

Up & Coming Team Meeting - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 24. 8pm Small Hall.

Present: Scott Burton, Peter Costello, Maggie Dick, Alie Drackford, Laura Eckles, George Mann (minutes), Judith Norton

1. Welcome and prayer Scott, quoting from 'Habits of the Household':  
'Because it is easier to raise strong children than to repair broken men and women.'
2. No apologies other than Jackie having to resign as Convenor unfortunately.
3. Minutes of last meeting were approved (7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023) and matters arising discussed

a/Summer Sunday School 2024 - can be a good taster for people to get involved. Scott already has some volunteers, though it highlights the lack of enough volunteers for children's work overall. Possibly partly due to a lack of confidence to lead groups in Sunday school for many. If gaps continue, we shall explore further ways to resolve or bring back to the Elders to ask them to get involved. SSS need another leader though 3 to 4 y/people moving up to Flaim.

b/ Feedback from Kirk Session on question was discussed:

"Given the time missed from Sunday morning services, how can Brightons best support our children/youth volunteers to be fully integrated into the worship and teaching life of the church?"

4. Ministry updates:
  - a. Sunday school, Alie - encouraging by young people answering questions knowledgably in church.  
Young adults group led by Scott and Gill starting to gel  
12<sup>th</sup> May Sunday school moving up service  
BBQ at end of May  
23<sup>rd</sup> June closing service
  - b. Girls Brigade, Maggy - regular decent number, all on a Wed night.  
Discussed controversial idea of GB capping leaders' age at 70 and questioned if this would be legal in modern world? Further questions around GB HQ decisions!  
20<sup>th</sup> March last night of GB session. 24<sup>th</sup> March for closing Sunday.  
Possible need to support GB due to external demands.  
Megan and Charlotte are keen to do leadership training but needs to be organised.  
Only 4 Brigaders but 5/6 should come up for next session hopefully.  
ACTION: Scott to liaise with GB about support and training.

- c. BB going well with full programmes for Junior and Company sections, taking part in competitions also. They have a good leaders rota in place. There is a Company section weekend away in May planned. Colin is the current link via Scot but would be good to get somebody identified to be on U&C team  
ACTION: Scott to speak with Colin

NUMBERS IN TOTAL in Brigades- about c55 boys, c45 girls.

- d. Schools work, Scott - 2 assemblies a year in Braes High School for chaplaincy team. Mike Glass the youth worker from Maddiston getting involved in the high school too.  
Wallacestone primary SU group averages around 20 children. There are also assemblies for all year groups and class visits.
- e. Youth Worker committee- Scott: contract has been drafted, looking to advertise after April. Interview in June to start after summer holidays. Much encouragement by congregation committing to give. Youth worker will resource volunteers and be in high school.  
Discussed possibility of a church-based youth group/club as well as lots of other options for future.
- f. Additional support needs group- currently led by Scott. There was a September meeting. Plan to meet on April 28<sup>th</sup> next, asking families and individuals to come and discuss their ASN needs and ideas. Looking to find common areas, what things might help a number of people rather than have individual plans for individuals.
- g. Build the Braes Minecraft led by Joh Gilmour aged 13: building things, competitions. Already built Brightons and Slamannan. Discussed possible issues with group being led by young person, whilst recognising the benefits.  
ACTION: Scott to speak with Rachel and Doug.

- 5. Relevant Kirk Session / Deacons' Court updates: Until the Union takes place the full funding won't be there for youth worker, hence the need to build up reserves from January 2024. No confirmed date for timescales of the Mission Plan yet.

Spoke about how best to share the work of Up & Coming and other teams/sub-groups. There are ideas being explore on this within Kirk Session.

Mentioned the need for all to have awareness of relevant policies like Data protection.

6. EVENTS- Out of the box again for Christmas? It was very popular, should have recouped costs. It can reach into the wider community. Anchor Boys, Explorers and their families too. Should there be tea/ coffee after?  
ACTION: Scott to speak with Out of the Box about coming back for 2025.

Explore with GB about revamping Christingle service?

7. Discussion items

a. Taking forward the strategy documents

A condensed version of the strategy documents was shared by Scott. Discussed how best to present a summary of it which could be on website. One idea would be to have an infographic leaflet. Mentioned the role of parents also. Share strategy with leaders of GB, BB, Sunday School to get their input. Strategy and role of Youth worker are intertwined. We do need a leaflet / infographic that makes it clear to share with the leaders first.

b. Widening awareness of what the Youth worker will do?

We could have a meeting open to volunteers to share both a. and b. in early May or early June – either as part, or separately from, the Sunday School Leaders' meeting.  
ACTION: Scott to ask Sunday School leaders about preference of date.

c. Next question for Kirk Session due 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Ideas to Scott by end April.

No pressure to give a question, just an opportunity.  
ACTION: U&C team to reflect on possible questions.

8. Future Items

a. Up & Coming SWOT analysis from 2023 led by Jackie – Scott to get info from Jackie.

b. Israel and Palestine trip- reflective review before too much time passed, how to take forward?

c. Charities not yet actively engaged with and needing a “champion”:

1. Tearfund- for aid relief, connects with young people.
2. Tent of Nations- From Israel trip for Palestinian Christians.

9. AOCB – none intimated ahead of meeting.

10. Next meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 7.30pm in Small Hall.

11. Time of prayer to close.