it's behind you' every time the ghost came on stage. It was very funny and we had a good time."



What would YOU like to say?



From Thank you to the Glen leaders, by Fiona & Bo

"...You are our shoulder to cry on, our light in the dark, our family forever, you've left your mark, you've taught us, and learnt from us as well, you've been there to listen, even when we're going through hell. We wish we could say what we really mean, but all we can say is thank you."

Questions for God:
"How fast do prayers travel? Do they obey the laws of physics?"
Tobias, aged 11

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: This year we will be hearing from children and young people themselves. What would they like us to know? What questions would they ask God? How might they challenge us? I'll be creating an interactive library of words, videos and audio files like this to share what young people themselves would like everyone to hear (with appropriate consent, of course).

IN WORDS: the excerpts opposite will act as clickable links to the full text/video/audio file, so contributions can be of any length. Here are some things your children and young people might share:

- Questions for God
- Questions for the Church
- A prayer
- A song
- Thank you letters (to God, church leaders, each other)
- A report on a church event
- Observations on a Vestry meeting
- A challenge to the church or society
- A film or book review with a God connection
- A reflection on experiences at Glenalmond, Soul Survivor or other youth event
- A reflection on the experience of a Christian festival or event (e.g. Greenbelt, Powerepoint, Spree)

Remember to get consent to share these in diocesan publications and on our website and social media platforms. Please send these files to me (details below).

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PISKY YOUTH TOGETHER AGAIN

PROVINCIAL YOUTH SLEEPOVER AT ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PERTH



Edinburgh delegates were well represented at the recent Provincial Youth sleepover in Perth, which brought together young people and leaders from five of the dioceses.



We enjoyed an evening of pancake-related fun and games, followed by a fajita feast. Delegates then prepared to lead the Service of the Word as part of Sunday's Eucharist: their dramatic readings, interactive reflection and thoughtful intercessions were very well received by the congregation. Thank you to James Gardner, the St Andrew's Youth and Children Officer, for organising a great event, to the leaders who helped run it, and to everyone at St John's who gave us such a warm welcome!

Pictures, clockwise from bottom: Edinburgh delegates leading the discussion in church and dramatising the Old Testament reading; a wide awake group; decorating stunt pancakes!

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HOME FOR GOOD

SUPPORTING ADOPTED AND FOSTERED CHILDREN



Find out more - phone the Home for Good team on 0300 001 0995

About Us What We Do Get Involved Your Area Resources Adopt Foster Pray Give



Home for Good raises awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents, encourages families to provide loving homes for the children in care, and equips the Church to offer welcoming communities for them.

Home for Good recently led a free training event for church leaders and youth and children's workers in Edinburgh. It was an inspiring evening which confronted us with challenging statistics: for example, the high number of homeless people and prison inmates who experienced the care system as children. However, the evening was all about hope and equipping churches to help children and families who are involved with fostering and adoption. We learned about the network of relationships with professional

adults that entangle fostered children, and the impact this might have on them. We learned about how a child's fear and anxiety can trigger disruptive behaviour in our Sunday Schools, and how we can be guided by parents and carers if we ask them: "What helps your child? What triggers would be best to avoid?" More widely, as a whole church, we can ask: "What would bless your child/you the most?"

The take-home message for me, in terms of our work in Sunday Schools, was: "Focus on building relationship rather than getting through the teaching programme. We need to embody the love and grace of God in our relationships with our young people." If we get this right in our churches, we can't go far wrong.

REFRESHED!

REFRESH! is a training event for Sunday School leaders - for anyone who feels like they're winging it, wants to be better equipped for Sundays, needs to know more about resources and wants to be encouraged and inspired.

Twenty Sunday School leaders gathered at the Church of the Good Shepherd recently. Together we explored some key areas: managing behaviour (including discussing case studies); how to integrate your Sunday School into the whole church family, and what resources work well. This included experiencing a 'Diddy Disciples' session - an exciting new resource which is well worth discovering (see more on p2).

If you missed this event and would like to know more, please get in touch - I can run it again if lots of folk are keen!



The delights and challenges of Sunday School, recorded on our portable blackboard

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BOOKING NOW!

GLEN '18

at Glenalmond College, Perthshire

24.7/365

“Yesterday, Today and Forever”



DIARY DATES

March 15 - Godly Play Circle
Old St Paul's, 7:30 - 9pm

2 April - Early Bird discount ends for Glenalmond

4-6 May - Godly Play Scotland's Storyteller & Door Person Accredited Training, Telford Manor House, Moffat

1 June - Glenalmond booking deadline

22-28 July - Provincial Youth Week at Glenalmond

Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Week

22nd - 28th July 2018

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:

www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/provincial-youth-committee/

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

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

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

It's that time again!

Booking is now open for the Provincial Youth Week at Glenalmond. Forms are available from me and are downloadable from the Provincial website. Book by 2 April for the early bird discount! All S1-S6 welcome.

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