



The Church of Scotland

COMMUNITY OF
FAITH
CONFERENCE

Edinburgh - 29th October 2016

for Churches with Few Children

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn

Conference Handbook

HEAR, O ISRAEL:

THE LORD IS OUR GOD,

THE LORD ALONE. YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD

YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,

AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,

AND WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

KEEP THESE WORDS THAT I AM COMMANDING

YOU TODAY IN YOUR HEART.

RECITE THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TALK ABOUT

THEM WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME

AND WHEN YOU ARE AWAY, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN

AND WHEN YOU RISE. BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON

YOUR HAND, FIX THEM AS AN EMBLEM ON

YOUR FOREHEAD, AND WRITE THEM ON

THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE

AND ON YOUR GATES.



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Welcome Note

Welcome to the Community of Faith Conference.

We are delighted to have you join us today to explore and think creatively about our ministry with children and young people.

Many churches today have few or no children and young people attending on a Sunday morning and can often feel a bit discouraged. This conference is designed specifically to resource people in those situations by helping you think about how to connect with children, young people and families in new or different ways. Through our keynote and workshops we will explore opportunities and ways of reaching and discipling young people in our churches and local communities.

This handbook has the programme and information that you need for the conference as well as further information from the Mission and Discipleship Council. If you have come as part of a group, we recommend that you try to attend different workshops to explore the different topics. Do also make the most of opportunities to talk with and learn from one another throughout the day.

We hope and pray that this conference builds you up and encourages you as you serve in the life of your church and local community.

The Learn Team

Mission and Discipleship Council



Conference Programme

Time	Session	Location
9.30am	Registration Refreshments served	Welcome Area
10am	Welcome Worship	Main Sanctuary
10.30am	Keynote	Main Sanctuary
11.15am	Workshops 1	Various Rooms
12.15pm	Lunch	Main Hall
1.15pm	Workshops 2	Various Rooms
2.15pm	Workshops 3	Various Rooms
3.15pm	Closing Session and Worship	Main Sanctuary
4pm	Depart	



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Keynote

Suzi Farrant



Suzi has worked for the Mission & Discipleship Council since April 2012. Now the Young People and Young Adult's Development Worker she has over 20 years' experience of ministry with children and young people (she started young!) in places as diverse as London, Southampton, Brazil, Taiwan, Glasgow, Linlithgow and Dunfermline. She has been living and working in Scotland since arriving in September 2003 to study for a degree in Youth Work with Applied Theology. Passionate about fully including all ages within the life of the church she loves hearing stories of what people are doing and exploring new ways of reaching children and young people.



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Workshops

Workshop 1:
11:15am


Exploring the Bible	Lounge
The First Five Steps: how to start connecting with your community	Red Room
Answering Young People's Questions	Small Hall
Engaging with Schools	Sanctuary
Strategy: programmes and resources to fit?	Welcome Area


Workshop 2:
1.15pm


Not just a Holiday Club	Small Hall
Engaging with Schools	Sanctuary
Messy Church— Engaging Families in a new way of being Church	Main Hall
Building Community with Young People	Welcome Area
"How to fail at youth ministry in ten easy steps"	Red Room


Workshop 3:
2.15pm


The First Five Steps: how to start connecting with your community	Red Room
Not just a Holiday Club	Small Hall
Messy Church—Engaging Families in a new way of being Church	Main Hall
Spiritual Styles	Sanctuary
Building Community with Young People	Welcome Area

Title	Exploring the Bible (going beyond Noah's Ark) (x1)	Lounge
Speaker	Gavin Thomson has worked for SU Scotland and associated trusts for the last 14 years, now working in West Lothian and Falkirk. He is married to Joanna and they have three children between the ages of 8 and 2.	
Blurb	Do we want to tell children Bible stories – or do we want to explore what the Bible has to say alongside children? This seminar will think about ways to get into the Bible with children, to be challenged and changed, not just a Sunday school story.	

Title	The first five steps: how to start connecting with your community (x2)	Red Room
Speaker	Charlie Morris is an Aussie who now calls Scotland home, who loves his coffee, who has almost 30 years of paid and voluntary youth work experience, and spends the rest of his time leading Urban Saints in Scotland, an organisation committed to helping churches deliver great youth and children's work.	
Blurb	You have a passion and desire to see more children and young people in your church, but still are not sure where to start or what to do first. In this workshop we will creatively explore the first five steps you should take, why the order is important, and the significant role coffee will play in each step!	

