

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



From the Diocese of Edinburgh

Eastertide 2021

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Here are some of the many creative ways in which churches responded to the challenge of Lent in lockdown and Easter at a time of rapidly changing restrictions...

Revd Diana Hall of **St Anne's Dunbar** (*above*) wrote and recorded an Easter Sea Shanty for Dunbar Primary School, inspired by the hit sea shanty sung by Scottish postman, Nathan Evans. The video used images of the Holy Week story created with Playmobil and generously shared by a curate in the Church of England. Hats off to Diana for a wonderfully catchy song! You can hear it [here](#) and find yourself singing it all day. Many churches reached out to their local communities: **St Mark's Portobello** (*below left*) and **St Peter's Galashiels** (*below right*) both used their church railings as a focal point for an Easter message of new life, joy and hope.



OLD ST PAUL'S & ST JOHN'S PRINCES ST

Children from St John's and Old St Paul's joined together for a service on Holy Saturday at St John's Princes Street. Paul Lugton, Children and Young Person's Worker at OSP, writes: "The service opened with prayers as we thought about the Easter story. Children then spent time decorating eggs and crosses, as well as doing a treasure hunt for alleluias to get ready for Easter Sunday. A story about Jesus' life, death and resurrection was shared. The service closed with intercessions, praying for God's world, those in need, and the church."



(Above) The story materials used on Holy Saturday

MESSY CHURCH IN EDINBURGH CITY CENTRE

City Centre churches, including St John's and Old St Paul's, are planning to restart Messy Church when Covid-19 regulations allow and it is safe to do so. They will be one Saturday a month in term time. To be kept up to date, please email Paul at children@osp.org.uk

ST CUTHBERT'S COLINTON

Caroline Daye, Children, Families and Youth Worker at St Cuthbert's, writes: "We did a weekly 2/3min video reflection on Creation throughout Lent. We had weekly emails going out, as well as Easter cards and Holy Week activities. We also had all of our children and young people at Church on Easter Day and they received Easter Eggs. (Happy children who discovered that they could remove their mask and have a munch!)"

The youth group at St Cuthbert's are championing the Environment. They will be hoping to engage the Church and the wider community to look at the amount of electricity wasted and people's personal carbon footprint. They are also planning a Climate Sunday in preparation for COP26.



THE TODDLER GROUP - ST MARGARET'S EASTER ROAD



The popular Babies' and Toddlers' Group at St Margaret's Easter Road has welcomed the Spring and the easing of restrictions by re-opening outside! The outdoor space at St Margaret's has been brought to life by the gardening group led by Mustard Seed volunteers, and will have many benefits for Mustard Seed, Soul Food, St Margaret's and the Toddler Group. Toddler Group leaders have worked hard to create rich outdoor play opportunities, and the children who visit can enjoy butterflies, a bug hotel, a guddle pond and more!



EASTERTIDE RESOURCES



As we begin to emerge from lockdown, we are all exploring what 'the new normal' might look like for our churches. There is a fresh collection of ideas and new resources for children, young people and families on the [Diocesan website](#).

Faith at Home

Church Online

Resources for families to use at home

Zoom ideas, videos, slideshow material and more

NEW FISCHY MUSIC SONGS

Fischy Music announces: "Despite all the restrictions around lockdown, 2020 was a busy one on the songwriting and recording front. We are delighted to let you know that some of these songs have recently been added to [Fischy Music Online](#) (our streaming platform for schools and churches) and will also be available for streaming soon."



13-19 June 2021 • Faith 24/7

The growing adventure

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus tells two parables. He explains how seed is planted and then grows silently and unseen in the ground until it has grown enough to be harvested. His second story is about the tiny mustard seed and how although it is so small, it grows into a big tree.

Now read Mark 4:26-34 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus does not explain his parables. He leaves it to the listener to take their own meaning from them. In these parables, he is teaching about how something apparently insignificant can grow and be transformed.

MAKE

Create a card for someone who might be feeling low. Inside write: 'No matter how small you feel, God has a plan for you', and stick a packet of seeds on the inside of the card.

WATCH

Watch One Cambodian Family Please for my Pleasure, a 13-minute film based on the true story of Helena, who escaped persecution in communist Cambodia to be resettled in North Dakota. The film is about her need, as a refugee who made it out of her bad situation, to help others in a similar position.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Vb0U0...>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Vb0U0...>

This week is Refugee Week and Helena's story shows how the actions of one person can make a huge difference. Like the mustard seed in the Bible passage, this is only small but eventually makes a large impact.

LOOK

Be still and look at a picture of a mustard tree. <https://brainzoom.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/mustard.jpg> What does it say to you about God? What does it say to you about you?

PHOTOS

Look at pictures of yourself and other members of your family when you were babies or young children. Talk/think about what you could do when you were the age you were in the photos. What could you do then? How does that compare with what you can do now? How did the change come about? What has helped you to grow? What helps you to grow spiritually?

OBJECTS

Find the smallest object that you can locate in your home. What is it? What is its purpose? Why does it need to be the size it is? What does it feel like to hold?

