

AUGUST 2021 | ISSUE 8

PROVINCIAL YOUTH NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



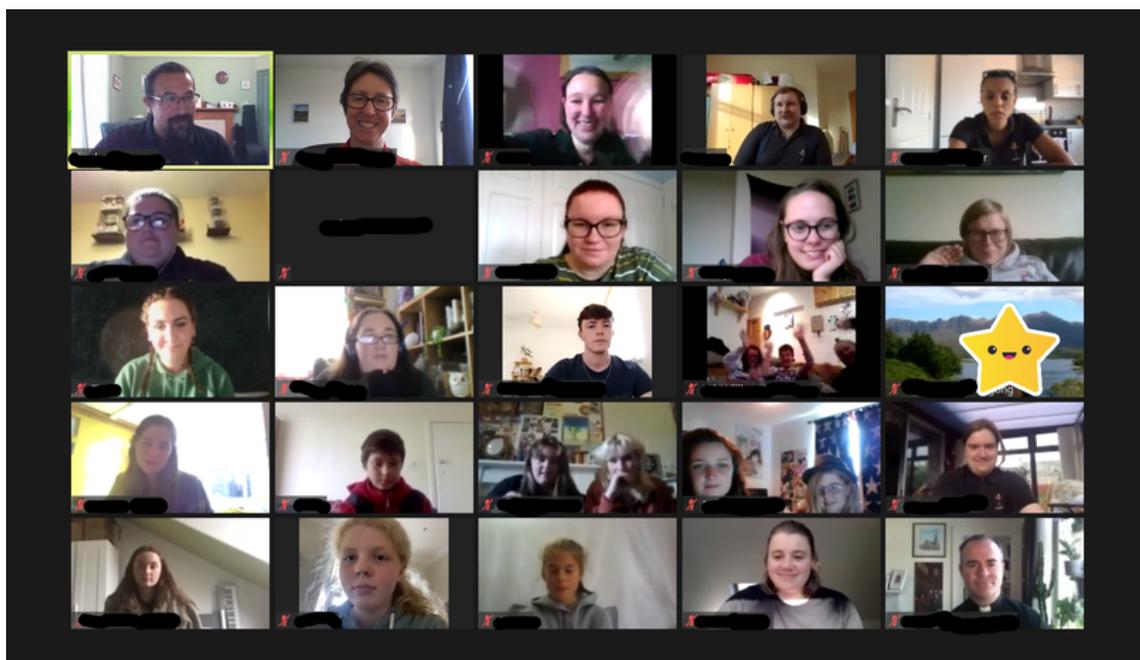
The Provincial Youth Week Glen 21 Online and In Person



The first week in August saw perhaps the most ambitious Provincial Youth Week yet: a 'blended' (or "Glended") programme of online, offline and in-person activities for young people from all over the Scottish Episcopal Church. Read on to find out more...

Photo: Revd Tembu Rongong celebrating the Eucharist at the Final Worship of Glen week, in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth (see p 10-11)

Gathering together online



Throughout lockdown, young people and leaders across the Province have been meeting weekly on Zoom to chat, play games and pray together. Glen 21 made the most of this technology to help us speak face-to-face. House Groups all met on Zoom, and this proved to be a safe, thoughtful space for delegates to share their experiences, talk about their faith and ask questions. Our opening Quiz Night was very popular, featuring fiercely competitive teams in breakout rooms and time limits for answers to keep us all on our toes! Delegates also enjoyed a Film Night together online, and there was plenty of opportunity to chat with leaders and each other in Zoom chat rooms, over a cuppa or some hot chocolate.

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER



Worship is an integral part of the Provincial Youth Week. This year we held our Opening Worship on Zoom, and towards the end of the week we gathered for a Night Eucharist by candlelight. We shared the Peace by crossing hands across our Zoom windows, and we could see the faces of everyone present - something that doesn't usually happen in church! For our final act of worship at Glen 21, we gathered together for an in-person Eucharist at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. *(see pages 10-11)*

