

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



From the Diocese of Edinburgh

Autumn 2021

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This summer saw the first ever 'blended' (or 'Glended') Provincial Youth Week. Young people and youth leaders from all over Scotland gathered both online and in person: there were regional gatherings around the country, including a wonderful day spent at St Mark's Portobello with Edinburgh delegates (*see next page*). Everyone met for the final worship of the week in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, where the oldest house group led our worship (*above*). You can read all about Glen 21 in the Provincial Youth Newsletter [here](#). The Provincial Youth Committee will be meeting in November to plan Provincial Youth fun and games for the months ahead: watch this space!

The SEC's story of supporting Provincial Youth in lockdown has made headlines across the Anglican Communion, as the front page feature of the [International Anglican Family Network's Newsletter](#). There are inspiring stories here of challenge, creativity, resilience and hope from across the world.



Children's Chapel is back! This Provincial act of online worship for young children and their families has now returned as a monthly feature following the same format as before. There will be an episode the first Sunday of each month, as well as special episodes for holidays. Edinburgh Diocese's next Children's Chapel will go live on Christmas Day!

DIOCESAN YOUTH AT ST MARK'S PORTOBELLO



Young people and youth leaders from Edinburgh Diocese were blessed with good weather for their in-person gathering as part of Glen week. We enjoyed exploring the labyrinth at St Mark's, and held a cryptic scavenger hunt and a picnic lunch in the gardens. We painted stones to take home as a memento of the week, and we ended the day by gathering our stones together into a prayer cairn. Huge thanks go to St Mark's for their hospitality and welcome.



Around the Diocese: COP 26

St Anne's Dunbar has hosted a day for all ages, as part of events co-ordinated by North Light Arts to launch the Pilgrimage for COP26. Revd Diana Hall, who is joining the pilgrimage, reports that in spite of the rain, the day was "a wonderful thing to behold: challenge, encouragement, beauty and fun all rolled into one."

The day's events brought together local churches, arts organisations and campaign groups, and welcomed the young pilgrims from the Young Christian Climate Network, who have been walking from Cornwall to Glasgow in their Relay for COP 26. **It's not too late to join these pilgrimages!** See the next page for details of events on 22 October, including Hope's Walk from St Mark's Portobello and a weekend of activities at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: these are open to all ages, especially young people over 16.



(Left) Just some of the creative, beautiful and challenging activities hosted by St Anne's Dunbar last weekend, which focused on the big issues to be discussed at the upcoming global climate summit.

(Below) Hundreds of silk flags created by the Beach of Dreams project, which will be planted on the Cathedral's south lawn this weekend (see next page). *Photos: Rev Diana Hall (left) and Beach of Dreams website (below).*



HOPE'S WALK

St Mark's Church,
287 Portobello High
Street to St Mary's
Episcopal Cathedral,
West End

Friday 22nd
October
9:00-11:30



A WALK TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL
CRISIS. OPEN TO ALL AGES. LED BY YOUNG CLIMATE ACTIVISTS
CARRYING PENNANT FLAGS SYMBOLISING HOPE AND A SHARED
LOVE OF THE NATURAL WORLD

JOIN THE WALK AND FIND OUT MORE AT [ARTANDECOLOGY.EARTH/PROGRAMME](https://artandecology.earth/programme)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

9-11:30 Pilgrimage from Portobello to St Mary's Cathedral

11:30 Welcome for walkers from Portobello, including Pilgrimage for COP 26 and YCCN Relay.

13:15 Pilgrim's Lunch

14:15-17:15 A selection of workshops for all faiths and none. Including: Capacitar self-care practices for empowering strength and resilience; creative writing and art workshops, Christian Meditation with an environmental focus; Just Scripture with Christian Aid; Political Advocacy with Young Christian Climate Network.

17:30 All are welcome to join Evening Prayer at the Cathedral with an Environmental justice theme.

WAYS TO JOIN IN

FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER

9-11.30 AM

ST MARK'S
PORTOBELLO TO ST
MARY'S CATHEDRAL,
EDINBURGH

Pilgrims of all ages are welcome to join Hope's Walk led by young climate activists: find out more [here](#).

There will be a warm welcome and a programme of events at St Mary's Cathedral in the afternoon. For more information, contact Provost John Conway, email: provost@cathedral.net

SOURCES OF HOPE

St Mary's
Episcopal
Cathedral

Friday 22nd
October



AN AFTERNOON OF WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSION THAT OFFERS
SPACE FOR ALL INTERESTED IN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES TO COME TOGETHER TO REFLECT AND RENEW OUR HOPE.
FOR THOSE OF ALL FAITHS AND NONE.

GODLY PLAY SCOTLAND CONFERENCE

"... STILL PLAYING!"

19TH NOVEMBER @ 7:00 PM - 20TH NOVEMBER @ 4:00 PM
£20

Godly Play Scotland writes: "We are excited to announce that our 3rd Godly Play Conference will take place on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th November 2021.

