

## **YOUNG KIRK**

We continue to enjoy Young Kirk which includes nine children from age 5 to age 15, which are led by five Leaders on a rota basis. Between January and March, we have either been following the resources from Scripture Union, Faith Action for Nature via Eco-Congregation Scotland or Godly Play. Since March I have been emailing parents weekly activities for children to do at home that have links to Christian festivals and themes, Scripture Union, the environment and Fairtrade.

In February we ran the after-worship coffees which raised funds for Young Kirk.

We would like to welcome Eunice Astles to the Young Kirk team as a leader who joined us during May.

June saw our annual Young Kirk Prize Giving during online morning worship when we congratulated children on their achievements during the year with gifts of books posted to them individually at home. The members of Young Kirk also pre-recorded the readings, prayers and chose some of the hymns for the service too.

In August, we were able to meet up for 2 country walks around Penicuik Estate. We also carried out litter picks as we walked too. This was such a lovely time for children, parents and leaders to meet up after the initial lockdown.

This year the Christmas party was held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December during a 'Zoom' online 'party' where we had part bags which had been delivered prior to the party, party lunches in our individual homes, an online visit from Santa and an online Christmas quiz, which encouraged all households to take part. It was great to see everyone celebrating!

The Nativity this year was entitled 'An Alternative Nativity' as the story of Mary and Joseph was compared to that of modern-day refugees. All the children too part by pre-recording their pieces as either video or voice recording which were all put together to create a Nativity video which was shown during morning worship in the Church building and online. We also pre-recorded the Bible readings, prayers and chose the hymns. It was a wonderful chance to see all of Young Kirk adapting and working together in these challenging times.

*Lisa Conlan (YK co-ordinator)*