

# YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

Spring 2019

## GRANTS UP FOR GRABS

Here is another opportunity to apply for funding for church-based youth and children's projects. Do you have a great idea that needs some cash to get it off the ground? Would a small grant enable you to help your young people in some particular way? Previous grants have gone towards a children's library in church, youth group resources, a Family Fun Day, Godly Play materials and more. **Apply before 15 May:** forms available to download [here](#).



## THIS EDITION

- DINNER WITH MALALA
- PLAY CHURCH VISITORS - at St Peter's Linlithgow
- CREATIVE PRAYER - more from our youth rep at Diocesan Synod
- INTRODUCING new Diocesan youth reps
- AROUND THE DIOCESE
- GRANTS for youth and children's work

Diocesan Youth & Children Officer: Claire Benton-Evans

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## WORTHY WINNERS

# DINNER WITH MALALA

## HOSTED BY SOCIAL BITE



*Above: Jadon and Freya with Social Bite's Co-Founder, Alice Thompson; Below: Malala Yousafzai in conversation with the BBC's John Simpson*

**Freya Mcleman from St Peter's Galashiels and Jadon Rongong from St Philip's and St James Goldenacre represented Edinburgh Diocese at Social Bite's Wee Sleep Out Thank You Dinner at the E.I.C.C.**

Freya and Jadon won their places by demonstrating their commitment to social justice, their empathy with homeless people and their determination to make a difference. Well done to both of them!

The Thank You Dinner celebrated the fundraising achievements of all those who participated in last year's Wee Sleep Out and the Sleep In The Park. It was also a major fundraiser for Social Bite, as the charity has big plans for a worldwide Sleep Out this year. You can read a full report on the evening on the Diocesan website [here](#).



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# DINNER WITH MALALA



*The three of us from Edinburgh Diocese with the certificate (below); the First Minister addressing the Thank You Dinner.*

We accepted this certificate on behalf of all those who took part in the Wee Sleep Out at the Cathedral, from Edinburgh Diocese and the Diocese of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Social Bite's thanks are for all of you, and for everyone who donated so generously. Thank You!



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# AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST PETER'S  
LUTTON PLACE



*Photos by Kristee Boyd*

Zaza led the singing at St Peter's Toddler Group recently! Children and Families Worker Kristee said: "It was so much fun that many of our parents asked her to lead singing again the following week!" Parents were asked to bring along recyclable items, such as tissue boxes, toilet/cling film rolls and rubber bands, and Zaza taught the children how to make a musical instrument to play during singing time.



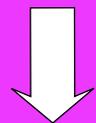
## ST PETER'S PEBBLES

From the Facebook page of St Peter's Church Pebbles:

" 'What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.' (1 Corinthians 15: 36-37) Beautiful blossom made by our Sunday school after thinking about this bible passage."

IS SOMETHING  
GOOD HAPPENING  
AT YOUR CHURCH  
FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE?  
SHARE NEWS  
ABOUT IT HERE  
AND INSPIRE US  
ALL!

CONTACT ME



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# PLAY CHURCH VISITORS



I was delighted to welcome two visitors from Durham Diocese on a pilgrimage to see Play Church recently. Rev Alison Richardson and the Diocesan Children's Ministry Adviser, Sharon Pritchard, were warmly welcomed by Rev Christine Barclay and St Peter's Linlithgow, who are the current hosts. Sharon and Alison were very impressed by Play Church, and spent a happy time exploring all the features of this Diocesan resource - including, of course, the dressing up! Read more about their visit [here](#).



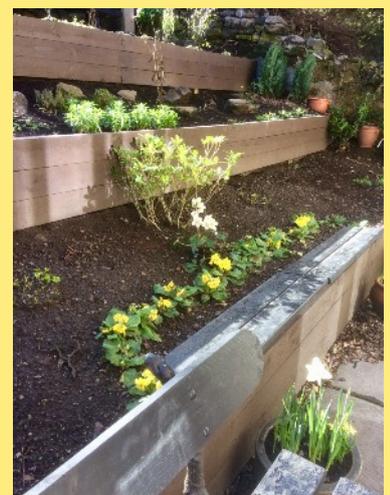
[The Play Church story](#)  
Check out this all-new page on the Diocesan website [here](#). It tells the illustrated story of how Play Church came to be, including the original sketches, designs and research that went into this innovative project.  
Read and share!

