
AUGUST 2020 | ISSUE 3

PROVINCIAL YOUTH NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Provincial Youth logo represents our connection across seven dioceses - even when we are socially distant.

This summer has been a challenging one for young people, with holidays postponed, events cancelled and confusion over exam results. Read on for news of how they are staying connected to the Church and each other in these uncertain times.

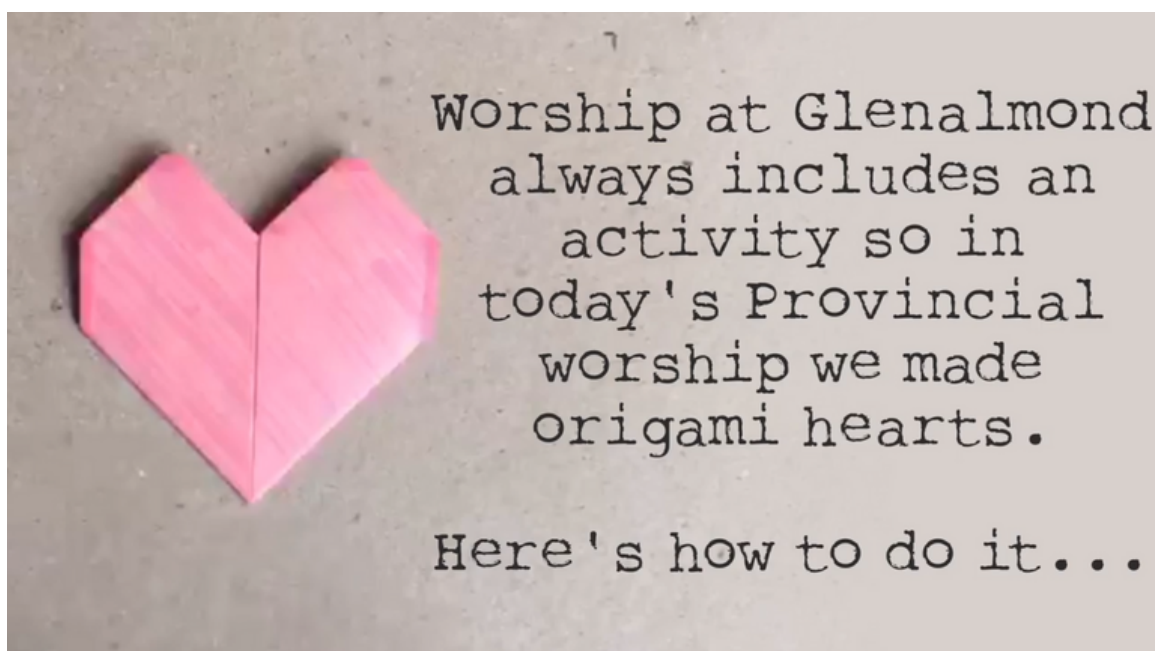
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Young people lead Provincial worship



Throughout lockdown, young people and leaders across the Province have been meeting to worship together. At the start of this year's Provincial Youth Week - Glen Online - our oldest delegates took a creative lead in Provincial Worship with Primus Mark and Most Rev Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The American Episcopal Church. These delegates pooled their considerable talents to lead us in origami and multilingual prayers, share the Gospel as a stop-frame animation and engineer a choral performance of 'Ubi Caritas' from individual vocal tracks. It was wonderful to see these Glen graduates leading worship for people across the Anglican Communion.



Members of the oldest house group leading Provincial Worship; a still from their video of how to make an origami heart

Young Christian Activists launch Climate Justice Campaign

In August 2020, 25 young Christians from all over the UK launched their campaign for climate justice. The young adults, ranging from 18-30 years old, are Christian Aid's Prophetic Activists. The 'Stop Fuelling the Fire' campaign focuses on encouraging the government to end the use of UK Export Finance in funding fossil fuel extraction overseas.

Christian Aid's Prophetic Activist scheme, which launched at the start of the year, allows young people to learn about activism and create a campaign to

tackle societal injustice. This year's theme is climate justice, a phrase which describes the desire to redress the inequalities caused by global warming.

The launch of the campaign marks a growth in activism amongst young people regarding climate change and its negative impact on human communities and animal species. Many young people in the SEC were active in last year's school strikes, in which over 300,000 people and 1,000 UK companies participated. The campaign will be unfolding over the course of 2020, so if you would like to track its progress and offer support, do sign their petition which can be found [here](#).



Young members of the Provincial Climate Change Group

The working group tasked with co-ordinating the SEC's response to the climate crisis has two new young members: Caitlin Conway and Martha Spence. Both are Glen delegates who are passionately committed to protecting the planet, and they are looking forward to joining with the Primus, Miriam Weibye and the rest of the group on this vitally important issue.



