

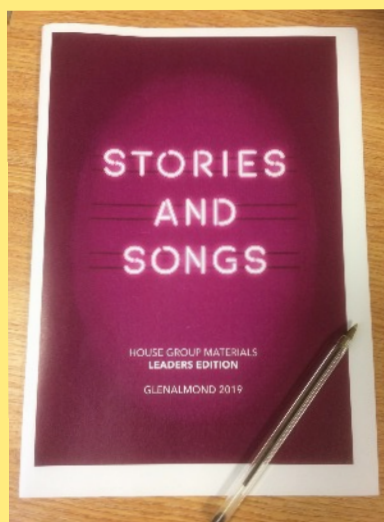
PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK GLEN 2019



NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH COMMITTEE



Our theme at the Provincial Youth Week this year was 'Stories and Songs'...



THIS EDITION

- GLEN '19 - the week in words and pictures
- WORSHIP - young people together with God
- TEACHING - the house group experience
- ACTIVITIES - all the fun and games
- YOUTH PARTICIPATION - leading worship and engaging with the wider world
- DREAM BIG - a challenge from our delegates
- Beyond Glen - News of PYC events through the year

Provincial Youth Committee Enabler: Claire Benton-Evans

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WORSHIP

Here are some opening words to delegates' parents from Camp Leader, Rev Tembu Rongong:

“Every year I have the honour and joy of joining with delegates and leaders from around the whole of Scotland as they gather at Glenalmond. I don't remember a camp with so many first time delegates as this year - which is great! I trust and pray that this experience is as special for your young person/people as they have been for returning delegates and indeed most of our leaders who come back year after year.

Glen 19 is about enjoying stories and songs and hearing the story of Jesus as a young person, rather than his ministry. How did his early experiences shape him? What choices did his family make that had repercussions throughout his life? God did not zap onto earth

fully formed at age 30. God chose to live as one of us, amongst us, and learn what it was to be human the hard way – by living it.

How can our church be different by listening to young people's voices? What have they to say that is distinctive? What role do we have for them, as sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow children of God?

Glen is meant to be an exciting, memorable, fun-filled and nurturing week that many look forward to all year, but we don't want to leave it at that. The Provincial Youth Committee look to support and encourage and equip young people to take part in our church, in this week and throughout the year.

Please continue to remember us all in your prayers, delegates and leaders, as we walk with God this week, sharing our stories and singing many songs.”

Worship brings us together at Glen. The first thing we do together on arrival is gather to share the Eucharist in the College chapel (above). During the week, leaders and delegates share in 25 separate acts of worship, including Morning and Night Prayer, daily 8am Eucharist (optional, but well attended!) and worship led by delegates in their house groups.

We assemble the Glen cross (see next page) which is made up of seven diocesan crosses and a 'world cross', to show that “though we are many, we are one body...”

