

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

Autumn 2018

YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT

“Act like you own the place, because you do. If there’s something you’re not happy about, challenge your MSPs.” This was how Ross Greer MSP welcomed young representatives of Scotland’s churches to his ‘Celebrating Young People’ event at the Scottish Parliament. Our Provincial Youth Committee reps took him at his word - read more at Pisky.Scot [here](#).



THIS EDITION

- THE SLEEPOVER BY THE SEA - at St Mark’s Portobello
- THE WEE SLEEP OUT - young people raise funds for Social Bite
- YOUTH REPS AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT - celebrating young people
- PLAY CHURCH NEWS - St Cuthbert’s Colinton
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FISCHY MUSIC!
- THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE



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YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

Have you had a great experience with children, families or young people in your church this year?

It might be a big one-off event, an ongoing project or one of those small but glorious moments when you see children's faith come alive.

I'd love to feature your news in January's Year of Young People round-up. Please email me (*address below*) around 250 words and ideally a picture (with consent) by 7 January. Tell readers Who, What and Why: who did it, what was it and why was it great? I look forward to hearing from you!



SLEEPOVER BY THE SEA AT ST MARK'S PORTOBELLO



Bonfires on the beach: on Saturday night on Portobello sands, and on Sunday morning with paper prayer fish, as part of youth-led worship.

Twenty six young people recently braved the east wind on Portobello beach, before sleeping over and leading worship at St Mark's.

After warming up with games and activities involving pirate skills, sea creatures and map making, we all braved the bracing easterly wind to light a bonfire on the beach and toast marshmallows! St Mark's welcomed us with open arms and the Rector, Sophia Marriage, invited delegates to take over Sunday's service, including picking the readings and re-designing the worship space. They rose to the challenge and led worship in the round. They

dramatized the calling of Jeremiah, and Jesus' own barbecue on the beach ("Come and have breakfast!"). A group of delegates shared the 'sermon slot' and reflected on God's call to them, and to us all. The young people led creative prayers featuring paper fish and a realistic bonfire. They wove music throughout the service, including calling us to worship with an a cappella 'Ubi Caritas', and sending us out to '500 miles' on brass instruments, as a reminder of how far we had all travelled to be together for this weekend.

Thank you to our generous hosts, and to the youth leaders who came from all over Scotland to help make this event possible.

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THE WEE SLEEP OUT



Young people and leaders from the Dioceses of Edinburgh and St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane spent a chilly night in St Mary's Cathedral as part of Social Bite's campaign to end homelessness in Scotland. So far our Wee Sleep Out has raised nearly £2000, including offline donations and Gift Aid. This is nearly 4 times our original target! Thank you to everyone who has generously donated so far, and congratulations to our young people who campaigned in their schools, churches and families to raise funds. You've been amazing! Fundraising closes on Christmas Eve, so it's not too late to donate: you can do so [here](#).



AS IT HAPPENED...

During the Wee Sleep Out, we posted on social media throughout the night, and you can view our collected pictures and posts on the diocesan website [here](#), from opening activities to the survivors' photo! You can also see a video of our 6 am wake-up call [here](#).

Photos: (top) Bishop John and Clare popped in for a late night chat with the Wee Sleep Outers; (bottom) the survivors, all ready for 7.30 am Holy Communion.

FIRSTS

In the morning we asked participants: **What did you do for the first time last night?** Here's what they said:

- Sleeping in a pulpit
- Sleeping in a choir pew
- Sleeping in thermals
- Colouring in at 3 am
- I had a midnight feast!

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION

As 2018 is the Year of Young People, Social Bite encouraged Wee Sleep Out organisers to partner with young people in planning the event. So instead of waiting for them to come to me, I went to Waverley Mall food hall one Saturday for a planning meeting, having promised a free lunch to any young people who turned up. The result? This committed and creative group ate heartily and planned all the activities and more for our Wee Sleep Out!



RAISING AWARENESS

WEE SLEEP OUT CONTINUED...

Leaders were very impressed by the participants' readiness to engage imaginatively with the plight of rough sleepers. Several suggested personal challenges they would undertake, such as not wearing shoes all night in the chilly cathedral, or limiting their snack intake or access to electronic devices. We made sure that they had opportunities to reflect on why we were doing the Wee Sleep Out and who we were hoping to help. At the start of the event, participants answered these questions:

What do you think will be hard about the night?

Cold/no heating
My bed! Not having it
No light – scared of the dark
Silence
Knowing that if something happens to you no one will know...
The fact that someone has to sleep much worse than this every night. It's inhumane!

What might you miss having access to tonight?

Being around my crazy little brother
Chocolate
Phones
Social media
sofas, YouTube, beds, dogs, parents
Heating, radio, bed
Bed
Internet
My home, family, bed, radio, toys, books & TV.

What would you like to say to rough sleepers in Scotland?

Don't lose hope.
I don't know if anything I would say could be in any way appropriate or helpful to someone who lives like this. I have no way of relating, and I'm not going to try. I think the best thing I could do is listen.
How can I help you?