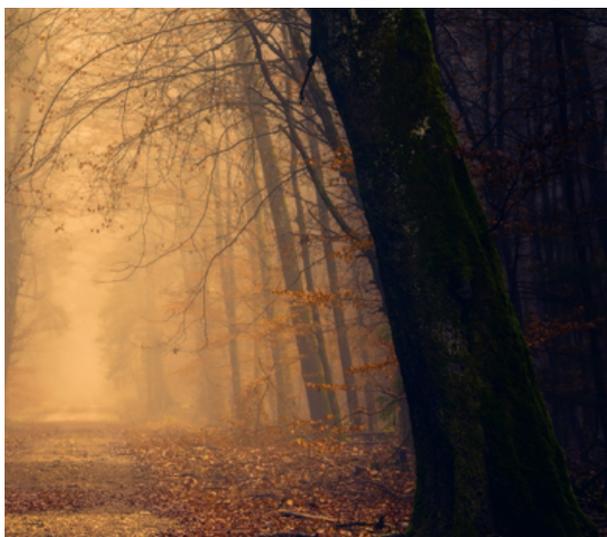
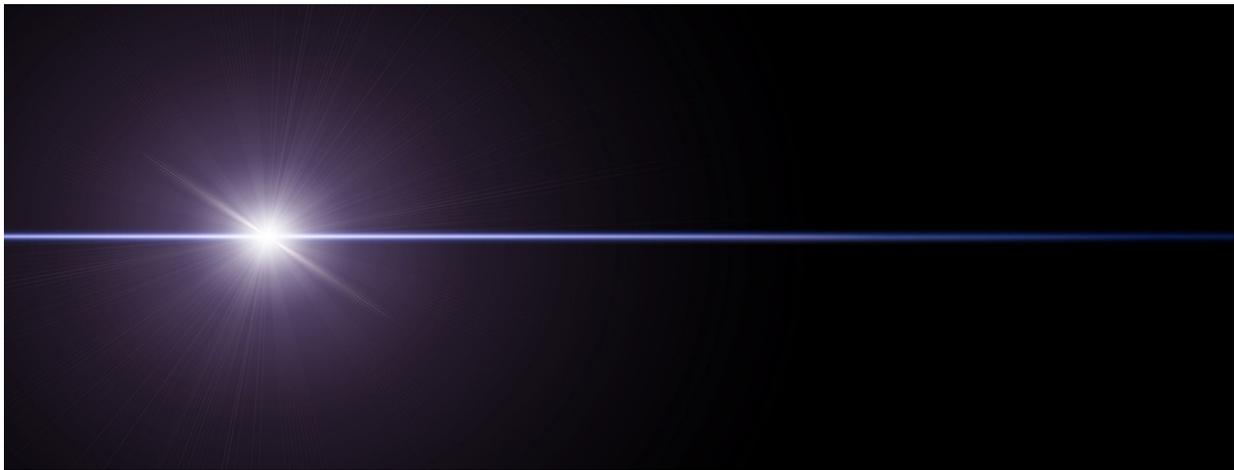
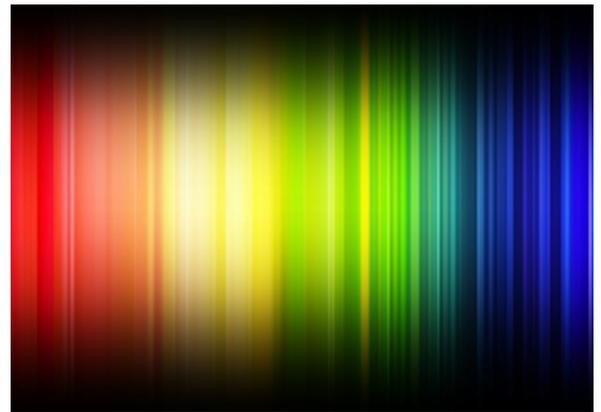
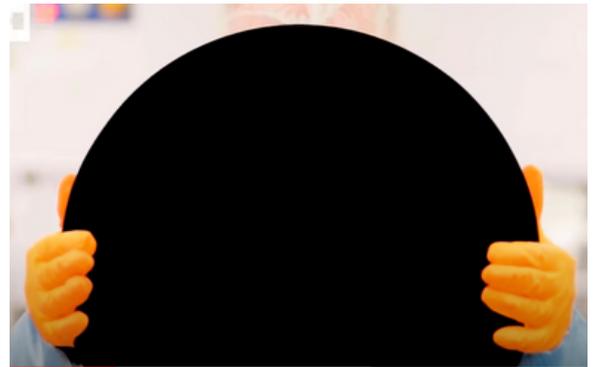
EATING TOGETHER

Shared meals in the grand dining hall at Glenalmond are something that delegates have told us they particularly enjoy, so Glen 21 featured two opportunities to eat and chat together via Zoom. Some delegates recreated the full cooked breakfast experience!

