

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH Summer 2018

GLENALMOND SPECIAL EDITION

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This year at the Provincial Youth Week at Glenalmond, our theme was “24/7.365 Yesterday, Today and Forever.” We summed up what we wanted delegates to take away with them at the end of the week:

God is not just with us at Glen or in holy places.

God is not just for one week of the year or
special occasions.

God is with us 24/7.365 days of the year
everywhere, every-when, every-how.

God is not just in the sacred.

God is there in things people might think are secular.

God is constant and infinite and all-encompassing.

God throughout history.

God present today.

God of the future.

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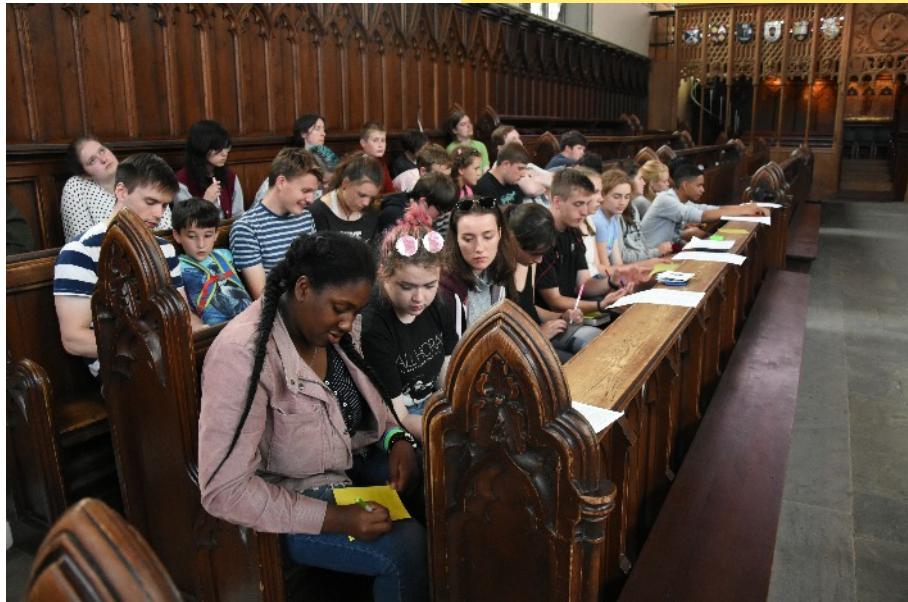
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THE GLENALMOND COMMUNITY

A LEADER WRITES...

"One of the most powerful and surprising things about Glen is the extent to which it is a community, rather than a camp. Community values lie at the heart of the Glen ethos: that commitment to looking out for the needs of each other rather than ourselves; of offering welcome, inclusion and hospitality to the new, the stranger, the outsider; and of committing to a common rhythm of life, at least for this week. Monday is when that rhythm properly begins and, again, just as in permanent religious communities, it is *rooted* in regular, corporate prayer and worship.

The 8.00 am Eucharist is the only worship which is optional for delegates and leaders. But it is routinely attended by a good quarter to a third of camp: the quiet commitment of these young people to getting out of bed in time to meet their God in the sacrament is staggering and humbling. Moreover, I am the oldest person in the service - how many clergy ever get to say that! Morning Prayer for the whole community is at 9.30 and, led normally by a leader, follows the shorter Daily Prayer order. Every new delegate and leader is given a copy at the end of camp and they are brought back year after, increasingly battered, worn and *used*. Some of our delegates get together on Facebook from time to



time to say Daily Prayer together, maintaining the personal discipline they learned at Glen: many more of them turn to it in their moments of challenge or thankfulness.

Every house group is responsible in turn for curating the evening worship, normally at 5.30pm, and they are always inventive and profound. Tonight's was a gospel service of praise in which we were encouraged, warmly, to dance and express our joy and thanks with exuberance and without self-consciousness....