This time we're online, but we're still playing.

We're welcoming Dr Robyn Boéré as our guest speaker. Robyn is Associate Lecturer in Christian Ethics at the University of St Andrews.

It would be lovely to be together, but we know that social distancing may still be necessary and that we'll need to wear face masks ... so online seemed like the best way to go.

The best thing about being online is that all the story sessions and workshops are there for you to dip into for three months after the conference – they are all recorded, so just choose what you can do on the day and fit the rest in when you have some free time."

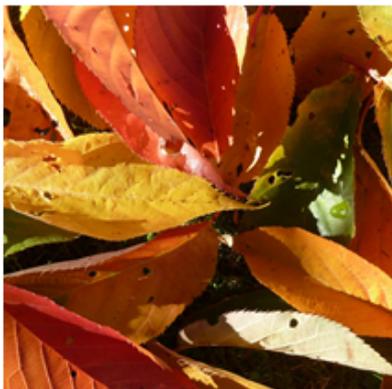
[Click here](#) for further information and booking.

GodVenture

There are lots of great new seasonal resources available from GodVenture, including:

- fun, easy Autumn activity ideas for encouraging faith at home, such as conker prayers and alternative pumpkin carving
- a really special offer – free Advent Calendars for those who can't afford them

You can find all links, details and downloads on the [GodVenture website here](#).



[Top Tree Praise](#)



[Alternative pumpkin carving](#)



[Conker prayers](#)

Handling Hallowe'en



Parenting for Faith has produced some useful and thought-provoking material about how church families can handle Halloween. Their latest bulletin reads:

"Every year Halloween comes around and, as of course you know, for many parents and carers, it brings with it the same questions. What do we think about Halloween and how we want our children to respond? We have lots of stories from families about how they parent for faith at Halloween and other articles to help parents and carers think this season through.

We've listed some of these resources below and if you think they would be helpful please do share them with your churches and networks. You can also view our whole collection of Halloween articles [here](#).

- *Exploring different responses to Halloween - There are so many ways we can respond to Halloween, from shutting the curtains and pretending we're not home to opening wide our doors and taking our kids out into our neighbourhoods. This post explores some different approaches.*
- *Talking to our kids about the devil - At some point, our kids will ask about the devil and it can feel difficult to know how to respond. Becky shares what she's learned over the years.*
- *Exploring ways to respond to trick or treaters - Often Halloween means that our neighbourhoods are full of trick-or-treaters. If you'd like to explore how to respond to trick-or-treaters, this post provides some ideas to get you started.*
- *Dealing with the world's view of the supernatural - In a world full of witches, zombies, monsters, the paranormal and the supernatural, how do we help our kids navigate this stuff healthily? It's not a new problem – we see witches, demons and all sorts of supernatural stuff in scripture – and we can learn good lessons from scripture in how to deal with it.*
- *Parenting for Faith podcast, Halloween episode - In this bonus episode, we explore:*
 - *how to decide what you personally think about Halloween and how to explain that to your child.*
 - *how to find the right fit for your family and tailor your response to them.*
 - *how to engage or deal with films that talk about the afterlife such as Coco.*

If you have any questions or would like any more information, please don't hesitate to contact us at parentingforfaith@brf.org.uk.

CHURCH IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

You've heard of Messy Church... this can be Sunny, Rainy, Muddy, Windy or Wild Church!

There is an exciting new project underway in Grangemouth and Bo'ness, to help families meet with God in the outdoors. Outdoor Kirk was the bright idea of Rev Willie Shaw, Rector of St Catharine's and St Mary's. Willie and Sarah Shaw write:

Outdoor Kirk is a joint effort between Christ Church, St Catharine's and St Mary's. The idea was that we would bring people together in an outdoor and informal setting, to explore the natural world, enjoy each other's company once again, and meet with God.

When? We ran it over three days mid August, each session being two hours long (and finishing with lunch).

Where? We had three themes: Day 1 – Air; Day 2 – Earth; Day 3 - Water. Venues were Christ Church Garden (much fun to be had on a slope!); Jupiter Wildlife Centre; and Bo'ness Foreshore, respectively.

Who? 13 children came to each day of Outdoor Kirk – ages ranging from 19 months to 15 years! - together with their adults. At Jupiter we also benefitted from a very helpful Ranger who helped us do a 'Bug Hunt.'

How? Each day included a theme; a story from the Bible; a catchy song related to the story*; activities – using the 'stuff' around us as much as possible; and a 'quiet' listening activity (as well of course, eating together).

Any casualties? No human ones. But some of Willie's rocket-making equipment did fly too high, never to be seen again.

And the future?... Jupiter Wildlife Centre has kindly offered us their premises on a monthly basis and we would like to run Outdoor Kirk each month. Watch this space!

Sarah and Willie Shaw

*I still have the Jonah song: 'Who did, who did, who did, who did swallow Jo-Jo-Jonah' going through my head like the proverbial earworm. SS



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](#).