Martha Spence (right) and Caitlin Conway (left)



Support and training for young Servers

Do you have young people who are Servers at your church? The Scottish Guild of Servers would like to hear from them!

The Scottish Guild of Servers is currently planning for future training events for both members and non-members. The Guild is particularly interested in finding out about its young members. They are also keen to promote membership and training to those young people who may be interested in the role of a Server. A spokesman for the Guild says:

"There are many benefits for our younger members, including a sense of active participation in your home church, and enhancing your CV for when you start to look for part-time jobs! Most importantly, a sense of your own identity and developing your faith." Young Servers can find out more and complete a quick survey [here](#).



Encouragement for Christian Youth Workers



In July 2020 Youthscape ran Now What? – an online event designed to help youth workers reflect, think and dream about their youth ministry vision in a COVID-19 world. It was full of inspiring speakers, spiritual nourishment, comfort, challenge and food for thought. The whole event is available on catch-up [here](#), and this is how Youthscape describes it:

"We're all tired. Something began months ago that's changed everything. Still now, the jarring shifts keep coming, and the future is foggy. Even with the signs of light, you're still on the back foot. You've been stuck in reactive mode, but you want to be proactive. You want a vision for your work, not just endless uncertainty. You're surviving – but you want to be thriving. We're there too, and we want to help. Online church has offered lots of communication – but little connection, rare conversation. That's what [Now What](#) is all about."



Glen Online!

THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK DURING A PANDEMIC



Film night with popcorn and hot chocolate; one of the photos from the scavenger hunt (credit: Megan Barrett)

The Provincial Youth Week has been bringing together young people and leaders from all over the SEC since 1996. When we announced that we could not meet in person this year, we knew what a blow this would be to our delegates who count down from one summer to the next. During lockdown we stayed in touch for worship, prayers, games and chat. When we asked whether delegates would be interested in an online event during Glen week, the response was a resounding "YES!" Within days of registration opening for Glen Online, we had 36 young people signed up, including several first-timers. Leaders threw themselves into creative planning, and a care package was sent out to each delegate containing everything they needed for the week, plus some treats such as hot chocolate and popcorn for the film night, and a very special mug (see page 9). Read on to find out more about our week connecting online!

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER



The Provincial Youth Week is full of opportunities to worship and pray together: a typical day begins with Eucharist and Morning Prayer, features delegate-led worship at the end of the afternoon and ends with Night Prayer. For Glen Online, we gathered for Morning Prayer on the day that exam results came out, and came together for a candlelit Eucharist at the end of the week. This is usually held in the open air at Glenalmond, as the skies darken and swallows flit above us. This year we saw everyone on Zoom, many holding the battery-operated tea lights they had received in their care package. It reminded us of how connected we feel, to each other and God, and how much we want to meet in person again.

EATING TOGETHER

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



MEETING TOGETHER

When we surveyed delegates to find out what they liked best about Glen, the runaway favourite - with 83% of the votes - was the House Group experience. House Group is where our delegates find a safe space to explore their faith with their peers and leaders: they read the Bible together and share questions, personal experience, challenges and prayers. From the outset, we knew we had to have House Groups as part of Glen Online.



Our theme this year was 'Heroes?' We considered larger-than-life superheroes and compared them with leading figures in Scripture—folk like Moses, King David, St Paul, Martha and Mary— who are confused, fragile and sometimes mess things up just like we do. We looked at these human heroes of our faith, sometimes called 'saints', and asked: what can we learn from them about being a child of God, and what do these holy people have to show us about God?

Here are just some of the thoughts shared by delegates that got us thinking... "Heroes don't need to be famous or have anything superhuman. They are just people who are doing their best." "Anyone who does something brave is a hero." On the story of the weeping woman (*Luke 7:36-50*): "How are we defining sinner? Everyone in that room was a sinner, she was just the only woman." "It's hard to do the right thing if nobody else wants to protect your right to do the right thing." "Showing compassion doesn't make you superior to the person who you're showing compassion to. Nobody owes you anything just for doing what's right."

"Love is heroic"

HAVING FUN TOGETHER



These suspicious characters were interrogated by delegates in breakout rooms as part of Tuesday's Murder Mystery, a perennial favourite at Glen. They are Megawoman, the superhero; Emma Nawyin, the nurse; Artie Fisch, the celebrity; Miss Terry, the teacher; Helen Hywater, the activist and Upton O'Goode, the author - all were implicated in the untimely death of Awards Show host, Hans Schmidt. Delegates decided whodunnit and wrote an accusation poem in rhyming couplets before the murderer was revealed! A heroic effort all round.