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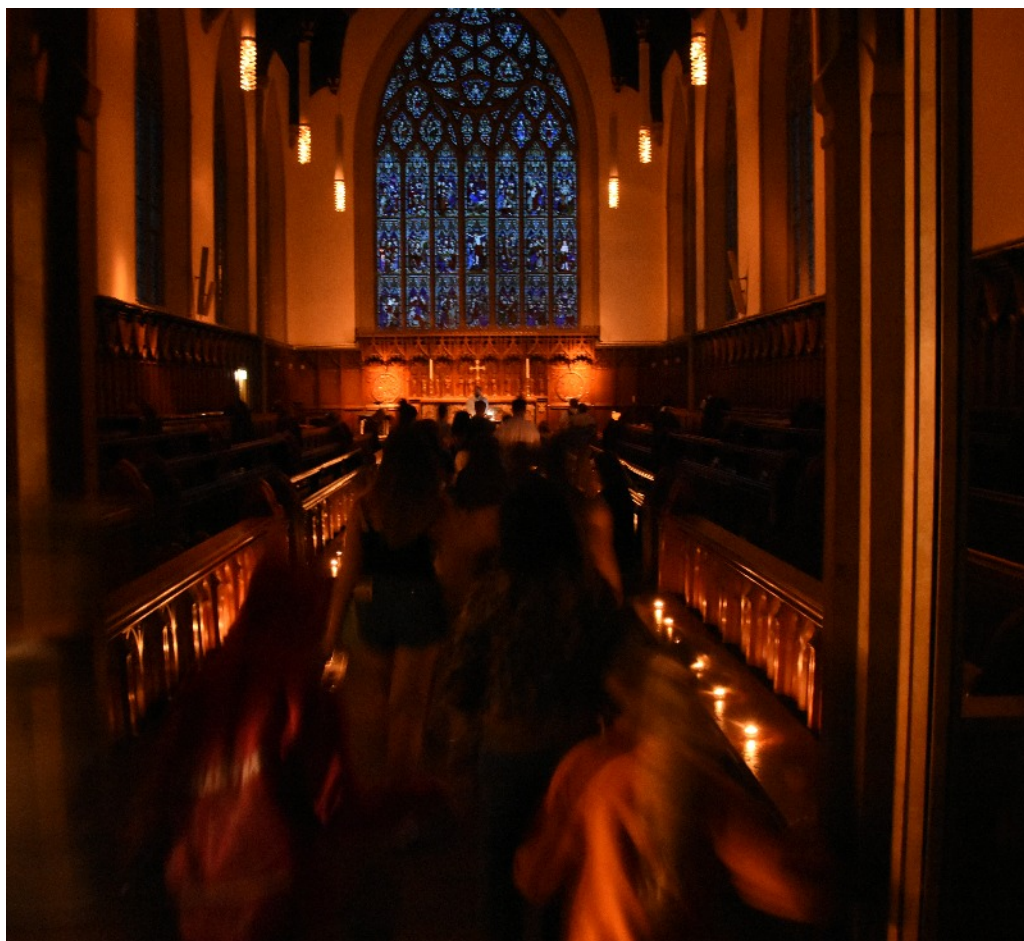
And some words of welcome for Delegates from the Primus:

I am delighted that you have all come together at Glenalmond for this year's camp. I hear that the theme you are looking at is Stories and Songs, a theme that I know I would enjoy exploring.

To explore and think about Jesus's life before his ministry begins is to explore what it is to be family, his flight into refugee status, the conversations with the elders of his faith and the moment when he decides to take up his ministry.

A young person fully engaged with God and those of faith around him, just as I hope you will be in the coming week. A group who explores the family of faith that is our church and who seek ways to engage with the issues that face the world around us. Take care for your leaders who give so much of their time to you and above all enjoy every minute.

Blessings,
Primus Mark



On the last night we gather for a candlelit service of Holy Communion. Sometimes this is outside under the stars, with swallows and bats darting around us; this year's rainstorm sent us into the beautiful chapel.



The Glen cross, made up of seven diocesan crosses.

Why 'Delegates'?

We always refer to those who attend Glen camps as 'Delegates', never children, kids, youth, or youngsters. We want to respect and accept each one as valued members of the church today, not just the future church. This event is theirs, and they are the delegates at their Province's annual event.

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STORIES AND SONGS

House group sessions combine Bible study, discussion, prayer and creative ways of exploring what the Gospel means for our everyday lives. Delegates are grouped by age, and all house groups follow the same materials. These are written afresh each year by experienced leaders: they are the basis of faith formation and discipleship at Glen.

Each day follows a related theme: this year we focused on Jesus' own life story. In *The Story of Longing* we set the stage for a week of looking at the story of Jesus as a human being - specifically his life as a young person - and in this how God answers human need, transforms the world and changes the course of history.

In *A World That Looks Different* we explored how God's Incarnation wasn't very conventional - not 'normal' - and thought about what this might mean for us and the world in which we live. When we explored Jesus' escape to Egypt, it led us into some challenging reflections on *Refugees, Strangers & Outsiders*. We wondered who the 'outsiders' are for us and our churches, and how we can bring them inside our circle.

HOUSE GROUPS



DAILY THEME

Sunday
Monday

The Story of Longing (Psalm 44:23-26)
The Story of an Unconventional Family (Matthew 1:18-25)
A World That Looks Different (Matthew 5:43-48)

Tuesday

The Flight to Egypt (Matthew 2:11-18 and 19-23)
Refugees, Strangers & Outsiders...



