
SPRING 2022 ISSUE 9

PROVINCIAL YOUTH NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Now booking:
Provincial Youth Week 2022**

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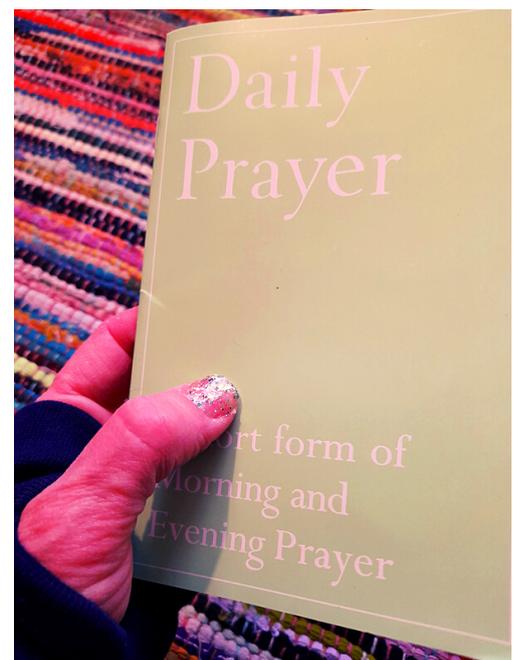
Hybrid and Online Youth Work in the SEC

Back in February 2020, a Provincial Youth sleepover in Aberdeen coincided with Storm Dennis. Youth leaders improvised a COBRA-style meeting to plan the logistics of getting young people home from Aberdeen, in the face of bad weather, road closures and train cancellations all over Scotland. In November 2022, the Provincial Youth Committee was about to meet in person at last (with pizzas!) but moved online at the last minute because of Storm Arwen. Between those two storms, Provincial Youth work has navigated the pandemic, braving lockdowns and restrictions and managing to deliver two mostly-online Youth Weeks along the way.

Now in-person youth work has restarted at a local level, and Provincial Youth are looking forward to the first in-person Youth Week since 2019 (*see p3-4*). In the meantime, youth leaders are encouraging young people to stay connected with hybrid and online youth events. In January we held an **Online Burns Night and Ceilidh**, which brought young people together online and in a small in-person gathering in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Youth Officer Ley-Anne Forsyth addressed the haggis, and a young bagpiper led the proceedings (*above*). Whether in person or at home, everyone enjoyed haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by dancing!

Young people and Youth Leaders also gathered at the beginning of Lent to say **Night Prayer** together (*right*) and particularly to **pray for the people of Ukraine**. Further online activities are planned over the coming months, as we all look forward to Yeek 22.

BETWEEN TWO STORMS



The Provincial Youth Week 2022

For the first time since 2019, the Scottish Episcopal Church's annual Youth Week will be held in person once again this summer. The Provincial Youth Week, formerly known as "Glen", is now known as "Yeek" for short (you can't say it without a smile!) and returns to Glenalmond College in Perthshire from 7-13 August 2022. It offers young people of High School age a space to be themselves, make friends, have fun, and explore faith.



God's Year

Out of the Ordinary

Provincial Youth Week
7-13 The Scottish Episcopal Church
August 2022
www.yeek.scot

