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AUGUST 2022 | ISSUE 10

# PROVINCIAL YOUTH NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## The Provincial Youth Week YEEL 22



The Provincial Youth logo represents the connection of our 7 dioceses. This year our young people and leaders came together for the first time since 2019.

The first in-person Youth Week for three years was a huge success! Young people and leaders from all over the Scottish Episcopal Church came together to celebrate the whole Christian year in a week.

Read on to find out more about Yeek, plus other Provincial Youth news...

# Now we are gathered...



Finally, we were here! After years of online gatherings, mask-wearing, Covid restrictions, postponements and cancellations, we came together for this very special Youth Week: Yeek. It was packed full of fun activities, deep discussions, and worship, with plenty of time to chill and chat. Young people ("delegates") found a space to be themselves, make friends, and explore faith. **You can watch highlights of the whole week in this 1-minute film [here](#).**

Our theme was "God's Year: Out of the Ordinary". Having lived through such extraordinary times recently, and as we all try to adjust to the "new normal", we wanted to explore with our young people how to keep their conversations with God going, through good times and bad, and through all the times and seasons of the church year.

**"Coming back to camp after the years away, we gathered, prayed, laughed, sang, shared God's love and worshipped. Through the darkness, we found the light."**

Amie, a leader



So, armed with everything from Christmas jumpers to Easter eggs and more, we embarked on a week-long year of Christian festivals, beginning with Advent...

# ADVENT



All the candles on the Advent wreath were lit during our opening Eucharist, and house group rooms were decorated in purple. We used this time of preparation to set ground rules for our discussions in our house groups, and agree on how we would treat each other. We reflected on the angel's astonishing announcement to Mary, and her acceptance of God's will, and we discussed what it is like to wait in our own lives - in hope, in uncertainty, in trepidation or anticipation. We talked about when it is good to act, and when it's better to wait, and how we might tell the difference.



*Sharing the Peace at Yeek usually involves lots of hugging! This year there were broad smiles and waves as we remained careful of Covid but shared our delight at being together again.*

# CHRISTMAS



Christmas Day began with carols and presents under the tree! There were many Christmas jumpers and reindeer antlers on display, in spite of the warm weather. We decorated our house group rooms (and ourselves!) with tinsel and fairy lights. In house groups, we discussed John 1:1-14 and tried to wrap our brains around the Incarnation: the Word becoming flesh; God becoming human and moving into the neighbourhood. We talked about why Christmas is important to us and the Church. Some people even wrote their own carols!

*Our real, locally-sourced Christmas tree (left) and our celebration of "Midnight" Mass at noon (below).*





Photos: (Left) The caterers at Glentalmond College kindly provided us with a full Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings! One of our angelic leaders (above) and Christmas sweet-making (below). Every delegate received a present under the tree (below left): the Examug (see below) and a multi-coloured wristband to remind them of Yeek 22 and our theme: "God's Year: Out Of The Ordinary."



The Examug has been designed by the Christian youth work charity, Youthscape. It features four questions which gently lead you through the Ignatian Examen while you pause and enjoy a cuppa:

- Where has God felt most present today?
- Where have I felt most distant from God?
- Who or what should I be praying for?
- How do I feel about the day ahead?

We used these mugs for hot chocolate and Night Prayer, and hope delegates will use them at home, too, to help prayer become part of their daily lives.





Stars and wonders abounded at Epiphany (Tuesday) as we reflected on seeing and knowing God, through the stories of the visiting Magi, and Simeon and Anna.