THE SCAVENGER HUNT

This activity offered plenty of offline fun! The challenge was to locate and photograph a selection of items. Delegates managed to complete the hunt, undeterred by pouring rain or the fact that they were on holiday with their family! Some of their photos are featured on the next page.



The Provincial Youth Week Online

THE SCAVENGER HUNT GALLERY



So what's next after Glen Online? We are actively exploring virtual ways of staying connected, and responding to what our delegates tell us they need. Plus these are some of the things we have to look forward to:

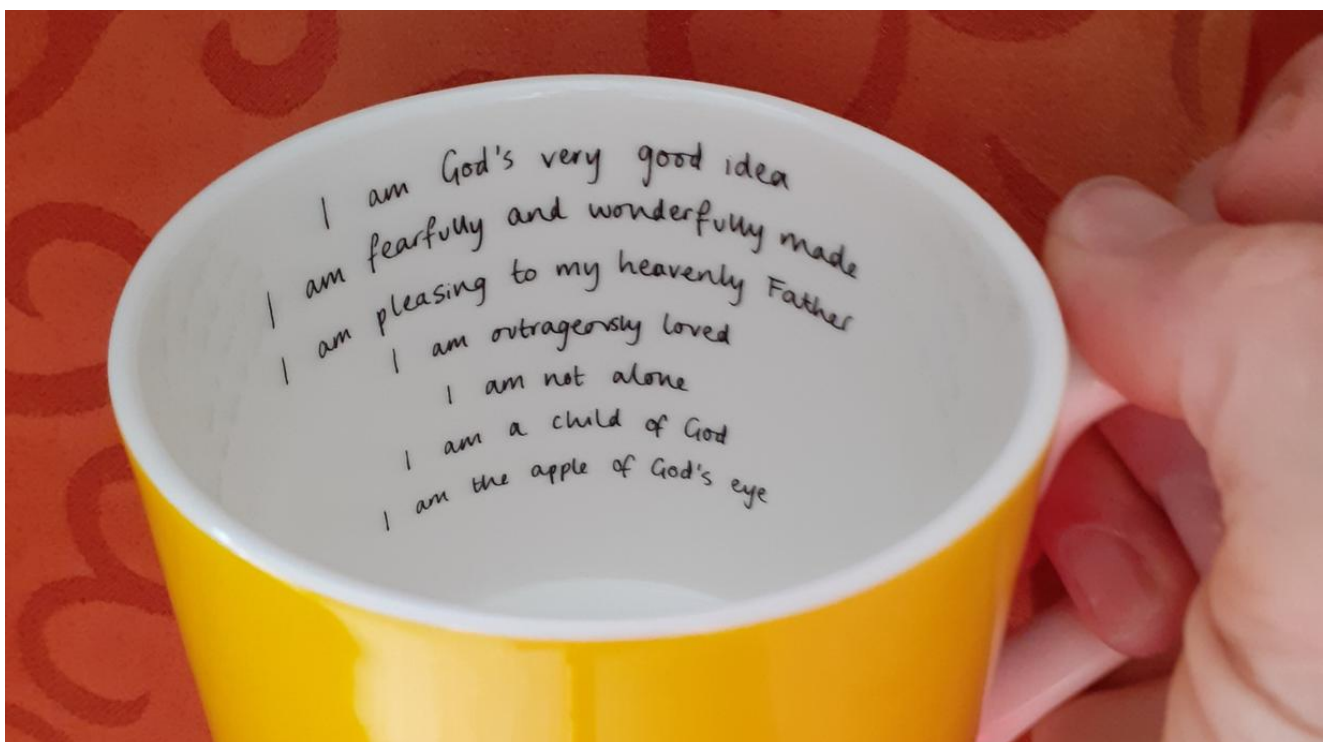
Photo credits, clockwise from top left: Jennifer Pyett, Zara Hobbs, Annabel Vause, Martha Spence; top left next page: Zara Hobbs

- **The After Party:** When it is safe to do so, we will hold a weekend of Glen-style fun, faith and feasting in Edinburgh, to include a Glen Leavers' Graduation ceremony. Date to be confirmed.
- **Glen 21:** Provisional dates 1-7 August 2021.
- **Leavers' Weekend Away:** a long weekend in the Highlands especially for the oldest house group. It will be an opportunity for them to spend time together and share something of what has made Glen so special. Date to be confirmed as lockdown eases.



SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

Young people are heading into the uncertainty of going back to school, starting university or entering into the world of work during a pandemic. This year more than ever, they need our prayers and they need their faith to support them. Glen Online participants each received this special gift that features Bible-based words of encouragement, which we hope they will take to heart.



Message to all our delegates and leaders -

***“You are God's very good idea..
you are outrageously loved... you are not alone”***

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](#).

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