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HOUSE GROUPS



- Thursday Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)
The Voices of Young People (Jeremiah 1:6-10)
- Friday Jesus' Baptism (Mathew 3:13-17)
Thinking About Choices
- Saturday Living Our Best Life: The Story of Our Lives in God
(1 Timothy 4:12)

DAILY THEME



“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

Wednesday is always a bit different at Glen: this year house groups followed a ‘choose your own adventure’ trail which led them across the campus and involved many creative challenges (and a dog).

On Thursday we looked at twelve-year-old *Jesus in the Temple*, when he asserted his independence and displayed an impressive amount of knowledge and wisdom. We thought about the prophet Jeremiah, who protested to God “I am only a youth!” (and was very definitely put right by God). We had passionate discussions about how young people have something important to say, which the world needs to hear, and how they can sometimes be silenced.

We thought about *Jesus' Baptism* and the choice he made to be baptised. Delegates had a safe space to talk about their own choices - good, bad, easy and hard - and how their faith informs the decisions they make.

Finally, in our last session we reviewed the week at Glen: highlights of the week, things that made us smile, times we felt close to God. We thought about how we can support each other to live our best lives as we leave Glen, and took these words away with us (1 Timothy 4:12).

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WHOLE CAMP ACTIVITIES



Sunday night's activity is an important icebreaker, especially this year as one third of our delegates were newcomers. This calls for lots of activity, organised silliness and laughter! In keeping with our theme of 'Stories and Songs', Sunday night was our 'Epic Evening', when delegates were challenged to improvise an epic tale...

Groups chose from a colourful selection of props and costumes and wove these into their storytelling. There were heroes, villains, sidekicks, magical objects, twists and treasure. There were even 'wild card' objects to add that little extra something to the epics.



By the end of the evening, delegates of all ages had mixed together, learnt something of each other's hidden talents and - most importantly - laughed together. There were prizes all round, including the Harry Potter Prize for Best Storyline, and a bag of Rowntrees Randoms for the group with the most imaginative ideas.

Time for Night Prayer and bed before finding out what treats the rest of the week had in store...

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DANCING KINGS AND QUEENS



*(Above) The Ceilidh with the Gallavinters Ceilidh band, who have played for the Provincial Youth Week since it began in 1996!
(Right and below) Fun at the disco...*



The ever-popular Ceilidh on Monday night was fast, sweaty and enormous fun: as new delegates discover every year, it's nothing like Social Dancing at school! This was exceeded in sweatiness by the disco on Thursday night, which featured a "celebrity" DJ, guest appearances by "VIPs" and cool chill-out space with books and board games. Plus a photo booth for friends!

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MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT



Tuesday night is always Murder Mystery Night, featuring a strange selection of heavily disguised leaders as a line-up of suspicious characters. Each one is quizzed by the delegates, then the suspects are accused in rhyme. Then the murderer is finally revealed (also in rhyme!) It's a great opportunity for delegates with deductive reasoning skills or literary flair...

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FRIDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

Friday night offers a chance for delegates to share their gifts, talents and anything that they enjoy, be it a lifelong interest or a new skill they've learnt during the week. This is not a competitive talent show: it's a joyous celebration of our variety and our capacity for delight.



The Sessions are hosted by the oldest house group (*above*) and this year were inspired by chat shows, with their mix of sofa chat (*left*) and live performance (*a display by those who had participated in the sword fighting workshop, below*) We enjoyed comedy, music, original song-writing, improvised storytelling and more!



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One of the biggest privileges of being a Glen leader is joining in worship that is created and led entirely by young people.

This year was my 6th year at Glen, and once again I was blown away by the imagination, thoughtfulness and profound faith that our delegates display in their worship. Each house group takes its turn to lead worship based on that day's theme, in whatever part of the school campus works best for them. Gospel storytelling involved drama, songs and bucket baptisms; creative prayer activities included paper chains of people, written prayers placed on a world map, pebbles from the river's edge placed in prayer cairns, and origami prayers.

At Glen, delegate-led worship is exactly that: leaders support, advise and resource the delegates as needed, but the worship they create is entirely theirs. It's always instructive to learn how they interpret the Gospel and to pray the prayers they lead. I am often struck by how well-versed our young people are in the structures of liturgy: they create recognizable Services of the Word, but with a vibrancy, passion and playfulness that the wider church could learn from.

Why not invite young people to lead worship in your church?

YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING WORSHIP



Monday worship (*below*) Thinking about Jesus' unconventional family, and our membership of the family of God.

Friday worship (*above*) Down by the river, thinking about Jesus' Baptism (and getting wet in the process!)



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SONGS

Music plays an important part in delegate-led worship. Some choose traditional hymns ('Be Thou My Vision') while others repurpose favourite pop songs and themes from musicals. It's always worth paying attention to the music young people love: what is it saying to them? What feelings is it voicing that perhaps they cannot find words for themselves?

Here are some words that caught my eye this year:
"My heart was broken
You saw it,
You claimed it
You touched it,
You saved it
My tears are drying, my
tears are drying
Thank you Thank you Thank
you Thank you..."
(*'Sunshine on Leith'*)

"I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be,
this is me"
(*'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman*)

These words remind me of the struggles so many of our young people face, particularly with pressures of school and mental health problems. Every year delegates tell us that "Glen is a place where I can be myself" - what a wonderful gift to give them!



Wednesday worship (*above*) A confident line-up of delegates leads the whole camp in thinking about how we treat refugees, strangers and outsiders, and how we love each other.

Thursday worship (*below*) Praying for people all over the world. Delegates always choose the location for their worship: this was in the main quad outside the library, while Wednesday's worship was in the theatre.



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FRESH AIR AND FUN



Above: outdoor sculpture using natural materials, Capture the Flag and eco-raft building
Below: sword fighting (safely!) with style and stage fighting

A CHOICE OF
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



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CREATIVITY & CHILLING

(Clockwise from below) Campfire, songs and smores; karaoke; hand-making chocolates and sweets; storytime Spa session



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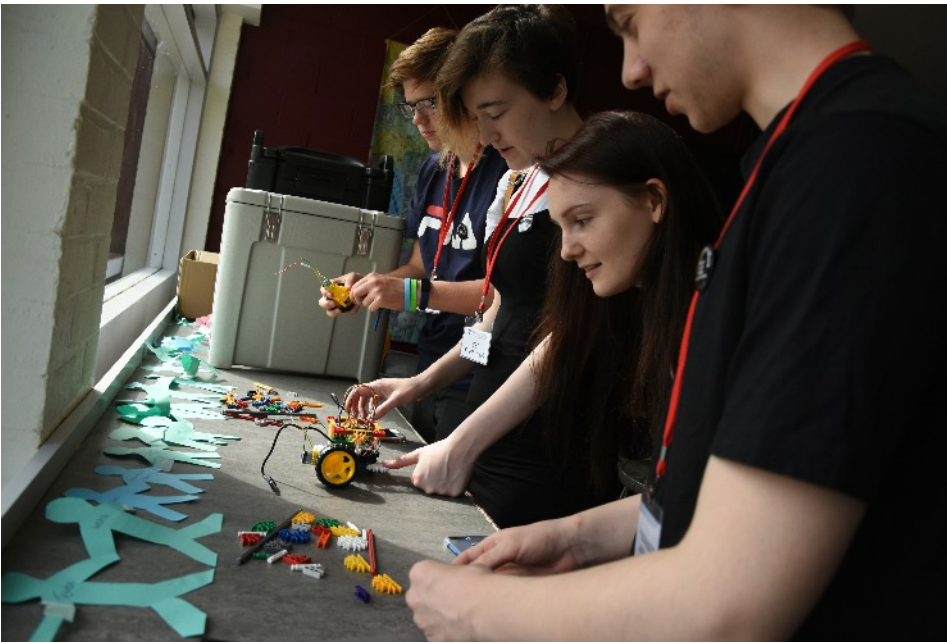
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MORE CREATIVITY...

There's something for everyone at Glen...

This activity (*left*) gave delegates the chance to design and build their own moving robots!



Creative Bible Journaling (*right*) with Rev Jane MacLaren introduced delegates to wonderfully visual, creative ways of engaging with scripture - an opportunity to “read with their senses.”

You can read Jane's reflection on this activity [here](#) and learn more about Bible Journaling [here](#).



We have a lot of musical talent at Glen! This ukulele group brought together beginners and aficionados in the beautiful Music Room at Glenalmond.

