

THE PARISH OF KELSO NORTH AND EDNAM



The objective of our Junior Church is to share the Good News with children in a fun and friendly way. Within this safe environment, they are welcomed and valued as the youngest members of our church family.

Our Junior Church runs concurrently with our Sunday morning services in Kelso North Church, from 11.30am until approximately 12.30pm.

The pattern of Junior Church provision roughly follows the school term.

We begin each week by gathering together for worship with the congregation in the main church, and moving out to our classes after about 10-15 minutes. The exception to this is when there is a baptism, and we will meet together in our groups first and then come into the main church for the last 10 - 15 minutes. This enables the children to take part in this sacrament through readings, lighting of candles, pouring water into the font

and presenting baptismal gifts. It is a special service for everyone and the children love to be able to contribute to it. On a Communion Sunday, we may also agree to spend the morning in our groups or together as a complete Junior Church working on a particular activity which needs extra time.

Junior Church leaders meet termly to plan and prepare materials and sessions for the various groups and for the Junior Church as a whole. Child Protection training is a requirement for all leaders and volunteers working with the children.

The accommodation within our church building for Junior Church has been selected to meet the particular needs of each age group. We also have access to kitchen facilities and a garden to the front of the church. All areas are bright and well equipped with excellent resources...

Bonar Room - Crèche for babies up to school age children (small room with comfortable sponge matting and a host of toys and equipment).

Hall - for P1 - P3 children (with lots of space for games and activities, sponge matting and great materials).

Rainbow Room - for P4 upwards (colourful and comfortable with bean bags and an area for crafts and play).

For teaching purposes we currently use the materials produced by Scripture Union, *Light*. Versions are available for different age ranges and so we have...

Bubbles! for under 5s

Splash! for 5s to 8s

Xstream! for 8s to 11s

The materials include Bible Cards and Worksheets, issued to the children weekly to take home. These provide further opportunities for reinforcement of the message and allow parents to follow up what has been covered on a Sunday morning.

Our Junior Church is an all-age fun learning environment, which includes activities such as worship, story-telling, crafts, drama, prayer, quizzes, baking, music and games.

Occasionally we organise and prepare a presentation for the service, where the children may share something they have learned with the wider congregation. This may be at a specific Christian festival, like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost or Harvest, for example, or may be at any other random time. There's always time for fun in God's world and so we have swim parties at our local pool, organise Garden

Parties in the Manse garden, (to boost funds), and make gifts for the men and women in our congregation for Fathers Day and Mothers Day. We decorate glass jars for the candles at the candlelight service, have presentations and picnics, and enjoy Christmas Parties - with a visit from Santa of course! The list goes on...so do the smiles.

The children and leaders also work on special projects throughout the year, helping to confirm the Christian message in practical and exciting ways. In recent times, we have been involved with the following...

Shoebox Appeal - we have filled, packed and sent more than 4000 shoeboxes, through Blythswood Care, to needy people in Eastern Europe.

Homeless Project - the children 'slept out' (two hours on a Saturday morning) in cardboard boxes, raising awareness of the vulnerable people in our society and have helped raise thousands of pounds.

Sponsored Silence - on a Sunday morning they successfully raised £200 in aid of the Tsunami victims.

We have a small, but lively and enthusiastic Junior Church and we pray that each one of our children will know and understand the place he/she has as a precious member of the Church of Today!