*Top: Revd Christine and "Bishop" Sharon! Bottom: Sharon and Revd Alison*

## SPRING AT ST PETER'S



It was great to see the new extension and remodelled garden at St Peter's Linlithgow, looking resplendent in the Spring sunshine. In 2018 St Peter's received a small Youth & Children's grant to encourage children's involvement in the church garden, and towards the purchase of bird nesting and feeding boxes, insect and hedgehog habitats and wildlife-friendly planting. More news coming soon...



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## YOUTH REP SPEAKS AT SYNOD



It was a privilege to welcome our under-18 youth rep, Olivia Smith, to Synod again.

This time Olivia contributed to presentations about the forthcoming Diocesan Ten Days of Prayer. As a veteran of the Provincial Youth Week at Glenalmond, Olivia speaks with the experience of someone who has devised and led creative prayer and worship since she was 12.

Her presentation offers useful ideas for churches planning their own creative prayer events. Enjoy the next two pages by Olivia, and be inspired!

## PRAYING CREATIVELY AT GLEN



“One of the most fun prayer methods I remember from Glen is balloon prayer. This involved writing prayers on a small slip of paper, putting them inside a balloon, blowing them up but not tying the ends up, and then when we got the signal all at the same time letting them go. This was great fun as the sight of all those different coloured balloons soaring up into the air made quite a memorable sight... and a memorable noise! But it also provided a spiritual release; as if we were letting go of our worries and burdens for a moment, just so that we could be with each other and God.



If you like making things fly then you could also try writing your prayers on paper aeroplanes. Although for many of us that also involved a lot of confusion as we tried to remember the right way to fold the paper. You could just write them down and set them off, or you could do what we did, where once they'd all landed you find one that's not yours and you share them. This helps people to find out what other people's concerns are, without having to know who said what. So, you're sharing, but you still have a sense of privacy.

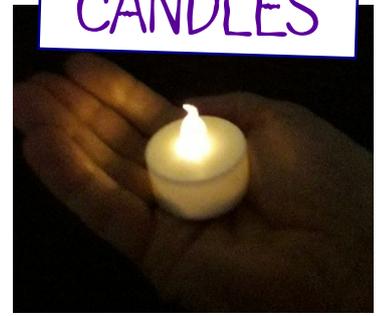
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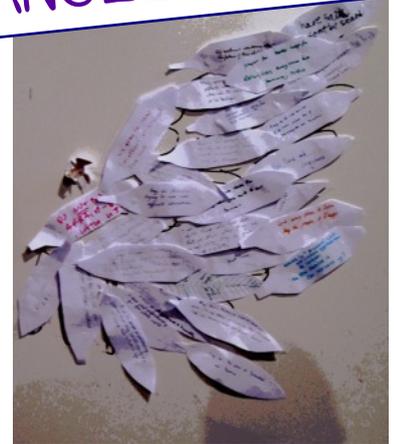
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Right now, I might be portraying Glen prayers as all fun and games, and arts and crafts. But we do have more quiet, serious methods as well. A significant memory from Glen worship was when our house groups were given pictures from different parts of the world where there was suffering: churches that were falling down because they couldn't afford proper maintenance, or refugees risking their lives to reach a country that wasn't being torn apart by war only to be reviled by the locals. Once we had a chance to discuss these events, we shared our thoughts with the other groups; an experience that was very thought provoking and moving. The session ended with everyone receiving a candle (electric so we didn't burn everything down) and putting it on a map, somewhere they wanted to pray for. It was one of our quieter, more sombre moments at camp, but it left everyone thinking, and motivated to be more educated on the issues of the world.

## CANDLES



## ANGEL WINGS



After experiencing all these wonderfully creative methods I was inspired to test some out on my own congregation. So, when I was asked to lead an Advent service my idea was to draw the outline of two huge angel wings and have people write prayers on their paper feathers and stick them on the wings, so by the end you should have two massive wings filled with thoughts of peace, love and good wishes.

## PRAYER STONES



The prayer stones were devised by a group of Glen leavers as a way to keep their memories and experiences. Similarly to the angel wings, worshippers could write loving thoughts and messages on these pebbles collected at a nearby riverbank, but then they could take them home with them as a way to commemorate their time spent in the company of the people and God that they loved. If you were to use this in your services these little stones could bring comfort to your congregation members and help them to remember God's love.

