
AUTUMN 2020 | ISSUE 4

PROVINCIAL YOUTH NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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'Winter Wonderland' Online Sleepover

HOSTED BY EDINBURGH DIOCESE



Online Sleepover 27-28 November

Young people and youth leaders in the SEC have been sorely missing our in-person events during the pandemic. The autumn is normally a particularly busy time for youth sleepovers, so this year, youth leaders in Edinburgh Diocese and across the Province are planning an online sleepover in place of the usual gathering. We began with a question: what's good about a socially-distanced youth event?

- No need to travel!
- Do the whole thing in your PJs!
- You don't have to sleep on the floor!
- Eat whatever you like!
- Bring your pets!



The WINTER WONDERLAND ONLINE SLEEPOVER will be held via Zoom on 27-28 November (Friday-Saturday). There will be four Zoom meet-ups in that time plus offline activities, and worship will include a Blessing of the Pets. This event is for young people of High School age, plus this year's Glen graduates. For details and online booking, email youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Provincial Youth News

ANGLICAN COMMUNION YOUTH NETWORK



Young people in The Scottish Episcopal Church were represented at the Anglican Consultative Council in Hong Kong in 2019: Amie Byers from the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway is here pictured (centre left, in the black shirt) with the Archbishop of Canterbury and other youth representatives from the Anglican Communion.

A group of youth leaders from across the Europe region have been meeting to discuss the Anglican Communion Youth Network, which is set for a re-launch. The PYC Enabler, Claire Benton-Evans, has been representing the SEC at these early meetings, which have included Clifton Nedd, Anglican Consultative Council Lay Member and Anglican Alliance Caribbean Facilitator, and Mary Hawes, the Church of England's National Going for Growth (Children and Youth) Adviser. The "Europe Region" of the ACYN has an interestingly diverse membership that includes England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Spain, Portugal, Falkland Islands and Bermuda!

Early conversations have focused on the fact that any meeting of the ACYN in the near future will have to be on Zoom rather than in person, and that this may be a blessing in disguise. Meeting online means that we can have wider representation: without travel and budget constraints, many more young people who are interested can have a say. An initial Global Gathering would have two main purposes:

1. To inform young people about what the Anglican Communion is and why the new Youth Network is an exciting thing to get involved with
2. To gather a pool of young people from which we can draw representatives who will shape the Network going forward.

In the SEC we already have a group of actively involved young people who have a voice at Synod (the Provincial Youth Committee and wider Provincial Youth). It is hoped that some of them will take a leading role in strengthening connections with their sisters and brothers in the Anglican Communion through the revitalized ACYN. Watch this space!

Student Christian Movement

This has been a particularly challenging year for students, so it's a good time to hear from a group that is supporting them. The Student Christian Movement describes itself as "a movement of students, past and present, responding to the call of Jesus to follow him and show the love of God on campus, in our communities and in the world. We come together as an ecumenical and inclusive community, fostering unity in diversity and exploring faith through worship, discussion and action." Those eligible for membership are people (regardless of age) who are university students or those who have graduated from university within the last three years. This includes postgraduates. Scotland's Regional Development Worker for SCM is Caitlin Wakefield, who is based in Glasgow. Here she shares the latest SCM news...