Title	Answering Young People's Questions (x1)	Small Hall
Speaker	Cara Wightman is the senior development worker for Cathcart Youth Ministry Partnership (CYMP). CYMP is a charity set up in 2007 by three local churches to provide children and youth work. Cara is married to Mark and they have a daughter .	
Blurb	What do you do when your children or young people ask hard questions about God and faith? Panic? Fake a sneezing fit? Refer them to the minister? Believe it or not, the faith questions that bother people (of all ages) have all been asked many times, and sensible answers have been formulated by people much wiser than us! I will try to point you to these sources, in the Bible and elsewhere, but more importantly, we will explore together the importance of our own walk with God in equipping us with the wisdom and confidence to face the hardest and most personal questions of all.	

Title	Engaging with Schools (x2)	Sanctuary
Speaker	Steve Younger is the Baptist Minister at High Blantyre where he is now in his 30th year of ministry. He has been involved in School Chaplaincy for longer than that (Primary, Secondary, ASN, and ASD). He is currently studying for a PhD in Religious Observance and Spiritual Development.	
Blurb	Schools "the most significant single point of contact between the Church and the young". (J Caperon A Vital Ministry: Chaplaincy in Schools). This seminar explores how Church and School can work in partnership to fulfil the capacities of Scotland's 'Curriculum for Excellence' and provide meaningful assemblies and religious observance.	

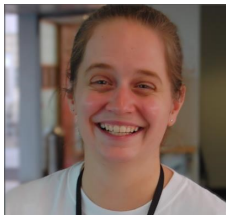
Title	Strategy: programmes and resources to fit? (x1)	Welcome Area
Speaker	Paula Morton works as part of the Urban Saints Scotland team, working with churches helping leaders to deliver great youth & children’s work. Not only can Paula be found running messy challenges at holiday clubs & camps, she also runs a flower business with her Mum.	
Blurb	A session for those seeking appropriate resources and ideas and help adapting them for effective use within your context and strategy. What resources are available for youth and children’s work and how do I choose the right ones for my context? How do I adapt these resources to fit my group? This will be a practical, participatory session that aims to address these questions and will use as its base the “Energize” material from Urban Saints.	

Title	Not just a Holiday Club (x2)	Small Hall
Speaker	Cara Wightman —see above	
Blurb	A Holiday Club is a great mission opportunity and offers an exciting time for team members of all ages and stages to grow in faith, fellowship and service! But what about the other 51 weeks (98%) of the year? Surely there is more to do than simply recover from the last one and get ready for next year? We don’t have all the answers but in this workshop we’ll explore together some suggestions for keeping the momentum going in your community all year round, and making sure your helper team keeps growing.	

Title	Messy Church- engaging families in a new way of being church (x2)	Main Hall
Speaker	Shuna Dicks has been Parish Minister at Aberlour Parish Church for almost 7 years. . Messy Church has been part of the life of the parish for over 5 years, becoming a third congregation and regularly sees upwards of 30 people at monthly gatherings – most of whom are not ‘Sunday’ worshippers.	
Blurb	We will look at how a Messy Church session runs, how we attract people to come along etc. This will be a very hands on session and there may be some mess! A variety of resources will be available for participants to look at as well as time for some questions.	

Title	Building Community with Young People (x2)	Welcome Area
Speaker	Paula Morton —see above	
Blurb	How many ‘likes’ did my post get on Facebook? Did anyone retweet me? Today relationships are built on more fleeting acquaintances – a ‘like’ on FB or an instant friend request. How can we build Community where the church is the family of God, caring for the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of one another. As the family of God how do we spiritually nurture and engage with our young people? Does this responsibility extend beyond the church walls? We will explore how we might nurture and disciple our young people within our church family and extend this to welcome those in our parish into the church family.	

Title	How to fail at youth ministry in ten easy steps (x1)	Red Room
Speaker	Charlie Morris —see above	
Blurb	Will draw on regular mistakes that I, and others, have made over many years of youth work! This will challenge our thinking of and help avoid making the same mistakes.	

Title	Spiritual Styles (x1)	Sanctuary
Speaker	Suzi Farrant has worked for the Mission & Discipleship Council since April 2012. Now the Young People and Young Adult's Development Worker she has over 20 years' experience of ministry with children and young people	
Blurb	In what ways do you connect with God? For some people, the words of a hymn or prayer might draw them near, while others might see God in the beauty of nature. Some people get close to God by raising funds for charity, while others might find God in dance or drama. In this seminar, we explore four distinct styles in which people encounter God, how these develop as we grow and how our own preferences impact on what we prepare for others.	