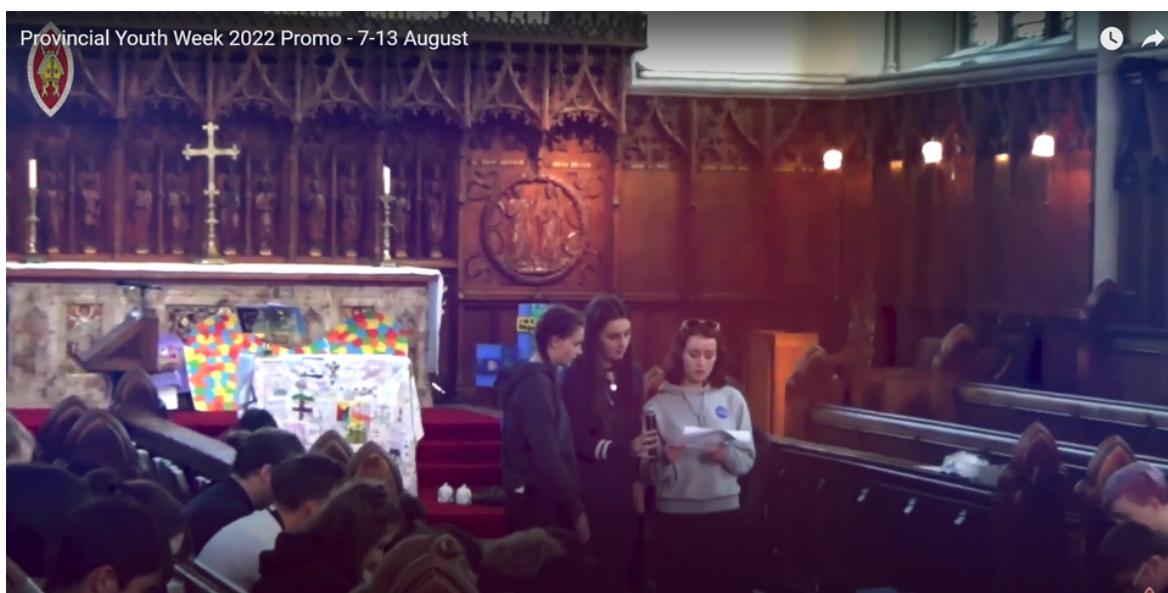


GENERAL SYNOD OF THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH • SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SCO15962

God's Year: Out of the Ordinary

Where else would young people have the opportunity to explore the entire liturgical year in the space of a week? At this year's Provincial Youth Week, delegates will live through Advent to Christ the King in seven days, celebrating Easter together and even enjoying Christmas dinner in August! Through Bible study, discussion and worship, they will explore how to seek God every day and grow their faith in ordinary and extraordinary times.

There is a [brand new website](#) for the Provincial Youth Week, featuring FAQs for young people ("delegates") and their sending churches.



A special feature of the Yeek website is this [short film](#) (*above*) which features footage from previous Yeeks and interviews with delegates about what makes the experience so special.

The Week is a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for young people from various backgrounds and experiences of church. Support is available for those with particular needs or who face financial or geographical challenges coming to the Youth Week. Leaders are working closely with Church and College officials to ensure the safe operation of the physical event in these Covid times. If you have any questions, contact the Rev Tembu Rongong, the Youth Week leader, at rector@trinityelgin.org or Claire Benton-Evans, the Provincial Youth Committee Enabler, at ClaireBE@scotland.anglican.org.

“I think it just helped a lot in being a Christian that there were other people there that were like me”

Provincial Youth Week delegate

Youth News around the Province

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS, DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE

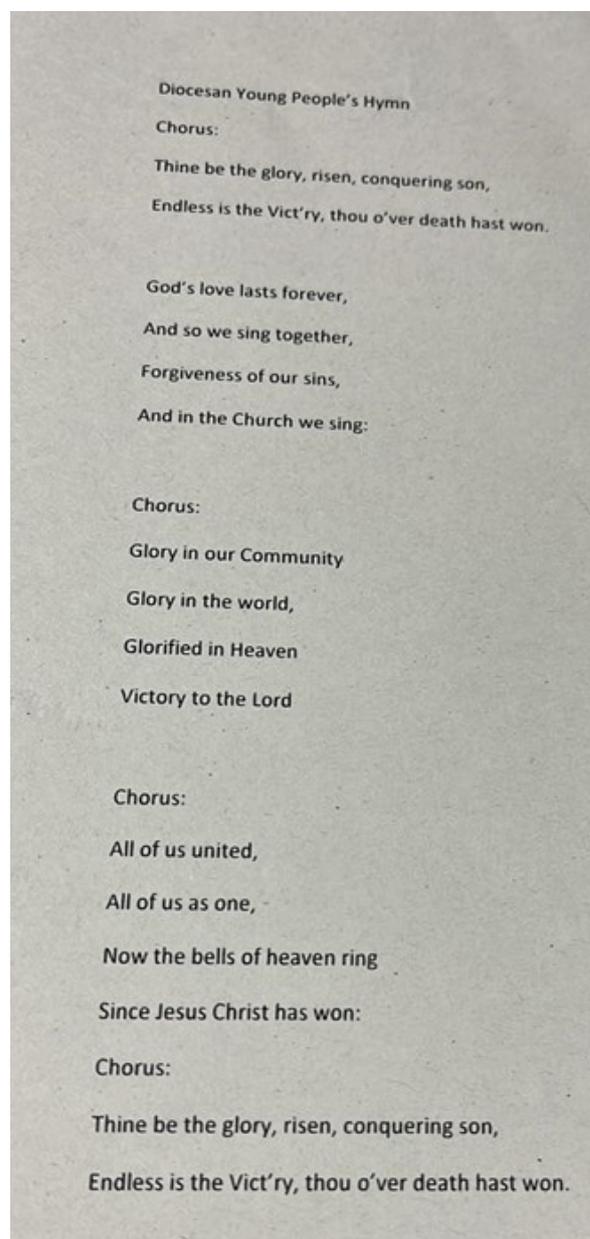
Youth Officer James Gardner writes:

"In St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane the Diocesan Youth Committee and Youth Forum have already been meeting and planning events and activities for the coming year.

