

WORSHIP SERVICES

Service to Launch the Year of Young People 2018

We would like to encourage all congregations to hold a special service to launch the Year of Young People on **Sunday 28th January 2018**. This can be an opportunity to do something a bit different and encourage children and young people to take part as much as possible, in putting together and delivering the service. This service can be held with a focus on children and young people in all churches, whether large or small, with children and young people in your midst or not.

We offer here an outline and some suggestions for this service. Other ideas for this Sunday can be drawn from:

Weekly Worship (using the Revised Common Lectionary) www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/Weekly_Worship

Spill the Beans (using the Narrative Lectionary) www.spillbeans.org.uk

Theme: One Church – One Body

Call to Prayer:

Come into His presence - all people of God

Come into His presence - just as you are

Come into His presence - to worship and share

Come into His presence - as the Family of God

(This could be said by people of different ages from different parts of the church)

Music Suggestions:

- Year of Young People song – Fishcy Music www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp This new song has been commissioned to use during the Year of Young People
- Jesus Walks Beside us in Scotland song - Fishcy Music – words chords and recording at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp
- Welcome Everybody - Fishcy Music - Great to include everyone. Don't forget the actions!
- A Place at the Table - CH4 685
- I am the Church; You are the Church - CH4 204
- Come All You People - CH4 757
- Are there songs that your young people would like to suggest that fit with the theme of the service or can be shared in a different way eg with a recorded soundtrack or with images to reflect on?

WORSHIP SERVICES

Ideas to listen to the Voice of Children and Young People:

Before the service, you may want to engage with, and listen, to your children and young people by doing the **Have Your Say** process in the Toolkit and draw into the service some thoughts and ideas from your children and young people. If you don't have any children or young people in your congregation, do think about how you might 'hear the voices' of those in local schools or groups using the church premises or grandchildren of your church members. What can they tell us?

You could also:

- Show the **Our Church video** in which children from Livingston share their thoughts about their church. www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp
- Do an interview style conversation with young people talking about their experience of faith and church. What do young people enjoy about being involved in the life of the church?
- Have conversations in small groups of different generations of the church, looking at what church means to each of them, what gifts they have and how they are involved and contributing

Scripture:

Romans 12:4-8 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The passage could be used, which explores how the Church is a Body – made of different parts working together to enrich and build up the whole. The gifts of God are talents given to individuals, not in the sense of human accomplishment, but as gifts to be exercised in the service of God. The gifts of individuals are given for the service of the community, the Church, and are to be used within it for the good of the Gospel. Each of us has gifts to offer and share – elders and lay people; young and old. The Church grows as we come together and share who we are and the characteristics and gifts we bring. What other gifts do people in your church have? What gifts can younger people offer the church?

This is a challenge for all of us to share ourselves and our gifts in our worship, involvement in the church, community and world for the common good and the well-being of the whole. During the Year of Young People we can celebrate the gifts that all members of our Body, including younger members, have.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Explore together, question together. learn together, grow together:

Is there a creative participatory way that you can explore the Romans 12:4-8 passage, without using the traditional 'talk/ sermon' method?

- Can you draw in some of the things that you may have heard in listening to the voice of young people above?
- In groups – you could expand the examples of 'gifts' and then discuss what gifts people feel they have. How can we grow and value the range of gifts we have? How would our church be different? We all have gifts, and these gifts differ one from another, but all are as important as the other! You could get small groups to discuss their gifts and write these on fruit shapes to hang on a tree
- Illustrate how your church is One Body, that includes and welcomes all ages; what are the different gifts that we can bring together? How are we 'better together'?
- Discuss things that won't work without all the parts being there -for example, a pen with the spring missing, a car with a part of the engine missing or no petrol, the TV remote control with batteries missing. It is the same with the church – how can we as a church work? Nobody is more important than anyone else and the church works better together!

Act of Commitment:

Before using these in your service, you may want to discuss and agree these Commitments with others, including children and young people and explore with them how these might be worked out through the year.

The following statements can be read out by different members of the church with an affirmation by all.

As (Name of Church ...) we commit ourselves to prioritise the needs of children and young people

- We will create a community of faith where young people are valued, listened to, and are actively involved in the life, work and mission of the church **(We will / Aye)**
- We will create worship that is meaningful and relevant to all **(We will / Aye)**
- We will provide an environment where the faith of children and young people can grow and deepen in love, respect and with confidence **(We will / Aye)**
- We will work alongside young people as equal partners, journeying together in discipleship **(We will / Aye)**
- We will seek to enable their voices to be present within our decision-making structures **(We will / Aye)**
- We will provide training for our parents , volunteers and leaders **(We will / Aye)**
- We will offer pastoral support and encouragement for our young people **(We will / Aye)**
- We believe in a church where young and old learn from each other and grow with each other **(We do / Aye)**
- We believe that every young person in Scotland, and within the Church of Scotland, matters! **(We do/ Aye)**

Following this, a **Church Charter for Children and Young People** can be developed, shared and signed.

(A template for this can be found at the back of the Toolkit or on www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp)

Intercession Ideas (prayers for children and young people in the church, community and world):

- Use the Year of Young People Prayer
- Involve children and young people in the writing and sharing of prayers
- Use prayer stations or creative ways of praying that may suit different styles

WORSHIP SERVICES

Closing Prayer:

(The response could be said holding hands as a sign of being one body)

Lord, send your blessing on us, as we start this Year of Young People,
in our church, local community, and nation.

Send us out to share a vision that takes all people, young and old, seriously.

Send us out to celebrate and share all our gifts.

Send us out to be a blessing to our community and world.

In your name we pray.

Amen



WORSHIP SERVICES

In all services throughout the year

Every service needs to recognise the presence of different ages, as well as different spiritual styles, and give opportunity for active involvement and worship. Many churches already have part or all the service where children, young people and adults worship together. This requires a creative approach to ensure the involvement and engagement of all ages in the different parts of the church service.

How might you lead the different parts of a service in a new way that includes and involves children and young people?

We involve an all age group in planning and running the service each week. This started 4 years ago with 20 people involved and now we have around 60 coming each week. We wanted to have these services planned and run by all age groups, so we have 3 teams who each plan for the services for a month at a time – so one month they are meeting to plan the services; then they lead the services and then they have a month just attending. Each team has 5 people of a range of ages from 13 to retired. When they are planning they read the Gospel passage and then discuss what stands out for them, what theme they might use and how they will share that theme and help people to reflect and engage with what the reading is about. A special effort is made to get ideas and input and involvement from younger folk and ask them what they would like to do. People are encouraged to be creative and involve everyone. Within a fluid service structure, we usually have a song, different ways of doing the reading, creative ways of praying (in silence; prayer stations etc). Occasionally we have been outside for the service; one time we plaited giant ribbons around the church as we reflected on the Trinity.

Livingston United Church

‘How can you bring young people into the life and worship of the church and encourage us in our faith?’



More ideas:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/childrenandyouth/church