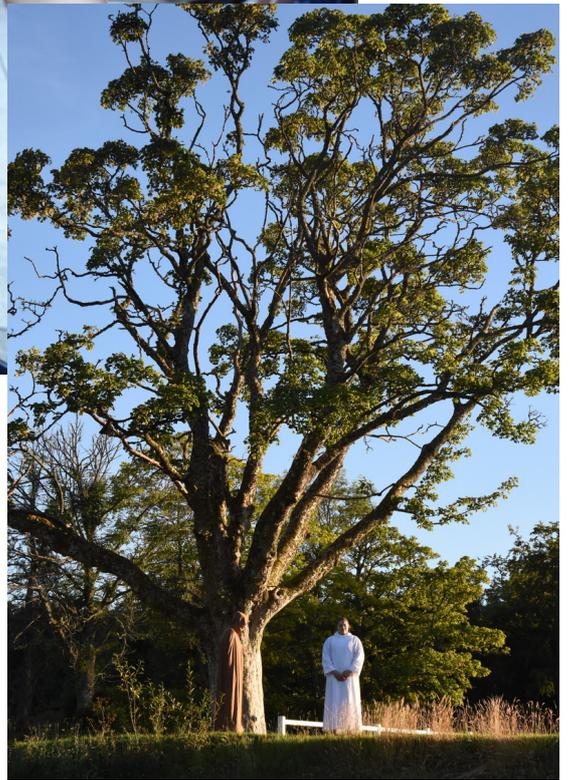
# EPIPHANY

Revelations of a different kind came in the evening, with the ever-popular Murder Mystery: leaders in character were quizzed by delegates (*below*) and the murderer was revealed - in verse!





# LENT



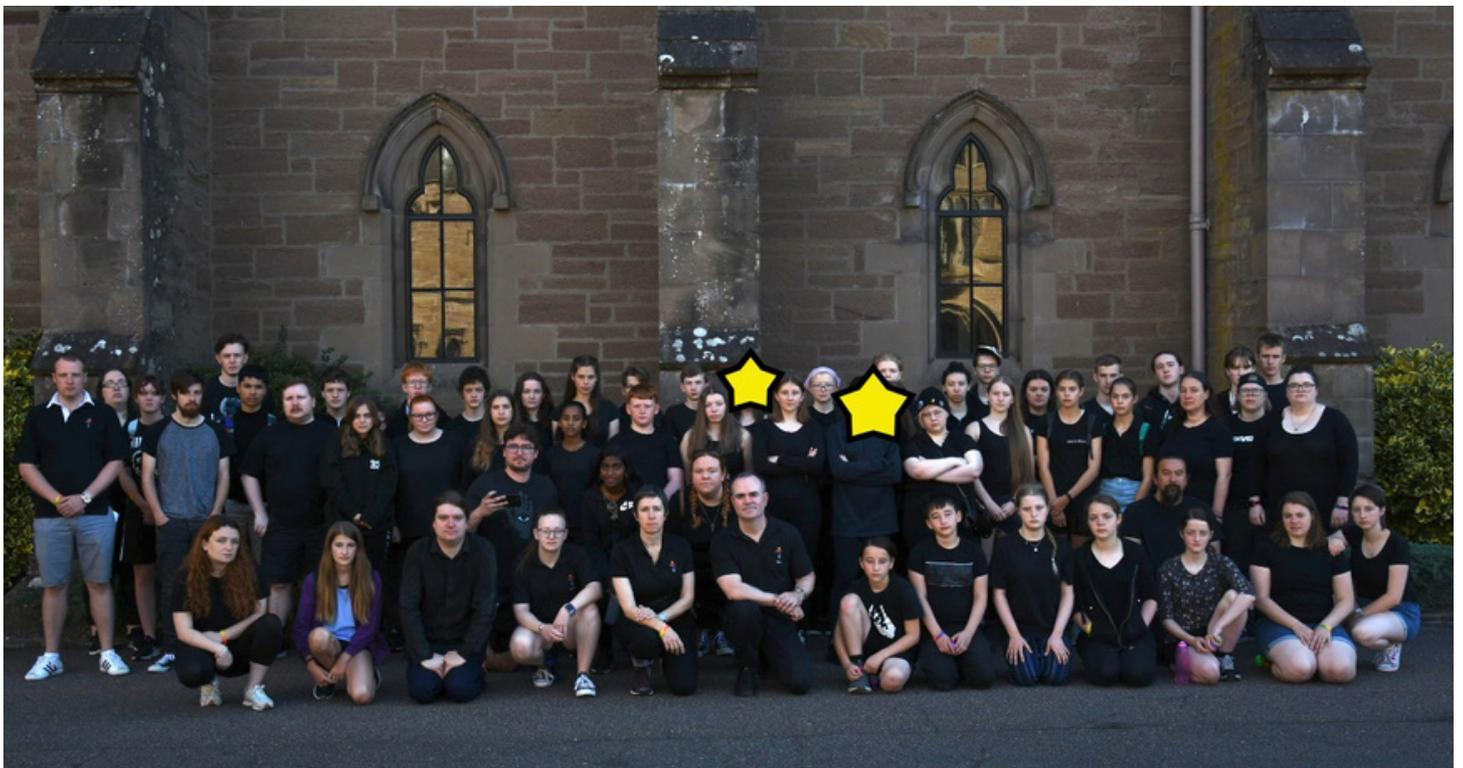
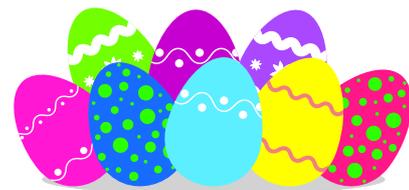
Wednesday was a different kind of day at camp, featuring a Lenten journey in the form of a super-size board game (see p12). In the evening we went on a walk together which took us from Ash Wednesday (above) through dramatic scenes of Christ's temptations in the wilderness (right) and up to the outdoor classroom at Glenalmond (below). As night fell, we sat around the camp fire and held our Easter vigil, celebrating the return of the light.





