

SS Leaders meeting 4/6/24, 7.30-9.30pm

1. Opening and devotion - AD
2. Strategy overviews for our young people aged between 0-10 and 11-18 – we want to give thanks for our range of 0 to 18 young people as they are as numerous as some of the congregations within the Church of Scotland. Our youth worker work started seven years ago but the dynamics have meant it's taken ages. We have created these documents they give a strap line and then to broaden out the steps to clarify. They're in line with the biblical commands and the material is appropriate to the age and ranges for their phases of life. We thought about what they hope for and what do we hope to get for them within their capacity and understanding. We thought about what the aim is, what does that look like and then concrete indicators of how we can show that that has happened. We're sharing this with everyone so we're clear how we want to grow our young people and what message we want to share with them. What questions do you have? RG questioned language such as why positive and not Christian why positive not wise choices. This was explained that young people had helped with the wording, but these can be amended. RH what do all groups cover? We specify that there were tailored curriculums for each group. DG questioned why the church values were not present in all of the strategies, but SB clarified that they were just there it was just a language that had been used. RG question what the active membership of church would look like. SB said this was an active service such as alpha or involvement in the church not necessarily full membership. RG thinks searching for faith stage is not at 11, it's more like 15. SB specified it wasn't necessarily searching for faith it was searching for a place in the world and we're all at different stages of our faith so keeping it open. RM stated sometimes we have to go away to come back to what is true.

Youth worker job description

There are lots of great people within our church but there isn't one person who can focus on the strategy or anyone who has that capacity. This will be somebody who will enable all of us to achieve so much more within our church. They must be able to relate with both young people and adults. The job has been structured so there is not any disconnect for the role. Everyone within the church will be responsible for helping the youth worker and they have a six-month induction. It was questioned why the church values meet grow share were not used within the role description and why it was engaged grow and equip, and this was answered because it's a formal job description it needs to have formal language. The hope is that this person will work with the youth development leader at Madison as well. It was made clear that the youth worker will not be responsible for running the curriculum but can assist with helping develop it. We stated that the church does not need more leaders it needs more God. It was agreed it is a good role description.

3. New Name for Sunday school - please email AD. Many received and a shortlist will come out soon for a vote.
4. Update from Up and Coming – New Head Peter Costello introduced himself.
5. Update on SS – AD – nothing new to report just extended positive praise of all that you do.
6. Reflect back on last month – all

Beginners

In beginners we have been learning all about Jesus' life and the different ways he served his disciples and followers and now we are moving on to some of the stories he told and how people would go out of their way to meet him.

As always, we are blown away by their knowledge of the bible and it is so wonderful to hear about how they say their prayers and the stories that are read to them on a daily basis.

We have lots of new members as we have a lot of children turning three, so our numbers are swelling once more, even with P1's moving up to juniors in May.

Juniors

In Juniors this term we have continued using the 'Energize' series and every week we use a variety of means - games, bible stories, direct teaching, prayer and craft - to help the children learn.

This term we have been learning about the life of Jesus. Starting with Jesus' early life we saw how He wanted to be in the temple where His Father was. We learned about His baptism and the coming of the Holy Spirit and we saw how Jesus overcame temptation in the desert by relying on the word of God and learned that we can do the same. We went on to find out how Jesus called his disciples and taught them how to pray. We learned that we are also called to follow Jesus and that we should be encouraged to pray. Later on, we progressed to look at the miracles Jesus performed; of healing, raising the dead, commanding the elements and miracles with food and wine. Here the children were challenged to see the power of God performing incredible miracles through Jesus.

We will miss all of our P4s who will move up to Triple S on 'Moving Up' Sunday in May, but we look forward to welcoming our new P2s from Beginners in August.

Triple S

Triple S started the new year by looking at New Beginnings and how we can have a new beginning through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We learned about how Jesus did the ultimate swap in taking our place. Before the Easter holidays, we made a fun game using an egg carton and a ping pong ball to help learn about the different stages of the Easter story which we could play with friends and family. We also enjoyed sharing a great Buddy Sunday with the Beginners and looking at different versions of the Bible including making a scroll! We continue to work on learning the books of the New Testament and how to look up verses and how to hear God through His word.

Flaim

We have been having a good time together this year, trying to build on the good work achieved last year, especially at the weekend away at Capperkirk last autumn, which was a great mix of fun and strengthening faith and the Flaim relationships.

There have tended to be 3 or 4 young people each week meeting in the Community centre, more boys than girls currently. These young people are around the 14 year old age group, in 2nd or 3rd year. We expect to be getting a few new members "moving up" after the summer, while we hope to keep hold of the great wee group we have. They got involved in the Nativity play just before Christmas also.

Interestingly, I have found that both our embedded practices of eating a cake or biscuit together to start off the session while going through our highs and lows of the week are mentioned as good habits in the "Habits of the Household" book Rev Scott has been mentioning recently. Jesus ate together with people so much in his life, talking with them during after the "fellowship meal" together. "The Bible talks about food as a spiritual matter". Highs and lows helps us share, talking and listening about the experiences of the group over the previous week.

We tend to base out sessions on Urban Saints / Exclaim material which we hope is building up the young people's faith and challenging them also.

Today Nadia prepared an interesting session on the Holy Spirit at Pentecost with God empowering the disciples which provided a lot of learning for the young people. This was the first session after the Easter break.

We of course did the Crucifixion and the Resurrection and eternal life leading up to Easter using some great wee videos which we all enjoyed. One of our young people enjoyed taking part in the Stick drama for the Easter service, as others have done previously.

The young people seem fine about coming in for communion, taking it if they wish.

I recall tasty pancakes for Lent and starting off the year with the “Golden rule”- loving your neighbour as yourself!

Please continue to pray for God to be at work in the lives of the Flaim young people in the coming weeks- a great bunch, and for the leaders too.

Wait For it.

Have been taking a break. However, Scott and Gill have been meeting with the young people fortnightly for fun, digging into the bible and sharing prayer points fortnightly on Sunday evenings. You will also find them helping with many different aspects of church life whether that be within the younger groups, in the band or with the tech around church. Please continue to pray for them as they enter the exam time and for their future decisions.

7. Looking forward for next month - all

- Buddy system – review and next meeting
- How best to support those with ASN going forward – First broad meeting identified 2 key areas within the service and Sunday School. SB to look at service and AD Sunday School. SB spoke with RM and the idea of a service once a month which has suitable activities for those with learning differences. Next meeting 9/6/24. MD also looking to get ear defenders.
- Summer kids club – sharing information with HH – will check her preference on sheets or spreadsheet.
- Dates – 18th August Sunday School resumes

1st September All age Communion

8th September (Holiday – no Sunday School) Joint service at Slamannan

15th September Buddy Sunday

22nd September Brigades Opening Service (only Beginners)

13th October (Holiday) All age Sunday School run by Beginners

20th October (Holiday) All age Sunday School run by Juniors

27th October (Holiday) All age Sunday School run by Beginners and Juniors

15th December Nativity

22nd December All age Sunday School

6. Sunday School treasurer's role – MD – only £30 left in account. Why separate account? MD to speak to SG about closing and just using church account.
7. Future meeting date – Tuesday 1st October in Small Hall
8. Prayer and close