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## STORIES OF CHURCH LIFE DONE DIFFERENTLY

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### Redefined youth discipleship in Greenisland

Strange as it might sound, the interruption to church life caused by Covid-19 has brought some exciting opportunities for our congregation in youth work. While we used Zoom at the peak of lockdown, since mid-September we have resumed regular meet ups, all be it in significantly smaller groups.

The restrictions meant we cut back on a lot of things. Boys' Brigade and Guides aren't meeting, and we have put our Youth Club on hold as the numbers were too large to cope. Our Youth Fellowship isn't meeting in its normal format.



That doesn't sound very positive at first reading, however, stripping everything back has turned out to be great. We made the decision to focus on the young people attached to our church and what we have now is 29 young people distributed across multiple small groups that run throughout the week with the aim of creating disciples. While it may sound like an organisational struggle, it wasn't. Getting groups together on appropriate nights was easy and getting leaders for each group again fell into place beautifully. We really felt God's favour and blessing in getting things up and running. Each night is 90 minutes and consists of fun, food (following appropriate guidelines), a Bible-based talk and discussion.

We are now a couple of months into these groups (with a temporary return to Zoom included) and the commitment has been great. Each group has its own dynamic and the engagement during each evening has been great. We continue to seek God's will and guidance going forward and ask him to cut away anything not of him and build up anything that is.