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BEING THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD



The People's Panel (below) explored ways in which we individuals and organisations can change the world for the better. Joe Brewer-Lennon spoke about nursing in the NHS and LGBT rights; Jane Strange spoke about education; Rev Tembu Rongong and Canon Christine Fraser spoke about the Church and how it engages with young people and the wider world.

Thursdays in Black (*above*)

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church supports this campaign developed by the World Council of Churches, and this year the delegates and leaders at the SEC Youth Week joined in. We all wore black on Thursday to call for an end to rape and gender-based violence in the world. The Thursdays in Black campaign grew out of women's protests in South Africa, Argentina, Israel and Palestine, Rwanda and Bosnia. Our young people joined together to show their respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and abuse, and to call for an end to sexual violence.



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SPEAKING OUT



(Above) Many of our young people are strongly pro-Europe...

(Below) Some of the contributions to the 'Dream Big' suggestions box. These will be discussed by the Provincial Youth Committee and will give the Youth Convener, youth officers and the PYC Enabler much food for thought. Watch this space for further developments...



#CHALLENGE EVERYTHING

Delegates had many opportunities to express themselves and make their thoughts and feelings known. The 'Dream Big' activity encouraged them to ask questions, make suggestions, and share their ideas. We asked them:

What are your hopes and dreams for the church and the world?

What would you like your congregation or minister to know?

What would you like to say to our Bishops?

What do you want to see young people doing in the church?

What do you want to see the church doing in the world?



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A POST-GLEN GATHERING...

THANK YOU

The Provincial Youth Week could not happen without the support and hard work of many people, so everyone involved would like to say THANK YOU!

- To the SEC and the GSO for financial and prayerful support
- To Vestries who contribute to the cost of sending delegates
- To parents who send their young people and go the extra mile for them
- To Marion our tireless Glen administrator at GSO
- To the staff at Glenalmond who accommodate us and cater for us
- To the amazing Leadership Team who volunteer many hours and days of their time to make the Provincial Youth Week happen
- To our awesome, inspiring, unique delegates, who make every effort worthwhile
- To everyone who prays for Glen each year - we feel upheld by your prayers!



THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH COMMITTEE AND THE DIOCESE OF ST ANDREW'S DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE PRESENTS:



FRUITS OF THE HARVEST

Saturday 7th-
Sunday 8th September 2019
15:00-11:30

ST PETER'S KIRKCALDY
TOWNSEND PL, KIRKCALDY
KY1 1HB

Consent forms to be sent to
28a Balhousie Street
Perth
PH1 5HJ

For More Information contact James Gardner
Diocesan Children and Youth Officer
Youthandchildren@standrews.anglican.org

A Provincial youth sleepover event for S1-S6 was recently hosted by the Diocese of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Thank you to St Peter's Kirkcaldy for welcoming us! See the Facebook pages above for photos of the event.

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COMING SOON...



**ColourFest
Sleepover**

For Pisky youth (S1-S6) and friends

2-3 ST JOHN'S
PRINCES STREET,
NOV EDINBURGH EH2 4BJ
2019 DRESS: ONE COLOUR
OR MULTI-COLOURED

Contact Claire: youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org

The ColourFest Sleepover in Edinburgh will involve an amazing opportunity to help design a new mural for outside St John's Princes St. The mural artist has agreed to work with our young people on designing a mural that expresses what they feel strongly about and want to say to the world. It could be a challenge, a plea, a protest – whatever they decide. It will feature the PYC logo and everyone who contributes to the mural will officially become one of the 'Artists for Justice and Peace'! Greg the artist will be running a mural workshop at the sleepover and everyone can contribute to the design if they wish. There will be an opportunity for up to 10 volunteers to help Greg with the actual painting over the two following Saturdays.

Find details and consent forms [here](#). Please can everyone who comes bring along an image (in hard copy) that represents something they feel strongly about. These will form the basis of the mural design process. For more information contact Claire Benton-Evans at youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org

MURALS AT ST JOHN'S

Since they began in 1982, these bold murals have become famous for challenging church, society and the wider world. They have often been controversial. The murals are agreed with the church and painted every two weeks by 'Artists for Justice and Peace'. You can find pictures of previous murals on their [Facebook page](#).

CONTACTS

You can contact the Provincial Youth Committee throughout the year.

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