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Barnado's

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www.barnados.org.uk

Children's Panel membership

www.childspaneldscotland.org

Capability Scotland - Head Office

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Children 1st

83 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 1AT
T: 0131 446 2300 F: 0131 446 2339
www.children1st.org.uk

NCH Scotland/Action for Children

City Park, 368 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow G31 3AU

Quarrier's, Quarrier's Village

Bridge of Weir PA11 3SX
T: 01505 616000/612224 F: 01505 613906
www.quarriers.org.uk

Rock Trust

55 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QY
T: 0131 557 4059 F: 0131 524 9879 www.rocktrust.org

The Scottish Society for Autism-Head Office

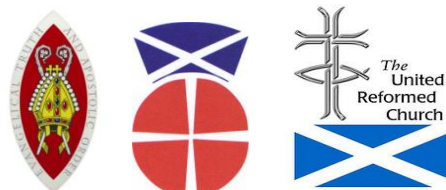
Hilton House, Alloa Business Park, Whins Road,
Alloa FK10 3SA
T: 01259 720044 F: 01259 720051 www.scottishautism.org

Stepfamily Scotland

Gillis Centre, 113 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH10 1BB
T: 0131 623 8951 www.stepfamilyscotland.org.uk

Youth Link Scotland

Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace
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Monthly leaflets downloadable from
www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/church_in_society_committee/

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FAITH in ACTION

July



Children & Young People

About one third of children in Scotland live in poverty. Children and young people across Scotland experience a range of difficulties and hardship: 100,000 live with domestic violence; 40,000 to 60,000 with their parents' drug misuse and another 80,000 to 100,000 are affected by parental alcohol misuse. These children, along with others whose parents have mental health problems, are often acting as young carers of needy adults and they are not able to enjoy their childhood as they should. The numbers of children on child protection registers who are suffering neglect has increased by 70% recently, and those suffering emotional abuse have doubled. One in nine children run away every year as a means of expressing their unhappiness.

About 9,000 children in Scotland have a learning disability, with numbers increasing slightly, especially of those with severe disability and their parents often have enormous difficulty in getting services which will provide assistance to their child and adequate support for themselves in coping with the additional pressure.

Our children are our future and we need to give them the best possible start in life if they are to grow up as strong and active citizens. There has been a great deal of focus recently about young people who are seen to be causing trouble, but the vast majority of young people are constructive members of the community. What we know about those who get into trouble in their teenage years is that they are overwhelmingly the same children who were seen as being in need of care and protection when they were still of primary school age, so we are clearly not meeting their needs.

You may wish to try the following:

- pray for children and young people locally, nationally and internationally
- befriend a child through Children 1st
- join a child mentoring scheme such as is run by Scripture Union in schools
- volunteer to help on Childline
- get involved in Messy Church
- welcome children into your church community
- encourage young SEC members to attend the Provincial Youth Network Summer Camps
- make room in the church for buggies and wheelchairs
- foster a child: contact the local authority social work department for your area. Aberlour Trust, Barnardo's and NCH also work with foster carers
- volunteer to work with children through a recognised charity: most children's charities are looking for volunteers
- consider becoming a member of the Children's Panel

PRAYERS

Gracious God,

We thank you for the energy and vitality of young people.

Young adulthood can be a difficult time of change and transition; leaving school, leaving home, finding a first job.

Help young people to know you as a constant presence through all changes, and the church as a place of welcome and rest and refreshment.

Provide them with a deepening knowledge of your love as they continue to mature and grow and allow them to discover their own gifts and talents, discerning your future for them.

Help us to provide examples of Christian life for them to follow, and to offer friendship where it is wanted.

AMEN

Prayer for an adopted child

Not flesh of my flesh nor bone of my bone but still, miraculous, my own.

Never forget for a single minute, you didn't grow under my heart but in it.

AMEN

All It Needs

Just a word, just a look can heal the hurt that people feel.

A silent presence: a hug, a smile, can do the work of many words.

The healing power of Christ is in our hands, in the prayers we say, in what we think and in all we do.

So let your presence be the healing that is needed in word; in touch or silent sharing of grief.

AMEN

Richard Becher

What cost to serve?

What cost to care?

What cost to love?

But I gave my life.

Do I ask too much

For you to give your life, your work, your being

So that my life can have meaning for others?

AMEN

Debbie Hodge