

REPORT OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

The Scottish Government has designated 2018 “The Year of Young People,” and while the committee is aware of the lack of young people in the majority of our congregations, our PIED strategy, which was approved by last year’s General Assembly, encouraged congregations to commit to one or two objectives in line with the priorities of praying, innovating, enjoying and disciple-making. So far 15 out of 52 congregations have informed the committee of their objectives, and one has asked for assistance from the committee.

RESIDENTIAL EVENTS

It is encouraging to report that after a couple of years with no uptake for a secondary camp, a successful weekend was held at Ardeonaig Centre, Killin in February with 10 young people from five different congregations present. A primary camp is scheduled for May at Lendrick Muir.

SPARK

Spark youth events have been held every other month at St Ninians UF Church over the past year, drawing young people from across different congregations. Numbers have fluctuated, up to a maximum of 20. Those who attend are enjoying the programme, and cross-congregational friendships are developing.

CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We are grateful to Richard Knott for assisting congregations who are starting to put the PIED strategy into practice. He has continued to meet with ministers and congregations throughout the denomination, organised camps, and had practical involvement at children’s clubs in Bannockburn and Corstorphine, as well as keeping people informed through Stedfast articles, the regular e-newsletter and Facebook group. Outwith his Youth Committee remit, he has also been involved denominationally with the Reshaping for Mission group, the Dunblane Day planning group and the Safeguarding group.

Richard and the committee were grateful for the help of Andrew Brown up to the end of 2017, and we wish him well for his future studies.

The 3-year appointment of the Children’s and Youth Development Worker post comes to an end at the end of December, and the committee is of the view that the role should not continue beyond 2018 as a full-time post. Consequently a “risk of redundancy” notice was issued and a consultation process is being carried out by the committee and the current post-holder. The Committee is currently considering the best way to continue to support the development of ministry with children and young people beyond the end of 2018.

EASTER SCHEME

2017’s scheme for Dòchas Education Trust, a Scottish charity which works in Malawi, brought in £7,630.

The committee would like to thank the denomination for their giving to Dòchas, and also to this year’s scheme to support “Open Bible Ukraine.”

In the name of the Committee

JOHN P CROSS	Convener
NATHAN R OWENS	Vice-convener
JOHN O FULTON	Secretary