

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



From the Diocese of Edinburgh

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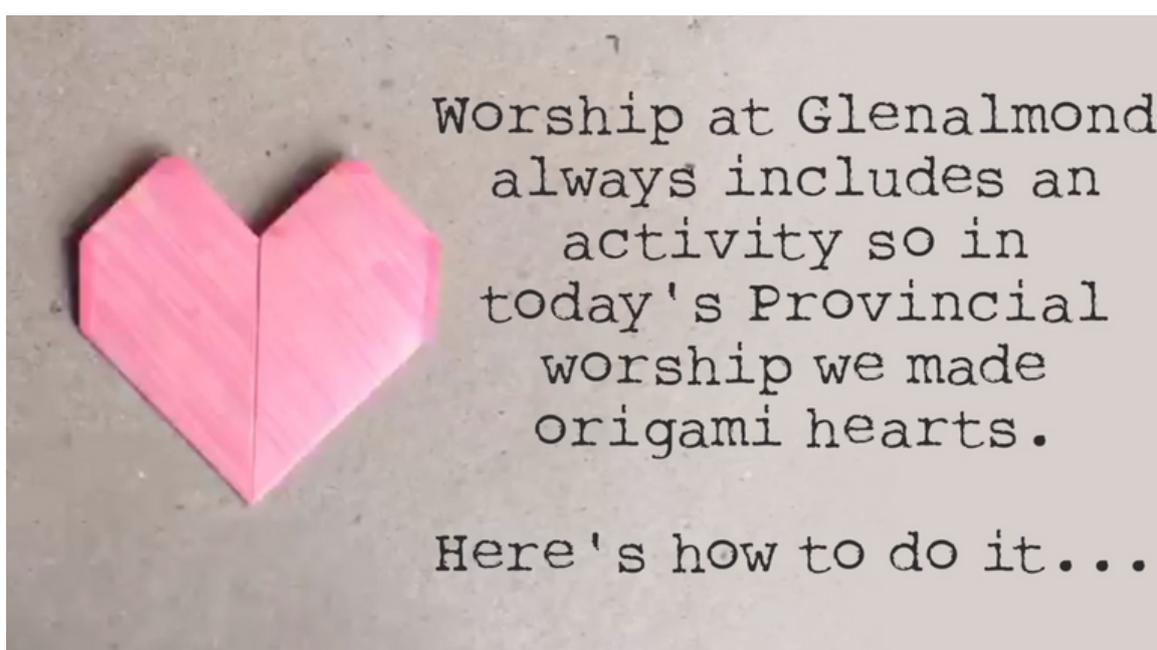
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Young people lead Provincial worship



Throughout lockdown, young people and leaders across the Province have been meeting to worship together. At the start of this year's Provincial Youth Week - Glen Online - our oldest delegates took a creative lead in Provincial Worship with Primus Mark and Most Rev Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The American Episcopal Church. These delegates pooled their considerable talents to lead us in origami and multilingual prayers, and engineered a choral performance of 'Ubi Caritas' from individual vocal tracks. David Coom from Edinburgh Diocese (top left) even retold the Feeding of the Five Thousand as a stop-frame animation! It was wonderful to see these Glen graduates leading worship for people across the Anglican Communion.



Members of the oldest house group leading Provincial Worship; a still from their video of how to make an origami heart



Glen Online!

THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK DURING A PANDEMIC



Film night with popcorn and hot chocolate; one of the photos from the scavenger hunt (credit: Megan Barrett)

The Provincial Youth Week has been bringing together young people and leaders from all over the SEC since 1996. When we announced that we could not meet in person this year, we knew what a blow this would be to our delegates who count down from one summer to the next. During lockdown we stayed in touch for worship, prayers, games and chat. When we asked whether delegates would be interested in an online event during Glen week, the response was a resounding "YES!" Within days of registration opening for Glen Online, we had 36 young people signed up, including several first-timers. Leaders threw themselves into creative planning, and a care package was sent out to each delegate containing everything they needed for the week, plus some treats such as hot chocolate and popcorn for the film night, and a very special mug (see page 5). Read on to find out more about our week connecting online!