Now look for the biggest object you can find. Can you pick it up? Is it heavy? What is it for? Why does it need to be the size it is?

What objects are there in your home which help you to flourish?

ROOTS AT HOME

ROOTS at home is a brand new, weekly resource for households of all shapes and sizes, helping them to:

- explore a different Bible passage each week
- discover God's love for the world
- grow and flourish as they live out their faith

As an introductory offer, this fantastic resource is FREE until the end of June 2021! Find out more [here](#). Please share this with families in your church and encourage them to sign up directly.



BREAK THE CYCLE

WITH SIR CHRIS HOY

5th September 2021



This is an exciting opportunity for individuals, youth groups and churches to get exercising and help raise money for Social Bite's latest campaign to tackle homelessness in Scotland and across the UK. You can join the cycle event with Sir Chris Hoy, or create your own challenge!

Social Bite says: "Join us as we race to raise a goal of £1million to help build two new Social Bite villages in two new cities in the UK. Our key city targets for the new villages are Glasgow and London. Break the Cycle is a charity cycling event taking place on Sunday 5th September 2021. We'll be setting off from the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow and pedalling 60 miles with Sir Chris Hoy across Scotland's central belt (*see route, below*) crossing the finish line in Edinburgh – just along from our flagship Social Bite Village in Granton.

Not only will Social Bite be hosting a live event, but people right across the UK will be able to take part in their own virtual challenges too. You can sign up as a team or an individual. Virtual challenges could include:

- Walk or run 60 miles in a month
- Cycle 60 miles in two weeks
- Do 60 minutes of exercise every day for a week
- Do 60 star jumps every day for 3 weeks
- Set your own challenge!

Whatever challenge you pick, get sponsored to do it! You'll be raising money for Social Bite's campaign to end homelessness, which includes building two new Social Bite villages to help homeless people off the street and on to a better life. You can find out more [here](#).



[Click here for FAQs](#)

[Click here for the Information Booklet](#)



PROVINCIAL WORSHIP ONLINE

The Province's Children's Chapel continues to go from strength to strength as more dioceses take turns to lead. Edinburgh Diocese's contributions are led by Izzy Holmes and one-year-old Bess (*above*) with additional input from Claire Benton-Evans (*right*). We like our Children's Chapel to be colourful and, if possible, stripy! A recent service saw a familiar face from Edinburgh Diocese: Revd Beki Cansdale (*below right*), formerly an SEI student on placement at St John's Princes Street, now curate at Oban Cathedral. Each Children's Chapel is simple and interactive, featuring a story, prayers, music and an activity. You can find the link from 8am each Sunday [here](#).



Two teenagers from Edinburgh diocese have also helped lead a Provincial act of Online Worship with Bishop John. Annabel from St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh (*top*) and Annabel from Selkirk (*bottom*) took charge of the Lectionary readings and the Intercessions, respectively. They did an excellent job! Both girls are amongst the younger Glen delegates, and have been actively involved in Provincial Youth activities online during lockdown. You can find the online worship for Easter 2 [here](#).

GLEN 21 - THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK

Sunday 1 August - Saturday 7th August 2021

Young people all over the Scottish Episcopal Church have been eagerly awaiting news of this year's Provincial Youth Week. Glen 21 will take place in two ways: both online and in person across Scotland (as restrictions allow).

Glen 21 is open to young people ("delegates") of High School age in the Scottish Episcopal Church. They can join in wherever they are—at home, on holiday, shielding with their families or staying with friends. As we will not be meeting at Glenalmond College, participation is free of charge and this year we are offering even more to do: 'blended' Glen will combine interactive activities on Zoom, online content to engage with any time and (as restrictions allow) meeting face to face in regional groups for some outdoor activities. The week will end with a special in-person gathering for the final worship of Glen. This will follow all the latest Covid security guidelines from the Government and the Scottish Episcopal Church.



Booking for Glen 21 has been extended, and is open to anyone in the Scottish Episcopal Church who is in secondary education and those under 18 years old who have left full-time education. Full information and booking details can be found at [Glen21.online](https://www.glen21.org.uk).

PROVINCIAL YOUTH SUPPORT

A new Provincial Youth online programme will run until the summer. This will be hosted on Zoom by Provincial Youth leaders for Glen delegates and (separately) Glen graduates to meet, chat, play and pray together. Young people of High School age who haven't been to Glen are of course welcome too!

Week 1	Werewolves (game) & chat	Thursdays 7pm (6 May, 3 Jun)
Week 2	Glen Graduates' chat	Fridays 8pm (14 May, 11 Jun)
Week 3	Werewolves & chat	Thursday 7pm (22 Apr, 20 May, 17 Jun)
Week 4	Night Prayer & chat	Fridays 8pm (30 Apr, 28 May, 25 Jun)

This programme is for under-18s and Glen 20 graduates only, apart from Week 2 which is for 18+ young people. Participants will receive Zoom links on completion of [this short parental consent e-form](#).

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](#).