# EASTER

**He is risen! Alleluia!** By Easter Day, our Christmas tree, which had been stripped of its branches and shaped into a cross the day before, blossomed with colourful paper flowers (*left*). We celebrated Easter together and even held an Easter egg hunt! In our house groups we reflected on mob mentality and the forces that worked against Jesus. We read Luke's account of the Resurrection together, wondering about this sudden moment of huge change for Jesus' friends, and for humanity.



We all wore black to support **Thursdays in Black**, the World Council of Churches' campaign which calls for an end to rape and gender-based violence, and stands in solidarity with victims.



# PENTECOST

*(Above) Tongues of flame (safely represented by electric tea lights!) alight on the disciples' heads in this house group's worship. (Below) The whole camp went on a Pentecost Prayer Walk around the Glengalmond site, wondering about the things we could see, hear and feel, including the hot sun and the wind.*

Friday was Pentecost, celebrated in style by this house group's worship which featured a dramatic presentation of the story *(above)*, plus a Pentecost pilgrimage following a delegate's wheelchair which had been decorated as Elijah's fiery chariot! We talked about the birthday of the Church and discussed inspiration, thinking about who or what inspires us and the difference that they make. We talked about transformation, and how we see the Holy Spirit at work in today's world.





## ORDINARY TIME

*The final worship of Yeek 22, led by the oldest house group (above); one house group planted cress seeds as a reminder of this "growing time", and a week later, this harvest (below) formed part of a delicious egg sandwich!*



Saturday brought us to Ordinary Time, that great long stretch of time over the summer and autumn. In our house groups we talked about returning to everyday life, the normality of home and school after the Youth Week. We wondered how "ordinary" it really is, and thought about how we can keep close to God during this time. We reflected on what gifts we will take with us from Yeek, what we have discovered, how we have grown and developed. We looked together at the parable of the mustard seed, and thought about Ordinary Time as the "growing time", whose colour is green. We asked delegates: "What do you need for your seeds of faith to grow?"

Saturday at the Youth Week is also a time for gathering souvenirs: delegates leave with gifts and mementos from their house group, and a photo book which everyone signs for each other.

# Activities

There is something for everyone at Yeek! Every day's timetable features two Activity slots, and delegates can choose what they would like to do. These activities can be active, creative, restful, silly, thoughtful or playful; delegates can do something they love or try something completely new!



*Christmas craft with expert use of a hot glue gun in the Art block (above); lots of racing around and strategy in Capture the Flag (right)*



*Decorating Christmas biscuits (left). Other edible activities included Peace and Cheese, which was cheese-tasting interspersed with mindfulness and meditation exercises!*



There are regular whole-camp activities at Yeek which bring everyone together. A perennial favourite is the Ceilidh (above). The Murder Mystery featured this cast (right) of suspicious characters, and our Lent challenge (below) was this snakes-and-ladders-style board game!



# Young people leading worship



At the Youth Week, young people are supported and encouraged by leaders to devise and create their own worship. It is always a joy to see their confidence grow as they are given room to create and try something new. The location, style and content of their worship is up to them: we simply gave them a one-word theme for the day.

Delegates have the experience of leading worship for their peers (*top*). This year we explored a whole range of worship, from the traditional (*right*) to the informal (*above*) with leaders cast in this drama's supporting roles.



# Different ways of praying



At the Youth Week, we encourage delegates to explore different ways of praying. This year we prayed with origami prayer stars (*above right*) and a colourful paper chain (*below*), as well as a giant Epiphany star (*p6*), the Examen mug (*p5*), a prayer walk (*p9*) and more. On the last night, we held a candlelit Eucharist (*above*). We really hope that, as delegates return to their home churches, they will be given opportunities to share some of these prayer ideas with their own congregations, and to lead different, creative kinds of worship. They have wonderful gifts to share with the wider Church!