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

The Provincial Youth Week is full of opportunities to worship and pray together: a typical day begins with Eucharist and Morning Prayer, features delegate-led worship at the end of the afternoon and ends with Night Prayer. For Glen Online, we gathered for Morning Prayer on the day that exam results came out, and came together for a candlelit Eucharist at the end of the week. This is usually held in the open air at Glenalmond, as the skies darken and swallows flit above us. This year we saw everyone on Zoom, many holding the battery-operated tea lights they had received in their care package. It reminded us of how connected we feel, to each other and God, and how much we want to meet in person again.

EATING TOGETHER

Shared meals in the grand dining hall at Glenalmond are something that delegates have told us they particularly enjoy, so Glen Online featured two opportunities to eat and chat together via Zoom. Some delegates recreated the full cooked breakfast experience!



MEETING TOGETHER

When we surveyed delegates to find out what they liked best about Glen, the runaway favourite - with 83% of the votes - was the House Group experience. House Group is where our delegates find a safe space to explore their faith with their peers and leaders: they read the Bible together and share questions, personal experience, challenges and prayers. From the outset, we knew we had to have House Groups as part of Glen Online.



Our theme this year was 'Heroes?' We considered larger-than-life superheroes and compared them with leading figures in Scripture—folk like Moses, King David, St Paul, Martha and Mary— who are confused, fragile and sometimes mess things up just like we do. We looked at these human heroes of our faith, sometimes called 'saints', and asked: what can we learn from them about being a child of God, and what do these holy people have to show us about God?

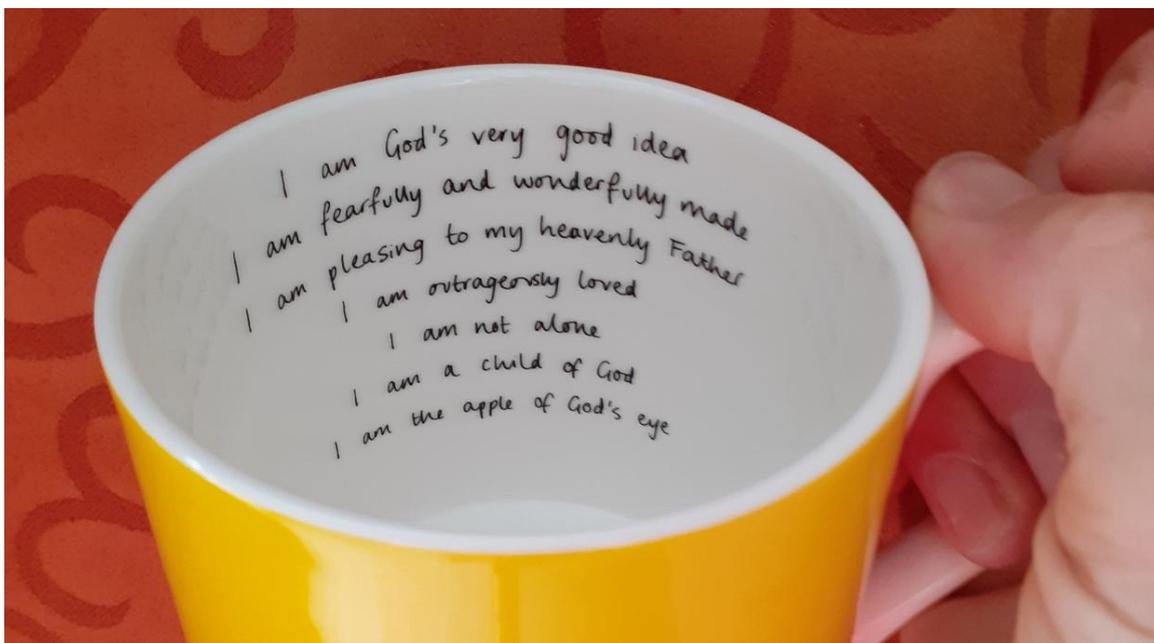
Here are just some of the thoughts shared by delegates that got us thinking... "Heroes don't need to be famous or have anything superhuman. They are just people who are doing their best." "Anyone who does something brave is a hero." On the story of the weeping woman (*Luke 7:36-50*): "How are we defining sinner? Everyone in that room was a sinner, she was just the only woman." "It's hard to do the right thing if nobody else wants to protect your right to do the right thing." "Showing compassion doesn't make you superior to the person who you're showing compassion to. Nobody owes you anything just for doing what's right."