The 10.30pm space of Night Prayer to conclude the day is grounding and centring, offering time for reflection and thanksgiving.

Creative prayers were part of this evening worship, led by delegates in the chapel.

It is a huge joy and an extraordinary privilege to be part of this community and it is a powerful affirmation as well as a blessing to see it grow as it has. From a single week in the year, under the direction of the PYC there are now regular events across the Province. What the church is building here is not just a youth ministry but a real and vital dispersed religious community. It is amazing to see God at work so powerfully in our church and in our people."

Rev Jim Benton-Evans is Team Rector of Glasgow's East End Team Ministry. This piece first appeared on the [EETM Facebook page](#).

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WORSHIP AT GLEN

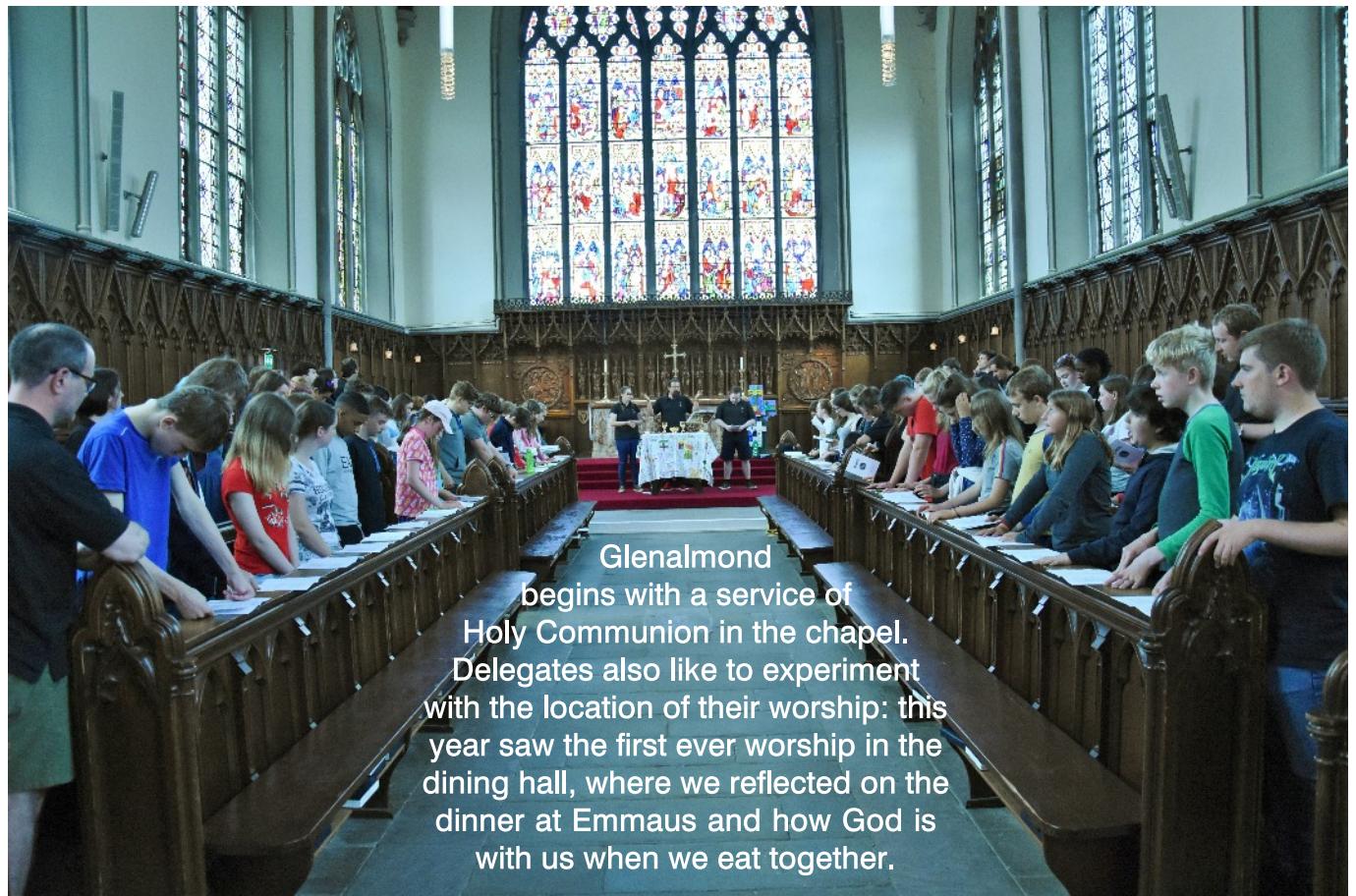
The week at Glenalmond involves 25 separate acts of worship, ranging from Morning Prayer using the shorter Daily Prayer order, to daily worship which is devised and led by the delegates themselves. It is always a joy to see their faith, imaginations and creativity given free rein! Worship this year included an origami prayer tree (above), a blindfolded conga (below left) and exuberant Nigerian-style worship with lots of singing, dancing and multilingual prayers!