When it seemed most dark...

Young people exploring faith in house groups

Our theme this year was darkness and light. On Monday we discussed the **Creation story**, imagining the dark before God's first creative act, and wondering about the difference that light makes. We talked about our own creativity, and the language of 'light' and 'dark' in faith. On Tuesday we explored the story of **Joseph and his brothers**, wondering about the very dark place in which Joseph found himself - beaten and sold, yet God was at work in the dark... We thought about the multicoloured pigments that make up 'black' (*right*) and wondered at VANTABLACK, "the closest thing to a black hole we'll ever see" (*top right*). We explored how we might look for the colour and the light when all seems dark.



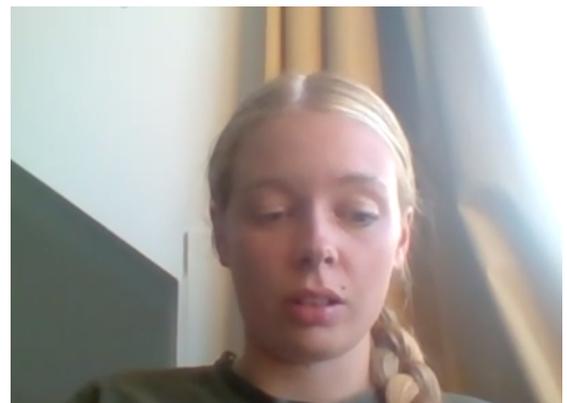
On Thursday, we talked about silence and waiting in the story of **Elizabeth and Zechariah**. We thought about people who are silenced, and those who find the courage to speak out, like Jane Haining, the Church of Scotland missionary who looked after Jewish girls in Hungary until she was arrested and later died in Auschwitz. On Friday we looked at Mark's account of the **Crucifixion and Resurrection**, and tackled head-on our thoughts and questions about death, dying and life after death.

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT



The murder suspects: (clockwise from top right) Stevie Bricks, Olivia Button, Greta Thunberg-Herself, Alice and Adelaide Woolworth, Chris the Chef and Raymond Blade, Celebrity (the killer). Samuel was the victim and his twin, Somuel, was the detective.

This ever-popular feature of Glen week worked well on Zoom, as these suspicious characters were interrogated by delegates in breakout rooms. All were implicated in the untimely death of one man, and delegates had to identify the murderer - then accuse them in rhyming couplets. This activity stretches leaders' acting skills and delegates' ingenuity, as well as providing a platform for literary flair. This year's poetic efforts (which included all the characters' monologues) did not disappoint!



Regional Gatherings

We were delighted that Covid restrictions had relaxed enough to allow leaders and delegates to meet up in small regional groups across Scotland. Each group had a bespoke programme of fun!



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

The day started at the medieval cathedral, looking at how architects designed a structure to maximise the amount of light inside the building (in keeping with this year's theme), then there was pizza for lunch on the way to ten-pin bowling at the Quay.



ST ANDREW'S, DUNKELD & DUNBLANE: FIFE

There were fun and games in the sunshine at Fife Leisure Park, including a highly competitive round of crazy golf! Followed by food, of course.





MORAY, ROSS AND CAITHNESS WITH ABERDEEN & ORKNEY

We enjoyed a variety of activities to test how well our delegates did in the light and the dark! In pairs, one blindfolded person had to collect coloured balls hidden around the church garden while the other person guided them. Then they swapped over and the blindfolded person had to copy a picture the other person could see. Lunch was from Harry Gow (all Highlanders will surely understand what a treat this was!) Then we enjoyed an energetic game of rounders in sun. Yoshi the dog came too!



ST ANDREW'S, DUNKELD & DUNBLANE: DUNBLANE

A gentle stroll through Dunblane where the delegates explored socially distanced greetings and team building. Then onto St Mary's churchyard where we explored telling stories through a visual medium and tested their brains with riddles!