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THE WEE SLEEP OUT

A SONG ABOUT HOMELESSNESS



*Written and performed by
Caitlin, Freya, Abi, Phoebe &
Robyn*

I see the people, I see the smiles,
I see the laughter – I haven't laughed in a while,
I see the backwards glances, not meeting my eye,
They turn their eyes to the sky.
I see the judgement written on their face,
But they don't know where I come from,
That I'm still a part of the race.

I hear laughter and voices, people and noises,
But no one ever hears me.
It's not like they would care anyway,
Because they're higher than me.
They've removed me from their eyes and their minds,
They'll never think about me.

I taste little, often, donations from food banks,
Tasting disgust in the air.
Tasting fumes from the nearby bakery, fresh pastries.

I feel the eyes, I feel the cold,
I feel the sadness deep inside me.
I feel the loneliness in my heart,
I feel the smiles,
I feel the warmth,
I feel the happiness inside me,
I feel the people in my heart.
But they never notice, never notice me.

Night Prayer: a time to reflect and pray for people sleeping rough

At the end of the event, participants answered these questions:

What did you miss having access to last night?

Toothpaste
Family
Internet access
My teddies and a bed with a duvet
Technology
A properly dark room
Bedtime socks
Lip balm

What was hard about last night?

The COLD!
Noise
No socks
Going to sleep
Hard surfaces
No mattress
Strange sounds

What would you like to say to the Scottish Government about homelessness?

What are you doing to fix this eminent issue?

Build more houses.
More support.
Open free hostels.
Help with literacy and numeracy.
More access to training courses without huge fees.
A higher minimum wage.
I guess I'd tell them to provide affordable housing so people wouldn't get in to a situation like this in the first place. I'd also ask for more rehab opportunities for addicts. It's also been proven that assisted living and a system of easing people back into society works. Helping people become self-sufficient is the way to fix this in the long term. Providing support like food and shelter will also help.
On a broader scale, helping rehabilitate prisoners will make a vast difference.

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THANK YOU!



The Wee Sleep Out would not have been possible without a team of leaders who were willing to go without sleep! Thank you to them and to our wonderfully committed young participants. Thank you to everyone who supported us practically, prayerfully and with donations. Thank you to the cathedral clergy and staff for making us so welcome!

Finally, a word to everyone involved in the Wee Sleep Out from Bishop John: "Thank you to the leaders and to the young people for upholding the values of the gospel and God's especial tenderness to the poor."

WHAT'S NEXT?



Edinburgh Diocese is joining thousands of people across Scotland to raise money for Social Bite's movement to end homelessness. We will be sleeping out in Princes Street Gardens on the night of Saturday 8 December.



Come and join us! Sign up as an individual or a church at www.sleepinthepark.co.uk

Let us know you're coming!
Email mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Meet at St John's Princes Street for 7pm Eucharist or look for the Diocese of Edinburgh flag in Princes Street Gardens.

Join us for Night Prayer with Bishop John at 11pm



ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO SLEEP OUTSIDE IN DECEMBER?

Come and join Bishop John, the Bishop's Enabler of Mission, the Youth and Children Officer and others from the diocese, plus about 8,000 people sleeping out in Princes Street Gardens to support Social Bite and their campaign to end homelessness in Scotland.

ORGANISE A GROUP from your church or come as an individual: sign up [here](#). Please email Annie to let us know you are planning to come. The Diocesan team will gather for 7 pm Eucharist at St John's Princes Street, then go together into the gardens about 7.45 pm. If you arrive later, look out for our Diocesan flag and join us for 11 pm Night Prayer led by Bishop John. For more details go to the [Social Bite website](#) or email Annie.

PLEASE DONATE to support our efforts and Social Bite's work [here](#).

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PLAY CHURCH NEWS

FROM ST CUTHBERT'S COLINTON



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20 YEARS OF FISCHY MUSIC



St Cuthbert's, Colinton hosted Play Church over the summer and autumn, and it's great to see all generations enjoying it, seen here at the Harvest Festival. Children at St Cuthbert's have robed regularly, including for a recent Confirmation service. As they are dressed for leading worship, Rev Nicki McNelly often invites them to do the dismissal. It's wonderful to see children being encouraged like this to imagine themselves in leadership roles within the church. One little girl told Rev Nicki: "When I grow up, I want to be a Nicki!"

Next stop for Play Church: St Mary's Cathedral...

In October [Fischy Music](#) celebrated 20 years of music-making. Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms were packed out for the Big Birthday Sing, and this was followed by a service of celebration with Rev John Bell. He spoke of the power of music to shape our understanding of God: he criticised pious Victorian imagery and questioned whether children should really be exhorted to be "mild, obedient, good as He". Rather, he suggested, they should be "wild, curious, just like he"! John Bell praised Fischy Music's legacy: "Fischy Music has provided children with a vocabulary of self-esteem, of responsibility for others, and for faith when the sun shines and the rain falls."

Photos: (top and previous page) Play Church at St Cuthbert's; (right) Fischy Music's Big Birthday Sing.

Thank you for the music!
You can see a short video from the Big Birthday Sing [here](#).



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