And the last worship method I want to share with you today is the hug train. Another activity thought up by Glen leavers, it was a brilliant way to share the love. We had two circles: the circle on the inside moves with the people giving hugs to the people on the outside circle. If you think a hug is too familiar then you could just have a handshake. Either way, you'll be giving love and friendship to as many people as possible."

*By Olivia Smith, under-18 Diocesan representative on the Provincial Youth Committee.*



## HUG TRAIN

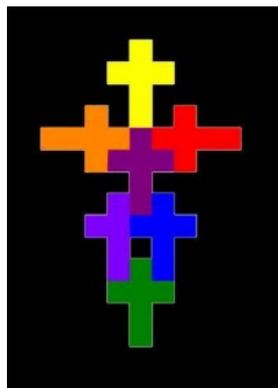
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# STOP PRESS: NEW DIOCESAN YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

After a competitive selection process, I am delighted to present Bishop John's choice of our two new under-18 Diocesan representatives on the Provincial Youth Committee: Phoebe Pryce from St Mark's Portobello and Freya Mcleman from St Peter's Galashiels. They will be joining Olivia Smith, who will shortly be graduating to become our 18-25 rep.



Freya says: "I would like to represent my diocese because I feel like youth representation in the diocese, especially the borders (where I am from) is very low, and I would like to put my voice out there to encourage other teenagers to show their voices as well. I would also like to hear the other voices from delegates in the PYC. Although I have been part of a church since I was born I would like to learn more about it from other people my age. I can offer a strong and confident voice and I am not afraid to let my opinion be heard in a big crowd."

*Freya Mcleman (above)  
Phoebe Pryce (below)*



Phoebe says: "I would really enjoy getting involved and I have lots of creative ideas, I like bouncing these ideas off others to come up with new solutions. I'm also very enthusiastic about young people's involvement in the church and their suggestions on new ways to develop their own faith and worship. I enjoy voicing my opinions; seeing the connection between faith and life; challenging different ideas and communicating those ideas."

**Phoebe and Freya will do a great job on behalf of the Diocese! Please pray for them in their new roles.**

## WHAT DOES THE PYC DO?

The Provincial Youth Committee speaks up for young people at Synods (Diocesan and General), we plan special events (sleepovers, parties, pilgrimages, retreats and more) and we make decisions about what matters to us (last year, we focused on social justice issues including homelessness). The PYC offers you exciting opportunities to represent the Scottish Episcopal Church nationally and even internationally: for example, some of our members have met with the First Minister and MSPs at the Scottish Parliament, while others have joined an international youth pilgrimage in Spain. We regularly send two reps to the Church of Scotland's National Youth Assembly. We also elect the Chair and the Secretary of the PYC from the youth reps, and these posts offer great leadership experience.

The PYC needs young people who are committed Christians, who passionately want to stand up for what they believe and represent young people in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

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# MOVING ON



Rev'd Tembu Rongong will be leaving Edinburgh Diocese at the end of May to become Rector of Holy Trinity, Elgin and St Margaret's, Lossiemouth in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Tembu has been a tireless and inspirational champion of youth and children's work in the Diocese: as well as holding the Youth Portfolio on the Mission and Ministry Committee, he has provided key support to the Youth & Children Officer since this current role was created in 2013. He will be sorely missed. Tembu will continue as Convener of the Provincial Youth Committee and Leader of the Youth Week at Glenlamond, and we wish him every blessing in his new post.

*Photo: Tembu and a Prayer Dragon at Glen.*

# NOW BOOKING!

## GLEN '19

at Glenalmond College, Perthshire  
**Stories and Songs**



SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**YOUTH WEEK**

21st July - 27th July 2019

Glenalmond College,

Perthshire

Want to do something different this summer? Come and 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!

For more information and to download an application form, which includes full details : <https://tinyurl.com/SEC-PYC>

For more details, please contact your Diocesan Youth Officer, or email Rev Tembu Rongong [rector@stpi.org.uk](mailto:rector@stpi.org.uk)

General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church  
Scottish Charity Number SCO15962

Don't miss the early bird discount deadline of Easter Monday! Details and application forms are available on the Provincial website [here](#). Final deadline for applications is 28 May.

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