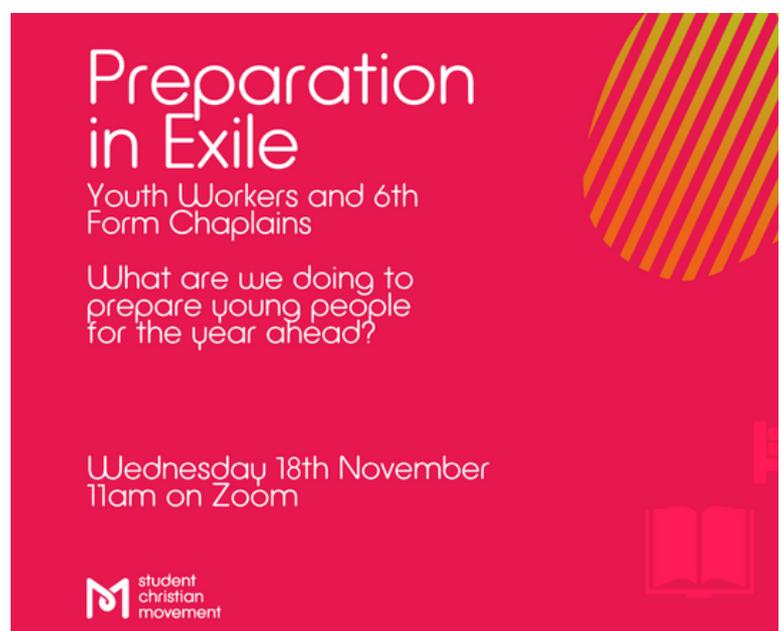
SCM ONLINE



Since March, SCM has been running SCM Online – meetings of students and those eligible for membership. Currently SCM runs two sessions per week: 'Movement Mondays' (8-9pm) which include things like interfaith events, workshops, and bible studies; and 'Theology Thursdays' (6-7pm) in which a guest speaker talks about their area of expertise. This has included topics such as eco-Christianity, feminist, queer, and liberation theology, and the Bible and violence. Much of SCM Online is organized by the members of SCM themselves, meaning it is truly student led. This is open to all members and those eligible for membership. Contact Caitlin at caitlin@movement.org.uk for details.

PREPARATION IN EXILE

The SCM has been running events called 'Preparation in Exile' to support chaplaincies during the Covid-19 pandemic. Chaplains discuss how Covid has affected their work, and what their plans for the future are. The next events are on 18 November: 11am-12pm for youth workers and 6th form or college chaplains; 2-3pm for Higher Education chaplains. The event details can be found on [Facebook](#), or contact rob@movement.org.uk



Student Christian Movement

OUR DAILY BREAD

SCM is launching Our Daily Bread campaign as voted for by members. 4 million children in the UK are living in poverty, food bank use is at a record high, and COVID-19 has only exacerbated this already dire problem. At this online gathering, we'll be learning about how food poverty affects those around us, the impact that coronavirus has had on the services already struggling to deal with increased demand, and how we as Christians can respond and take action in solidarity.



On 21 November 1-5pm on Zoom we'll be joined by Niall Cooper, director of Church Action on Poverty, to talk about their work on the ground with young people campaigning against the injustices that lead them into food poverty, as well as their insights on how we can truly be church on the margins of society. Rev. Heston Groenewald will lead us in a bible study, and tell us about his experience leading a church that serves as a pay-as-you-feel food waste café through the week.

We will also be hosting workshops on campaigning and activism, as well as joining in prayer and worship with students from around the movement. This event is open to members and those eligible for membership. Contact: emma@movement.org.uk

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Each year on the 20th November we remember the lives of transgender people that have been lost over the past year due to acts of transphobia - both physical and verbal.



This year SCM will commemorate the day with a reflective prayer service led by members of the SCM trans community. The Zoom link will be posted 10 minutes before the event in the [student Facebook group](#) and messaged to those marked 'attending' on this event.

Around the Province

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF ST ANDREW'S, DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE

In St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, our youth fellowships have continued to meet over lockdown. The Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship has met weekly over Zoom not only during term-time but over the summer holidays as well. Although we haven't met in person, we have still had a wide range of fun and engaging activities brilliantly created and led by the Cluster Youth Fellowship Leadership Team. At the start of lockdown, the young people chose a weekly challenge. One of the early ones was the Toilet Roll challenge. Bubbles our YF Mascot (right) also was involved in this, which brightened everyone's mood, and we hope the [video we made](#) brings you as much joy as it did for us.



WHAT DOES THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Lockdown gave YF an opportunity to change the format and offer some weekly "Glen style" housegroup sessions, which took place after the main YF activity of the week. This is still going on, and leaders share the role of being the main Leader for YF+. Our young people have told us that this has been a great addition to our programme, as it allows them to reflect and think about faith in a safe and open environment. [We have also created a short video](#) about what YF means to our leaders and young people who come along each week, and what they enjoy about the YF.



BY JAMES GARDNER

One of our favourite activity nights was a collaborative art night, using Aggie.io software. By sharing the link all the leaders and delegates were able to take part in a drawing activity, designing a digital banner for Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship. We are planning in the next few weeks to use this software again to design a Christmas card, that we hope to share with our congregations.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF MORAY, ROSS AND CAITHNESS



A Covid-safe Bonfire Night party with hot chocolate, chat and a creative challenge...

The Youth Fellowship which brings together young people in the Forres, Elgin and Lossiemouth areas had been looking forward to a Bonfire Night party - but Covid restrictions called for a creative alternative. Young people received a parcel in the post containing materials for a non-flammable bonfire (red and orange tissue paper, straws etc) plus a sachet of hot chocolate, a tea light and some marshmallows with a wooden skewer. Everyone met together on Zoom to create their realistic paper 'bonfires', then toasted their marshmallows over the tea light and chatted over hot chocolate. A cosy and safe alternative!