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Learn: Children and Young People (26th August 2017)

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facebook

We have set up a **Facebook Group** designed to be for those working with children, young people and young adults in the Church of Scotland, whether volunteers or paid workers, whether in local, regional or national positions. If you search for '**Now You're Talking**' on facebook you should find it easily enough or you can use this link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/588801184539545/>

The group is a place to share ideas, resources, useful articles, training opportunities & events. Please do ask questions and share your thoughts as we seek to shape the churches work with children, young people and young adults together.

Pinterest is a way of sharing ideas with others. We have set up a '**Now You're Talking**' page which has on it ideas of different resources you can use, events to go to and books to read. It is a work in progress (not an exhaustive list) so if you have any ideas you want to share please let us know.

<http://www.pinterest.com/nowyouretalking>.

Pinterest

**2018
YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE**



The Church of Scotland, along with the Scottish Government is making 2018 The Year of Young People. We are planning to increasingly listen, celebrate and engage with children and young people over the coming years with significant events and celebrations in 2018.

Do get in touch if you would like to be part of planning for this or are interested in developing ideas and engagement in your church and Presbytery. iboath-clibborn@churchofscotland.org.uk

Community of Faith Paid Workers Conference

Theme: Faith Formation

Dates: 8-10 March 2017

Cost: £130 before 31st Oct 2016

Venue: Green Hotel Golf & Leisure Resort, Kinross

For: those who are paid to work with and minister to children and young people in the church.

<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/community-faith-conference-0>



The Church of Scotland
Mission and Discipleship Council

**COMMUNITY OF
FAITH
CONFERENCE**

8-10 March
2017
for children youth and
family paid workers

Community of Faith Conference

Children and Young People Publication Launch

Date: 26th August 2017

Venue: Vine Conference Centre, Dunfermline

Early bird price: £16.50 until 30th April

Full delegate price: £20

Booking available in early 2017

All delegates receive a free copy of the Learn:
Children and Young People Publication

For: all those who work with and minister to
children and young people in the church.



General Assembly Youth Reps

Engaging young people in the decision making processes of the Kirk

Fri 19th – Fri 26th May 2017

Edinburgh

18-25 year olds

1 youth rep per presbytery

All expenses paid



National Youth Assembly

Engaging young people in the decision making processes of the Kirk

Fri 21st – Mon 24th July 2017

Gartmore House

17-25yr olds

 The Church of Scotland



cofnationalyouthassembly



@nyamoderator

The COSY guide to ethical living has been written by young adults connected to the National Youth Assembly to help others (primarily 14-30 year olds) understand the impact of decisions on current issues and everyday dilemmas. The aim of the guide is to rid any misconceptions and help readers come to ethically sound decisions. It is based around the story of Melissa, a fictional protagonist.

Available for free download <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/learn/young-adults/cosy-guide-ethical-living>

Printed copies available for £3 www.resourcingmission.org.uk/shop





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I AM CALLED



Delegates at the Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly 2013 were asked to reflect on who they are called to be, how the Church has enabled them to follow that call and what barriers exist in the Church which restrict them following their call. This document is a collation of their responses. It hopefully provides some useful points that will enable the Church to consider how it can enable its people, young and old, to follow God's call in their lives.

It can be viewed online: http://issuu.com/cofsyouth/docs/cosy_voices

It is also available for free download from the Resourcing Mission website.



INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Each year COSY offers several young adults the opportunity to travel overseas and represent the Church of Scotland by taking part in

events run by some of our partner churches. More information about the trips available and reports from previous participants can be found <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/learn/young-adults/international/application-form>.



The COSY Collective fund is a pot of money set aside for the use of young people in projects that enable them to creatively reach out to their communities. Small grants (normally up to £200) will be given to projects in local communities (not overseas) run by young people. Grants could be used for starting a new youth group, buying equipment, running a sports day event, starting a youth choir, buying resources for a bible study group, hiring transport to get to an event—the list is endless.

Any young person, involved in the Church of Scotland, aged 25 or younger can apply. Applications from individuals or groups will be accepted.

For more information and an application form please email Suzi Farrant sfarrant@churchofscotland.org.uk

FOR ALL WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD
ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.

FOR YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A
SPIRIT OF SLAVERY TO FALL BACK INTO FEAR,
BUT YOU HAVE RECEIVED A SPIRIT OF ADOPTION.

WHEN WE CRY, “ABBA! FATHER!”

IT IS THAT VERY SPIRIT BEARING WITNESS

WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE

CHILDREN OF GOD, AND IF CHILDREN,

THEN HEIRS, HEIRS OF GOD AND

JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST—

IF, IN FACT, WE SUFFER WITH HIM

SO THAT WE MAY ALSO BE GLORIFIED WITH HIM.



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	Mission and Discipleship Council	



The Church of Scotland

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Shaping our Churches
Ministry with Children
and Young People



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