



year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

Year of Young People 2018 at Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church

2018 is the Year of Young People in Scotland. There will be lots going on across all strands of society to celebrate our children and young people's achievements, value their contributions to communities, and create new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.

#YOYP2018 <http://yoyp2018.scot/>

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/children_and_youth/year_of_young_people

As a congregation, Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman committed to a focus on the Year of Young People at special services on Sunday 28th January. We have set up a 12 month working group to focus on our work with young people and on intergenerational work. Intergenerational work involves all generations growing together, learning with and from one another. It needs to involve more than just the youngest and oldest generations, so challenges the church to listen to and involve those in their 20s-50s too - generations who are not best supported by the current shape of church. How do we support all people in their spiritual development, in ways relevant to the rhythms and patterns of their lives?

We are trying to listen to people, and respond to what we hear. We've begun with the young people we already have connections to: in our congregation, and in local Scouting and Guiding groups. We asked 2 questions:

- What do you think about the Church?
- What do you think about God?

The answers are a mix of encouragement and challenge. Lots see the church as fun, and see its value for those who are Christians. Many don't know about God - which is a reasonable response to great mystery. But others question belief and the church, especially as they get older - which again may be reasonable and understandable, but requires us to engage and build relationships.

We're going to keep listening - trying to hear more from the "missing" generations too. We're hoping to follow up with the young people we've heard from. We know we need to get out of the church buildings and meet people wherever they are, and get to know them better.

What would your answers be to those questions?

And would you like to help this area of work?

Do get in touch with Rev Jenny - we're listening...

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