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ACTIVITIES



Delegates choose three activities a day at Glenalmond. The leadership team works hard to offer a great variety, so that every delegate can do something they love or discover a new talent...



IN, OUT AND
SHAKE IT ALL
ABOUT...



- **Hill walking** Enjoying the view over Loch Turret
- **Art** A chance to get creative and messy
- **Out in the open** We took advantage of the heat wave to get together with God in the great outdoors
- **The Ceilidh** A wonderfully sweaty evening with music by the ever-popular Gallivanders

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THE HOUSE GROUP EXPERIENCE

"YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER"



House groups are where delegates get to explore their faith deeply, using teaching materials prepared by members of the leadership team. There are opportunities to think, ask questions, be creative, wonder aloud and be challenged in a safe, supportive environment. This year we focused on the fact that God is always with us: 24/7, 365 days a year, yesterday, today and forever. Here are some of the things we talked about...

- Where and how we go looking for God (and how God is always looking for us)
- How God is everywhere as well as everywhere
- We can connect with God in nature
- Nobody can see God, but our creative, visual, imaginative selves can get a glimpse
- God is with us when we share food: eating together as families and communities, cook-
- ing for and serving each other, and in Holy Communion.
- God is with us through all our life experiences, good and bad. We explored the range of emotions in the Psalms.
- How to connect with God in sound and (especially) silence. We talked about how to find quiet time with God in our daily lives.
- God is with us when we act. As a whole camp we discussed social justice matters: why issues like food banks and climate change are important, what we can pray for and what we can do.
- God is with us in our communities. We learned more about the early Church.
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He said: "I will never leave you or forsake you."

24/7.365

FOCUS ON THE BIBLE

Amongst many other things...

We discussed where God is, considering Acts 17:24-28: "For in him we live and move and have our being." (v27).

We talked about prophets in the Bible, their visions of God, and who might be considered a prophet today, as we read Joel 2:28: "...your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

We talked about the feeding of the five thousand (Luke 9:12-17) and what this story tells us about sharing food with God and each other.

We discussed Elijah and the earthquake, wind and fire, and his encounter with God in "the sound of sheer silence".

We wondered about the Church in Acts and whether our own churches are like this today: "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." (Acts 2:42-47)

During our final house group session, we focused on Paul's encouraging words in Hebrews 13:5-13: "...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever."

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24/7.365



As well as summing up our theme, these numbers look like a code: this inspired all sorts of activities and disguises to do with spies, code-breaking and secret agents.

Delegates were invited on a Mission: Impossible and our whole-camp activity was inspired by the Crystal Maze. We also trained our secret agents in codes, cyphers and armed combat (with foam swords!) Some even tried the elite sport of Extreme Knitting...