Youth Opportunities

Do you know someone under 30 who has interesting things to say about another religious tradition which is relevant to Christianity? Or how different religions can cooperate for the common good? The World Council of Churches is holding an essay competition for young people on the theme 'The future of interreligious dialogue'. The closing date is the 15th January 2021 and full details can be found [here](#).

ESSAY COMPETITION



GLOBESCOTTERS – SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO EMBRACE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

British Council Scotland, the Scottish Government and Young Scot are teaming up to deliver 'GlobeScotters' – a campaign encouraging young people to embrace the international experiences available to them. This campaign is a direct response to COVID-19. It aims to support young people in Scotland to connect with international opportunities available to them, whilst supporting them to maintain an international outlook. Young people can find out more and complete the GlobeScotters survey [here](#).

A Covid Christmas?

Ministry to children, young people and families

A COVID CHRISTMAS?

5 THINGS TO THINK ABOUT NOW

A Christmas like no other

How can churches 'do' Christmas with children and families during a pandemic? We may not be able to meet in church at all, and if we are, there won't be busy Crib Services and Christingles. Number restrictions, pre-booking and password-protected Zoom links mean that church is having to operate like a members-only club instead of offering open-door hospitality. Church families who have drifted away during lockdown may not come back. Families who come once a year may not come at all. How can our churches nurture the families we know this Christmas? How can we reach out and share the love of Christ and the joy of His birth with families in our socially-distanced communities?

Here are some initial thoughts and examples to help your planning: you can find many more on the [Diocesan website](#). If you would like to talk through any ideas, please contact Claire Benton-Evans: youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org



Stay local

Learn from lockdown about projects that can bring people together:

- A trail of Nativity scenes in windows, for children to follow
- Painted stones - *Baby Jesus Rocks!*
- *Knitted Angels*
- The Christmas story retold as a slideshow of photos taken in your local area



Christmas online

The pros and cons of online worship are overleaf, but consider the possibilities:

- Do something familiar in a different way: if you have a tried and trusted Nativity Service format, can you think creatively about how to share it online?
- Let go of something that you've "always done" at Christmas and try something new online! This year is a first time for us all



Faith at home

Fill party bags with tempting resources. Share them safely in your town centre and deliver them to your church families. Bags could include:

- *25 Ways To be Thankful in Advent* - a free downloadable calendar
- Prayer stars - to write on and add to the family Christmas tree
- *At-home Christingles*



The personal touch

Head offline to offer tangible gifts and practical outreach:

- Doorstep drops of Christmas treats
- Care packages
- Christmas cards (hand-made by children for elderly people)
- *Food Bank Advent Calendars*
- Pray for your community, handing out prayer request cards to homes and local shops

HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

Is your church wondering how to 'do' Christmas with children, young people and families this year? The Diocese of Edinburgh has produced a helpful infographic and a webpage of inspiring resources [here](#), which will be continually refreshed over the coming weeks. It includes a section of creative resources for lament during Advent.

PROS AND CONS

FOUR WAYS OF BEING CHURCH DURING A COVID CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP ON ZOOM

Unlimited numbers; participants can feel a visible part of the church family; screen-sharing brings visual resources up close

Excludes those who struggle with digital access; excludes visitors because Zoom details can't be shared publicly; singing together or joining in the responses causes audio glitches

WORSHIP IN PERSON

Being physically present and actively involved; maintaining a connection with the church family and place of worship

Very limited numbers; the elderly & vulnerable may self-exclude; restrictions on singing, physical contact & sharing food may be felt more keenly at Christmas

WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE

Unlimited numbers & open access to all; can provide quality music; service can be pre-recorded; participants can interact through comments

Excludes those who struggle with digital access; a more passive viewing experience; can be time-consuming to film and requires someone with video-editing skills

PRACTICAL OUTREACH*

Reaches the church family and the wider community; can be a strong act of witness. Eye-catching projects can get a lot of attention

Can be a time-consuming project to plan and co-ordinate; needs committed people, plus resources

*See Stay Local and The Personal Touch, overleaf, for examples

Stay in touch...

Do you have a contribution from your Diocese for the next newsletter? Please get in touch below. Follow Provincial Youth news on our Facebook page: [Scottish Episcopal Church - Provincial Youth Committee](#).

The Covid Christmas infographic

This newsletter has been produced by the Provincial Youth Committee Enabler, Claire Benton-Evans. Contact: ClaireBE@scotland.anglican.org