Our Diocesan Youth Forum met in March 2022 to help the Diocesan Young People's Committee to plan for the rest of the year. Following our successful Youth Gathering in November 2021 we are looking towards holding an Easter Journey weekend event in early Autumn as the young people felt that this would be a good time to have a weekend event before the school terms get too busy with studying for exams.

At the Diocesan Youth Gathering we created a Diocesan Youth Hymn. This hymn (*right*) was first sung at Diocesan Evensong, the day after the Youth Gathering, and has also been sung at youth-led services in the Diocese since.

The Youth Forum has been very kindly offered a place for meetings and sleepovers. The congregation, Vestry and Priest in Charge of St Mary's Birnam have opened their arms to the young people in our Diocese and we are looking forward to our first planning weekend there at the end of April.



The Diocesan Youth Hymn, composed by young people at the Youth Gathering

In June the Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship are taking part in a Pilgrimage Walk. Holy Trinity Church is on the Fife Pilgrim way from Culross to St Andrews, and the Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship plan to walk from Culross to Holy Trinity Dunfermline on a Sunday afternoon."

Anglican Communion Youth Network

In the Scottish Episcopal Church we have a group of actively involved young people who have a voice at General Synod: they are the Provincial Youth Committee. However, in the wider Anglican Communion, there is currently no platform for young people to make their voices heard at the highest levels – but that is about to change.

The Anglican Communion Youth Network (ACYN) is a new initiative which is coming into being right now. It will offer opportunities for young people and youth workers in the Scottish Episcopal Church to get involved with other young Christians across the world to work on shared projects in these areas of interest, which are aligned to the Communion's 5 marks of mission:

1. **Sharing faith with others** (working on the Young Anglican Musicians Project)
2. **Helping young people's faith grow**
3. **Helping others** (getting involved with humanitarian projects)
4. **Social justice, challenging violence, and peace-making**
5. **Caring for creation**

There are also opportunities for those who would like to develop their professional experience by getting involved with **Public Communications** (including social media) and **Finance and Fundraising** for the ACYN.



This is an invitation for young people (aged 18-35) or youth workers (of any age) to play an active part in the new Anglican Communion Youth Network. The ACYN is asking for nominations to join teams working in each of the areas listed in bold. The work will involve occasional online meetings initially, leading to work on particular projects which will be decided by each team. An example is the Young Anglican Musicians Project, which will involve opportunities for:

- **Cross-cultural exchange and learning, connecting young Anglican musicians across the Communion**
- **Joint production of music**
- **Training, skill development and certification**

If you or someone you know would be interested in being nominated for the ACYN in one of the areas outlined above, please get in touch with Claire Benton-Evans: ClaireBE@scotland.anglican.org

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. Discussions started in earnest at this gathering about initiating the Anglican Communion Youth Network.

News and Resources

"HOW DO WE TALK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT WAR IN UKRAINE?"

Check out the [Diocese of Edinburgh's Youth and Children pages](#) for a collection of creative and thoughtful resources for prayer, reflection and all-age conversations about war and other difficult subjects. This is a useful resource for church leaders and parents in these anxious times.



CARE IN A CRISIS

As churches and individuals look for ways to help Ukrainian refugees, [this helpful blog post](#) by an experienced youth pastor and aid worker asks an important question: **"How can we (as a church) help those in our midst who are helping traumatised people?"** In other words, how can we help the helpers, and how can the helpers help themselves to avoid burnout, compassion fatigue or secondary trauma? Recommended reading for anyone who is caring for others, particularly during the current crisis.

PROVINCIAL WELCOME DAY

Claire Benton-Evans (*right*), the Provincial Youth Committee Enabler, joined colleagues at the 2022 Provincial Welcome Day. She shared with newcomers to the SEC the good news that they have arrived in a Church that has lots of actively engaged young people and youth leaders, and that boasts a Youth Week which has run every summer since 1996. Claire encouraged anyone who has questions about youth and children's ministry in the SEC to get in touch with her (*contact details below*).



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](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#).



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