We call our young participants "delegates" because they are sent from their home churches, and we hope they will go back there to share some of their experiences at Yeek. They meet in house groups, which are sorted by age (*right*); they come with their siblings (*inset*) and they mix with the whole camp to make new friends (*below*). We love seeing nervous newbies find new confidence and acceptance at Yeek.



## DELEGATES

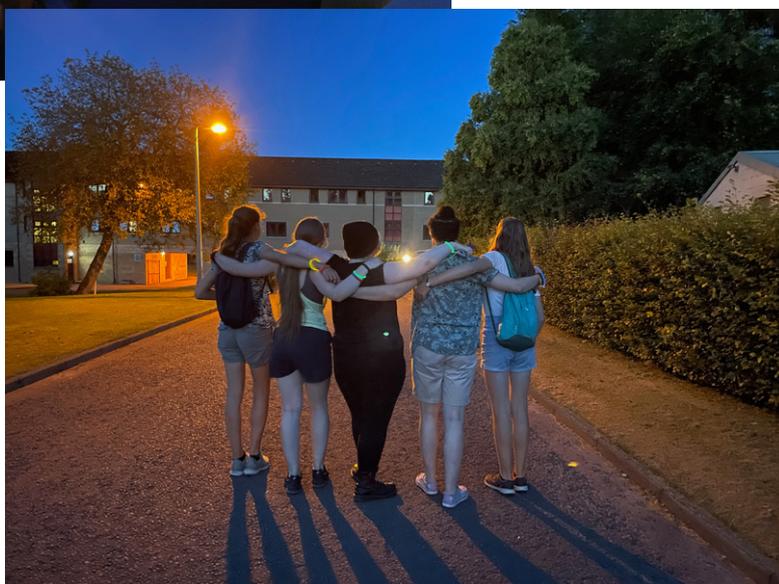


Here are some of the things that this year's delegates said about Yeek...

**"It's a place where I can be myself"**  
**"where my friends become family"**  
**"very accepting of who you are"**

This year, because of the pandemic hiatus, over half our delegates had never been to an in-person Youth Week before. So it was a particular joy to have reactions like these:

**"never been so included and accepted"**  
**"a place of joy, curiosity and acceptance"**  
**"I've found my people!"**  
**"So when's the next youth event?"**



# LEADERS



*Photos clockwise from top: the full Yeek 22 leadership team; Rev Tembu Rongong, Camp Leader; leaders in animal onesies after the disco; leaders playing a life-size board game*



Yeek would not be possible without the astonishing dedication and enthusiasm of our leadership team, most of whom volunteer for a 100+ hour week at Yeek, plus all the additional work involved in planning and preparation. Our leaders bring their unique gifts, skills and talents to the Youth Week, plus abundant creativity

and energy. Above all they are committed to sharing the Gospel with young people and creating a safe, loving community where everyone can be themselves. Of course, leaders' training covers Safeguarding and Health and Safety, but we also focus on listening skills, how to have healthy God conversations, supporting mental health and working with neurodiversity.

# So long, farewell...



All good things have to come to an end, and there were many hugs and a few tears as we all said goodbye at the end of Yeek. We held a Graduation ceremony for our leavers (*right*) who have regularly attended the Youth Week during their High School years. We now wish them every blessing as they head out into the world, and hope they will stay in touch with our active 18+ network.



**THANK YOU** to everyone who made Yeek 22 possible: first, to our wonderful delegates, who make it all worthwhile; to their parents who enable their participation and the churches who support them; to our amazing leaders, who volunteer their time and energy to make this week happen; to the Primus and GSO for their support; to Fiona Campbell, our Yeek Administrator, who visited to see what makes Yeek so special; to Bishop John and Clare Armes for joining us on Friday; to Rev Christine Fraser and her lovely dogs who visited us on Wednesday; to James Bryce, who gave us our Christmas tree; to the team at Perth Self Store; to the staff of Glenalmond College, for hosting us again this year. Thank you all.

## Spread the word...

**Please share this news about Yeek 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.**

# In other news...

## MINI-PILGRIMAGE & COMMISSIONING OF NEW CHILDREN AND YOUTH OFFICER FOR BRECHIN DIOCESE

*From the Brechin Bulletin:* In August, a mini-pilgrimage (with ice cream) and a special Commissioning service at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, marked the start of ministry for the new Diocesan Children and Youth Officer, Claire Benton-Evans.