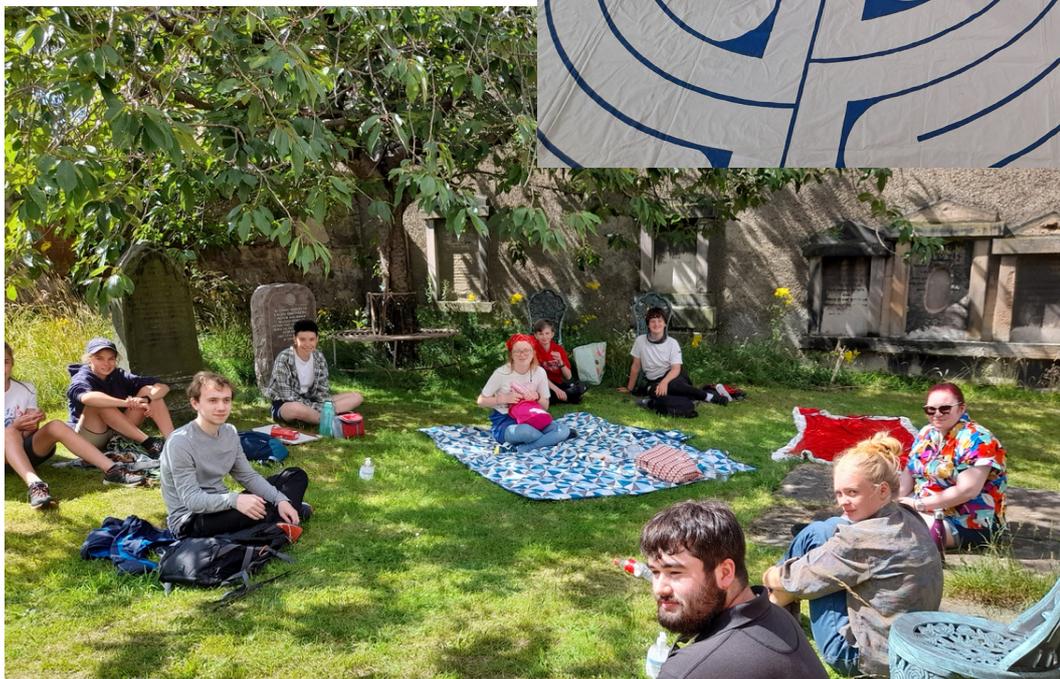


Regional Gatherings continued...

EDINBURGH



Delegates enjoyed the sunny gardens at St Mark's Portobello, where we enjoyed a scavenger hunt and a picnic lunch. We also had a blindfold challenge in the St Mark's Labyrinth! We painted stones to keep as a memento of Glen 21, and built them into a cairn, around which we ended the day in a time of prayer.



Photos clockwise from top left: painting stones in the shade; the prayer cairn; guiding each other through the labyrinth; picnic in the garden.

Offline Activities

Just in case delegates wanted even more from Glen week, we offered an abundance of activities for them to do in their own time on our [Glen 21 site](#). Leaders did an amazing job of creating video content, prayerful and creative inspiration for individuals and a cryptic challenge for house groups. Here are some of the treats that were on offer:

Upcycling Crafts: Glen Leaders Beki and Hannah get crafty, sharing two ideas for upcycling, transforming stuff that looks like it's ready for the bin into beautiful creations.

Lazy Exercise: Exercising from the comfort of a chair, Gordon shows how it's possible to be active even when you're feeling a bit lazy.

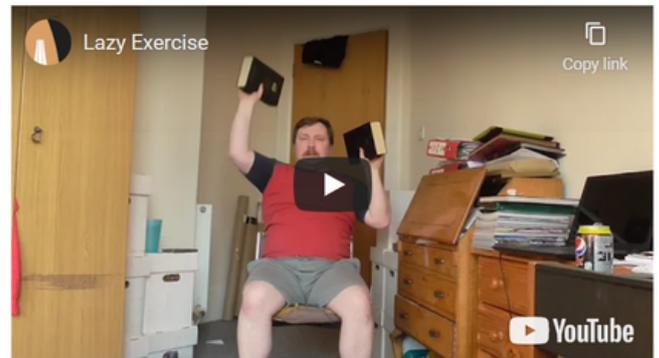
A Pizz-a My Heart: Claire, Glen Leader, makes a delicious pizza, which is super easy and cheap.

Art project: Get creative with Shadow Art.

Photography: daily inspiration and themes, including Angles, Reflection and Still Life.

