

STORIES OF CHURCH LIFE DONE DIFFERENTLY

Redefined connection with young people

Drumachose Presbyterian, Limavady

Since the lockdown restrictions have come into play, we moved our youth fellowship over to Zoom and I can say like everyone else in the country and world, we have now become Zoom experts ... we can happily share our screen and mute our mics! We are very thankful to have young people and leaders who pop up on the screens and are ready to engage in discussions.

We wanted to strip youth fellowship back and keep it simple – in a way getting back to basics.

A usual night would be catching up with how their week was, opening prayer, “Youth Alpha” discussion and then some silly games (anything from silent karaoke to reverse charades!).

In order to keep connected with our young people we did the usual at Christmas and sent out advent calendars and candy canes.

After attending the webinar “New Skills and Methods for Different Times” I was really challenged to step it up a bit with connecting more not only to our young people but to their parents. After chatting with the other leaders, I messaged each parent, just to check in and to ask if we could help them with anything (if there was any topics that they feel would benefit their young person). I had some great responses and was really encouraged by our parents.

Now, at half-term, we are checking in again with our young people and have done up wee packs for them which include wooden discs (thankful for a dad who needed a job to do over lockdown). We are asking them over their holidays to create either a coaster or a wall hanging based around a word or bible verse and one for everyone in their family. We sent off a card of encouragement for the parents to tell them to keep going and to say how amazing they are doing along with a “half-term treat bag” filled with cookies, crisps and popcorn (my own children weren’t happy that they didn’t have



one!) to enjoy some well deserved family time without the added stress and strain of home-schooling or work looming.

Being willing to reach out and to take time to listen to others has been the forefront of our youth fellowship – as much as we enjoy the banter, I hope that our young people know how valued and loved they are within our churches.

A little encouragement goes a long way, especially in a global pandemic!

Joanne Gallick,
*Youth Fellowship Leader,
Drumachose and Derramore Presbyterian Churches (DDYF)*