The two pictures at the top of this page were posted on the Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Youth Committee's [Facebook page](#), with the comment: "One of these is worship, one is a spy camp. The joy of youth camp is that it isn't clear which is which."



Part of the wonderful variety of Glen is made possible by our location: we can move from cosy house group rooms to the banks of the River Almond without even leaving the school grounds.



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We love change and tradition at youth camp - so what better than a brand new tradition! On the last day of camp, after their final worship we surprised our leavers with their very own graduation ceremony! We had a wonderful graduation speech from the (now) Rt Rev Andrew Swift and they were all "capped" with the world cross as they go on to their new adventures! They also received a Provincial Youth Committee bag with a full set of crockery/cutlery and the first ever PYC recipe book including words of wisdom from their leaders who have watched them grow over the past 6 years! We are so so proud to be sending 12 such incredible humans out in to the world and we cannot wait to see all the amazing things they've still to achieve!

MOVING ON...



EXAM RESULTS

The Provincial Youth Committee recently posted this message to delegates on our [Facebook page](#):

"God loves you, 24/7.365. We thought you could use a reminder of our theme at camp this year as you receive your exam results today. It is as true now as always that God loves you, whether you have all you wanted or whether you're facing disappointment today. God loves you as you are, with a hoard of A's or exams not sat and everything in between.

And we love you too. Your #PiskyFam will always be here for you, we will celebrate your success and come up with new directions to achieve your goals when it hasn't gone to plan (over hot chocolate, because frankly, everything is better with hot chocolate).

You are already everything you need to be for us to love you: don't let today define you, we certainly won't.

Love from your PYC leaders and your whole Pisky Family xxx"

Leaders and delegates would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made Glen 2018 possible: parents; sending Rectors, Vestries and congregations; diocesan youth officers who spread the word; the GSO for its financial and administrative support, and Glenalmond College for hosting us.

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GETTING TOGETHER...

There will be youth sleepover events across the Province throughout the coming year, organised by the Provincial Youth Committee. Coming soon is POLAR OPPOSITES in the diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, with an opportunity to visit a baby polar bear! This will be followed by Edinburgh Diocese's ever popular October sleepover - this year, THE SLEEPOVER BY THE SEA - to be hosted by St Mark's Portobello. We will sleep in the church but enjoy a bonfire on the beach! Both events now booking...

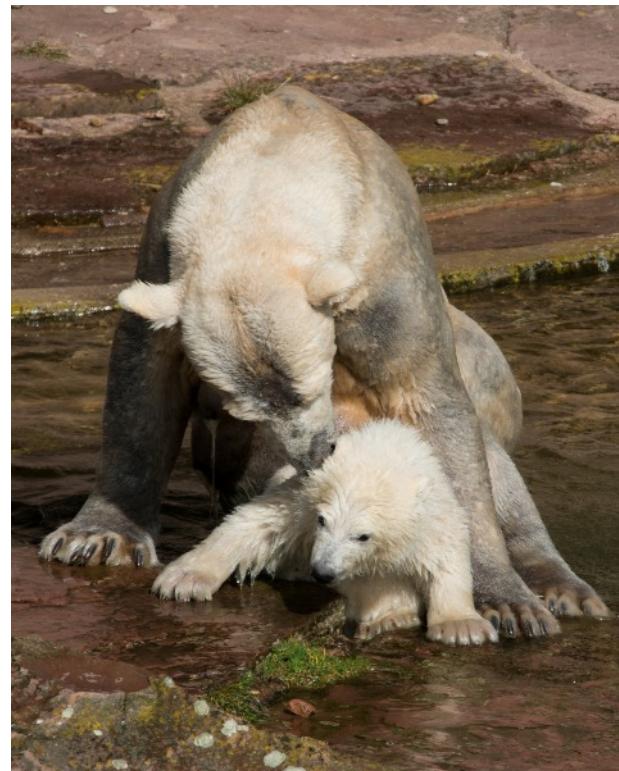
WHEN? Sat 1 - Sun 2 September

WHERE? Drop off at Highland Wildlife Park, Kincraig on Saturday at 2pm; pick up from Inverness Cathedral on Sunday between 12.30pm and 1pm

Download details [here](#).