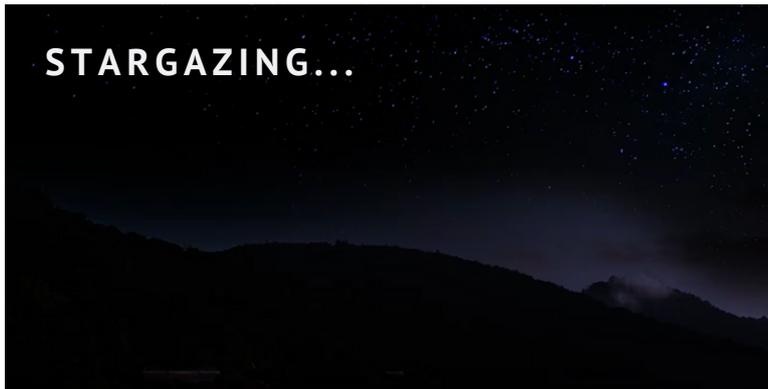
Journal Prompts: ideas for creative writing.

Delegates also received an **individualised care package**, which included everything they needed for the activities they chose. It even featured a Cross Stitch kit for stitching the PYC cross.



Pictures (top to bottom) Lazy Exercise; Upcycling Crafts; Pizza-making; Shadow Art project

Time for prayer



When Glen is held in person, the days are punctuated by prayer and worship, from daily morning Eucharist through to House Group worship and Night Prayer. This year, the Glen 21 site offered delegates some different ways to pray.

Night Prayer: Examen. Glen Leader and spiritual accompanier, Helen, says: "Let's just get this out of the way: the Examen isn't an exam. ('Whew!' you say.) It is, rather, a kind of prayer. The guy who came up with it said it was, in his opinion, the most important kind of prayer there is." Delegates were shown how to use the Examen Prayer after each day's activities.

Prayer Podcast: a space to reflect on the experiences of Glen 21.

Stargazing: a meditation on those glimmering lights in the sky: "For God's steadfast love endures forever."

Online Ceilidh WITH THE GALLIVANTERS CEILIDH BAND



The Gallivanters Ceilidh Band have played for every Glen, and this year was no exception. They filmed a special 'Ceilidh in Your Kitchen' for delegates and families to dance along with at home via Zoom. The specially adapted dances worked amazingly well, and everyone was surprised at how sweaty they got! We even managed to share 'Auld Lang Syne' together by 'joining hands' across our Zoom windows (*above*).

Glen 21 Final Worship

AT ST NINIAN'S CATHEDRAL IN PERTH



Members of the oldest house group leading prayers, reflections and music.

It is a Glen tradition that the oldest house group leads the Final Worship. Ordinarily this is held in the chapel at Glenalmond, which our young people know very well. This year we gathered in St Ninian's Cathedral, a new place for many, and faced the additional challenges of Covid restrictions and being filmed for a livestream of the service for delegates and leaders who couldn't attend in person. Our oldest delegates blew us away with the thoughtfulness and confidence of their worship, which was held in the round so that we could all see each others faces, even if we were masked and socially distanced. There was live music (unaccompanied singing, flute and guitar). The intercessions used silence and noise, and delegates offered some very personal reflections on the Gospel and the week's house group discussions. They responded creatively to the theme of light and darkness, too: in order to share the Peace without physically touching, hand to hand, we instead passed light among us, using phone torches to create a Mexican wave of light!

Glen 21 Final Worship



Bishop Andrew represented the College of Bishops and spoke about the challenges of being socially distanced: visual aids included an actual barge pole! (*left*). He also conducted our traditional 'Glen Graduation' for our oldest delegates: this year's ceremony celebrated our Glen 20 and 21 graduates together.

The last day of Glen 21 ended with a socially distanced and Covid-safe shared lunch in the cathedral (*right*). This was a wonderful opportunity to chat together in person: it made us all look forward even more keenly to what we hope will be an in-person Glen 22.



THANK YOU to everyone who made Glen 21 possible: first, to our wonderful delegates, who make it all worthwhile; to their parents who enable their participation; to all those who hosted our in-person gatherings, especially St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth; to the GSO for their support and Marion Watson, our Glen Administrator; to Bishop Andrew and Mary Swift for joining us on Saturday. Special thanks this year go to the Glen leadership team, most of whom are volunteers. Everyone worked tirelessly to create a special week for delegates. Glen 21 presented a unique set of challenges to which the team rose magnificently: leaders became online content creators, zoom hosts and event co-ordinators who succeeded in being fully present online and energetically engaged in person. Thank you all.

Spread the word...

Please share this news about Glen on your church or diocesan website or social media. Any of the text may be reproduced for the purposes of publicizing the youth week. If you would like to use any of the photos seen here, please apply [here](#) and our Photo Archive manager will be in touch.

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