The weather was warm and the ice cream from Janetta's was cold as the pilgrims gathered in Slessor Gardens. They then made their way via the V & A, up through downtown Dundee and stepped into the Cathedral. In the Cathedral, Bishop Andrew, Provost Elizabeth and Dean Fay were the robed party to welcome the soon-to-be-hoodied new Officer into her ministry in the Diocese. Claire was ceremonially presented with a bright-red Brechin-logoed 'Children and Youth Officer' hoodie, a walking pole as she guides the Diocese on our way and a pair of pom-poms as she becomes cheerleader-in-chief for work with young people in this place. Guests at the service included a good contingent from churches around the Diocese

with many young people from St Ninian's Dundee as well as visitors from the leadership of the Provincial Youth Network from all over Scotland. Creative prayers gave a flavour of the annual Provincial Youth Week. An excellent beginning!!



*Anti-clockwise from top: cheering on youth & children's ministry with Diocesan pom poms; the official hoodie; Provincial Youth leaders gathered in support, with Bishop Andrew. With thanks to Mary Swift for the photos.*

# In other news...

## CHRISTIAN AID'S PROPHETIC ACTIVISTS

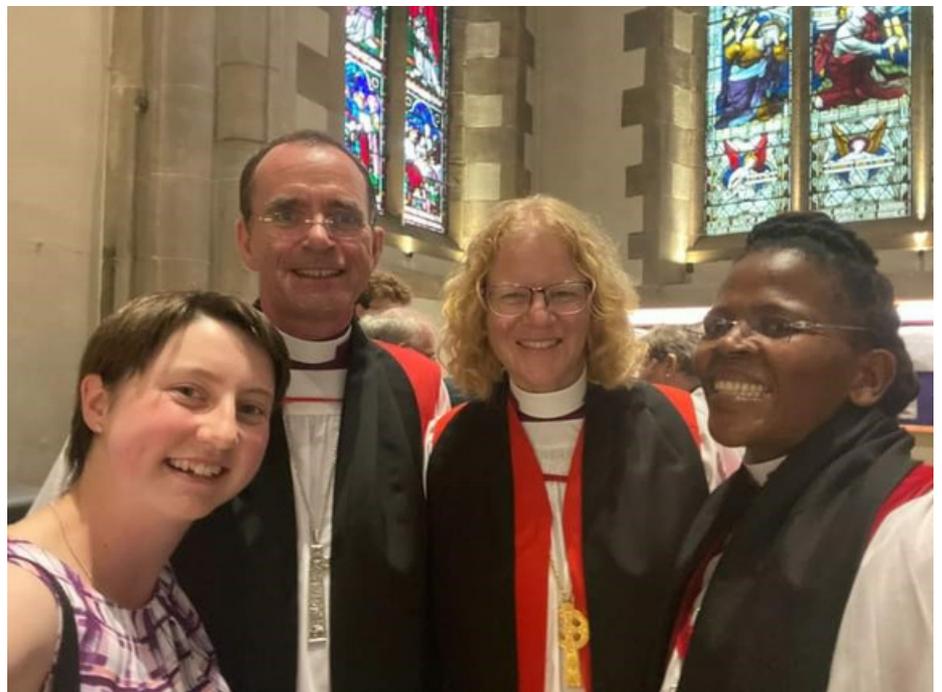


Christian Aid is once again looking for keen volunteers for its exciting Prophetic Activist Scheme. This is a 6-month scheme to inspire, engage and equip young adult (18-30 year-old) Christians in campaigning and activism for climate justice. PAS supports young adults to influence churches across the UK to take action towards the climate justice movement, following the Biblical call to do justice (Micah 6:8).

The scheme will run from September 2022 to March 2023: [apply now!](#)

## TRIPLE BISHOP BAGGING!

A few years ago, the PYC ran a "Bishop Bagging" competition for young people to take a selfie with every bishop in the SEC. In an audacious move, Mia Shanks, youth rep for Brechin Diocese, recently bagged bishops from three continents at once! Pictured here with Bishop Andrew of Brechin, Bishop Betsey of Iowa and Bishop Dalcy of Swaziland.



**IF YOU HAVE NEWS** about youth ministry in your church or diocese, please share it here! Send it to the Provincial Youth Coordinator.

This newsletter has been produced by the Provincial Youth Coordinator, Claire Benton-Evans. Contact: [ClaireBE@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:ClaireBE@scotland.anglican.org)