"Love is heroic"



SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

Young people are heading into the uncertainty of going back to school, starting university or entering into the world of work during a pandemic. This year more than ever, they need our prayers and they need their faith to support them. Glen Online participants each received this special gift that features Bible-based words of encouragement, which we hope they will take to heart.



**Message to all our delegates
and leaders -**

**“You are God's
very good idea..
you are outrageously loved...
you are not alone”**

There are further details and more pictures of Glen Online in the Provincial Youth Newsletter [here](#).

Photos: top left by Zara Hobbs; right - suspicious characters in the Glen Online Murder Mystery.



YOUNG CHRISTIANS CAMPAIGN FOR THE CLIMATE



Last month 25 young Christians from all over the UK launched their campaign for climate justice. The young adults, ranging from 18-30 years old, are Christian Aid's Prophetic Activists. Their 'Stop Fuelling the Fire' campaign focuses on encouraging the government to end the use of UK Export Finance in funding fossil fuel extraction overseas. If you would like to track its progress and offer support, do sign their petition which can be found [here](#).

The SEC's Climate Crisis working group has recruited two new young members, one of whom is Edinburgh Diocese's Caitlin Conway, who has a leading role with Scottish Youth Climate Strike. She is looking forward to joining with the Primus, Miriam Weibye and the rest of the group on this vitally important issue.

ONLINE SERVICES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

*From David Lyons
and the team at
St Mungo's Balerno*



Rev Canon Malcolm Round has drawn my attention to a regular online service for younger children that St Mungo's has been developing during lockdown. It's called 'Mighty Mungo's' (apparently some species of mongoose are called mungos - small but powerful!) and is available for anyone to share and use on the St Mungo's website, YouTube or Vimeo. It's full of life, energy and bright ideas, and features great contributions from children themselves. Check out the trailer [here](#)! Well done to everyone involved, and it's amazing that all this was done on an iPhone with basic editing software!

COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN - WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

I have been supporting numerous charges recently that have been looking at how to restart some of the activities they offer for children, families and young people. There are two key sources of advice here:

- The [latest Government guidance](#)
- The [latest Guidelines for churches](#) from the Bishops' Advisory Group

All the rules and restrictions may seem daunting, but below are just a few examples of activities that churches have managed to run, whilst observing all relevant guidelines about numbers of households, social distancing and hygiene. I have produced a [template Risk Assessment](#) for churches to assist with planning such events, and am happy to talk through any plans and questions you may have. Together, let's explore the art of the possible!

A get-together for families in the park
followed by an outdoor Eucharist

A Sunday School that meets in the church
hall at the same time as the main service

A play date and picnic in the park

A meet-up on the beach

A youth group that joins in the main Sunday
service and stays on for activities

**Has something worked
well for your church?
Share it here next time!**



SUPPORT FOR YOUNG SERVERS

The Scottish Guild of Servers is currently planning for future training events for both members and non-members. The Guild is particularly interested in finding out about its young members. They are also keen to promote membership and training to those young people who may be interested in the role of a Server. Young Servers can find out more and complete a quick survey [here](#).

BE HEADSTRONG - MENTAL WELLBEING RESOURCE

From Youthscape and Mind & Soul

Head Strong is a new mental wellbeing project for young people. Mental wellbeing was already an important issue for young people but, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, those needs have become even more urgent.



There's never been a more important time to support young people in this way. Youthscape, with the support of the Mind & Soul Foundation, is launching Headstrong to meet those needs. It's an online space aimed exclusively at young people with a focus on promoting positive mental wellbeing. Together we have developed and launched Headstrong - a bold and exciting new resource that gives young people the help and advice they need. We're so excited to share this with you!

- The Headstrong Team

You can download this FREE resource [here](#).

ROOTS RESOURCES

Try for free this September!



Many churches use Roots regularly, especially with children and young people.

Roots offers:

- Brand new materials every week, helping congregations and groups explore the Bible
- Seasonal resources
- Extensive online resource bank

At a time of new and changing ways of being Church, the ROOTS resources continue to help faith communities plan worship, lead groups - and nurture adults, children and young people in faith. Check out the [Roots website](#) to sample these resources for FREE this September.

STAY IN TOUCH

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Please get in touch if you have news to share, or if you would like to be added to my mailing list for this newsletter and other news. For even more regular updates, please 'Like' our Facebook page: Edinburgh Diocese Youth and Children.