THE SLEEPOVER BY THE SEA

POLAR OPPOSITES



WHEN? Sat 27 - Sun 28 October

WHERE? Drop off St Mark's Portobello, Edinburgh on Saturday at 3 pm; pick up from St Mark's on Sunday at noon.

Download details [here](#).

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TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...



In this Year of Young People, there are two exciting opportunities for churches to help their young people get involved with the Edinburgh based homelessness charity, Social Bite. Watch this space for Diocesan and Provincial plans, but meanwhile, why not organize something yourself?



9 November: Wee Sleep Out (8-16s) Details [here](#).
8 December: Sleep in the Park (16+) Details [here](#).



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FISCHY MUSIC!

Saturday 6 October: Big Birthday Sing

It's Fischy Music's big anniversary! Fischy Music is celebrating 20 years of nurturing the emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing of children through song. The team are inviting everyone to a big party at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh! Fischy Music's Suzanne Butler says: "We'd love to gather a big crowd of our friends and fans from schools, churches, families and communities to help us celebrate. If you can bring a car load – so much the better ☺." Please share this information widely! You can buy tickets [here](#).

fischymusic

**BIG Fischy 20th
Birthday Sings**

**Saturday 6th Oct 2018, 3:00pm, £7 entry
Assembly Rooms, George St, Edinburgh**

Celebrate twenty years of Fischy songs with full band, special guests and birthday treats

Tickets available from:
www.fischymusic.com
and 0131 551 1005

Sunday 7 October: Service of Thanksgiving

As Fischy Music's roots are in the Christian faith, there will be a service of thanksgiving at 3pm on Sunday 7th of October. Everyone is welcome to join Fischy Music at [Meadowbank Church, Edinburgh](#) at 3pm.

The Fischy team writes:

"We are delighted to have Rev John Bell as our speaker and of course some singing! Afterwards, there will be tea, coffee and goodies! We plan to include a scratch choir in the service for anyone who has sung Fischy songs over the last 20 years. All ages and generations are welcome to join the choir, so come and enjoy a good sing! If you would like to join in with this please come early at 1.15 for a rehearsal at 1.30pm. We would love to have you with us to mark this milestone in Fischy Music's life."

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AROUND THE DIOCESE...



Rev Sophia Marriage from St Mark's Portobello writes:

"Portobello Holiday Club welcomed 97 children, 14 youth helpers and over 50 adult volunteers from 5 different churches for a week exploring the diversity of God's Team. With art, baking, games, singing, and gardening we listened to stories of some of the strange people that God called to his team in the Bible and thought about ways that we were all called to be part of the team today.

As always, the children transformed the front bed of St Mark's garden into a sea of colour - yellow to remember Joseph (sheaves of corn); orange for Moses (the burning fire and desert); purple for Esther (royalty); red for the disciples (many met sticky ends!) and white for Paul and John Mark (for reconciliation). The

paths of colour finished in a multi-coloured centre piece as we remembered how we all make up this multi-coloured team."



MONEY FOR Y&C PROJECTS



The first half of this year's diocesan youth and children's grants have been awarded, and will be supporting church projects as various as a wildlife garden and a new children's library.

Applications are now open for the remaining grants: is there something your church is planning for Christmas that could do with a bit of extra financial help? Applications are short and straightforward: please consider what you might apply for. Grants are usually in the range of £50-£100, but larger amounts will be considered. The application form can be downloaded from the diocesan website [here](#).

Closing date: 30 November

WHAT DID YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE DO
OVER THE SUMMER? TELL US ABOUT
IT HERE! (BETTER STILL, ASK THEM TO WRITE ABOUT IT...)

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