

WORSHIP SERVICES

Celebrating our Volunteers

During the Year of Young People 2018 it would be great to recognise the impact of teachers, children and youth workers and other supporting adults, on young people's lives. In many congregations a lot of work is done by volunteers, particularly regarding ministry with children and young people. During the Year of Young People, we would love every congregation to say a special 'Thank you' to those who have shaped us and those who invest in our children and young people and are helping them reach their full potential.

We suggest that each church uses, at least part of a service, to recognise and appreciate the contribution of volunteers, in the ministry of your church, with children and young people. (This could happen in June as the first week of June is National Volunteer Week.)

Ideas to include in a YOYP 2018 Volunteer Service

Children and Young People in your church can be actively engaged in the development and delivery for a service and the activities afterwards.

Suggested Reading:

Ephesians 4: 11-1: So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

'The simple fact is this: we can't do what we do without volunteers. Whether you need two or fifty, you need to be wise in how you recruit them and care for them'.

Ivy Beckwith - author of *Formational Children's Ministry*

Suggested Songs:

- CH4 175 Praise, I will praise you Lord. Serve I will serve you
- CH4 533 Will you come and follow me
- CH4 694 Brother, sister, let me serve you
- CH4 801 Ubi caritas et amor

Church Promises for their Volunteers:

- We celebrate and thank you for your ministry with our children and young people
- We will pray for you and support you
- We will support you by providing training and retreat opportunities
- We will resource and equip you in your ministry

Celebrating our Volunteers:

- Show a Powerpoint or short video of what has been done in the youth and children's groups during the year
- Show photos or videos of all the volunteers
- Share stories and examples of what volunteers have done
- Thanks, from the children/young people that the volunteers work with. This could be shared in a number of creative ways
- Calculate the approximate number of hours people volunteer within your church

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Thanking our Volunteers:

Below is something that could be read out as you thank your volunteers:

To be a volunteer, it takes...

- Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others
- Empathy, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and walk together
- Patience, because your ministry will have its ups and downs
- Compassion, to truly care about making a difference to someone else
- Dedication, to stick with the work and see it through

You've shown these qualities and so much more, so thank you for all that you do.

- In recognition and to mark what they have contributed, a Volunteer Appreciation Certificate can be presented during the service. (**Volunteer Certificate Templates** can be downloaded from www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp)
- A gift can be made or bought and presented during the service. This could be chosen or made by the children and young people

Dedication Prayer:

(This could be read by children with the bold response said by everyone within congregation or another one written by children and young people.)

Heavenly Father,

We are blessed to have many volunteers within (Insert your church name here.)

We give you thanks, O Lord

For the gifts given to them

We give you thanks, O Lord

For the many hours of service

We give you thanks, O Lord

For being the hands, feet and hearts of Christ in our world today

We give you thanks, O Lord

For the service of(you could name your volunteers and committees here)

We give you thanks, O Lord

May we recognise everyone and their gifts, time and talents. Make us one in the body of Christ.

We dedicate our lives to your service

In Jesus name

Amen

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After the service:

- Let the children and young people plan and serve special refreshments after the service (eg include donuts! - we 'donut' know what we would do without you!)
- Use poems and quotes about volunteers within the service or on cards on tables

Share your Stories

Who are the 'Saints' who have invested in, prayed for and supported you and your young people?

Have you got young people volunteering and serving their church and community?

✉ YOYP@churchofscotland.org.uk



'I am so grateful to people in my church for believing in me, giving me time and showing me God's love'