Youth and Children’s work Synod report April 2020

Much of the work this year has been focussed on building relationships and networks, between the young people themselves and those leading them. This means that the work can now be split into two corresponding and distinct streams; that which is with the young people themselves and that which serves lay workers across the district.

**Young people**

* One Opportunity

This year we have had five interns on the scheme. Their projects include; theological education, a debate group, development of a library of photographs for use during worship, worship leading and awareness raising following a mission trip. The group is highly engaged and the residential weekends have been a joy. A few changes have been made to the February residential allowing young people over the age of 14, who are nominated by their church community, to attend.

* One Scholar

This is a new initiative aimed at young people who might feel they are discerning a calling to paid ministry, or who want a deeper experience of ministry than is offered by the One Opportunity. The scheme is tailored to the individual so unlike the One Opportunity there is little formal structure. This year we have had one young person who has been working alongside Victoria gaining experience of what it might mean to go into youth ministry. Throughout the year she has gained experience and confidence, blossoming into a competent and capable youth worker.

* 3Generate

The district did not send a group in 2019 due to the weekend being very close to Flourish. However, Victoria represented the district as a volunteer. Although future plans are uncertain at present, it is intended to take a group in October.

* Youth Synod

Step up met in September 2019 and offered closing worship. Although it has been unable to meet because of the lockdown, the district team are planning a youth forum using a virtual platform.

* Flourish Youth Stream

This was well received by the young people. The district team were planning to offer a youth weekend in October 2020 but this has been postponed until the summer of 2021. A youth stream will again be offered as part of Flourish 2021.

**Lay workers**

* Aurora

This is a new offering starting in September 2020. It is a part time training course for youth, children and family workers, volunteers or interns who have no formal qualification in children’s or youth work.

* Community of Practice

A half-termly meeting open to all paid lay-workers across the district. The group meets half termly and offers the opportunity to meet with others engaged in a similar ministry across the district.