

A part of  
the whole  
picture.

**Young Crown  
Annual Report  
2017/18**



There's loads to tell you about what's going on with **ENERGIZE** over the next term like how we're **restarting** for the new term but with a brand new time. Oh, yeah we're super excited by the new time also the new programme of stuff we're going to be doing. Things like a **French night** and an **Italian** one too. Plus a **mountain night**, which we think is going to be quite interesting indeed. I have gotten so excited about all that's coming up in the next term that I forgot to mention what the new time for the club even is! Well it starts at **6:00pm** and obviously this means it will also have a new finish time as well. The club runs for 90 minutes, so if you're really smart you can do your sums and figure it out, but you don't even have to do that because all you need to do is keep reading on to the next line to see it's **7:30pm** which we think is great timing for a school night but also plenty enough time to have loads of fun and games and learn some interesting stuff from the Bible and hang out and chat with your mates and play on the games equipment and enjoy the tuck shop and all the rest.

There's also so much other stuff going on we wanted you to know about like the **weekend away** which we're organizing in conjunction with our friends at SU Scotland which is going to be absolutely awesome. It's going to book up really fast, though, so if you're in P5-P7 and you want to get along to this amazing weekend, you're going to have to act fast! While we're talking about SU, it's probably a good idea to mention that we'll be restarting after the October Primary School as well. I'll be meeting on Tuesday lunchtimes and will be another great opportunity to explore some of the amazing things in the Bible as well as hang out, play games and generally have a good space together. We're always looking for new things to do and exciting ways to hang out, so don't be surprised when our **mystery social** is announced and it's something rocking. We've done stuff like Jimmy Chung's, CoolNess, pizza parties, bowling, initial-a-boom, and all sorts before. What could it be this time, I wonder? Anyway, like I said, there's so much to tell you about and get excited about that I can't fit it all on to this page so you're going to have to turn over to the other side to see all that's happening, and to make sure you're bringing letters home when they come out and also maybe check out the website which is found at [www.young-crown.co.uk](http://www.young-crown.co.uk)





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## **Achievements and Performance**

The Trustees were very upbeat in the 2017 Report about the early gains following on the establishment of Young Crown SCIO, and they continue to be both thankful and excited about its operation. For the sake of local children and young people, the impact arising from initiatives whether delivered solely by Young Crown SCIO or alongside others is considerable. While the connection with the physical and spiritual base at Crown Church is meaningful and helpful (in both directions), the outreach of Young Crown SCIO is neither confined to the established church community nor dominated by it. Very few of the children and young people in contact with Young Crown SCIO are regularly present in Sunday worship. While trustees would hope for the treasure of Sunday worship to be discovered by this younger generation, there is joy nevertheless in seeing the lives of children and young people being enhanced by the charity.

The Coordinator, Struan McRoberts, is a vital, tremendous asset in the work of Young Crown SCIO, and the Trustees are determined and committed to give him their support and encouragement.

## **Financial Review 2017-2018**

An application for a grant was made to the Go For It fund run by the Church of Scotland, we were successful and were awarded £37500 in total or £12500 per year for 3 years. The trustees are very grateful for this commitment to our activities.

A small deficit of £3061 -63 was the outcome for the year but as in the next year 2 payments from the Go to it Fund will be received instead of 1 this year, a surplus of a similar amount is expected. Reserves stood at £4950-47 at the year end.

Alan Nelson Chair

24<sup>th</sup> September 2018



**Young Crown SCIO**



**Statement of Accounts - to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

Income:-		
Donations	£5,422.67	
Standing Orders	£11,486.00	
GoFort Funding	£6,221.50	
Gift Aid / EasyFundraising	£4,841.64	
	<u>£27,971.81</u>	£27,971.81

**Expenditure:-**

Wages	£20,188.64	
Tax, NI	£7,162.25	
Pension	£594.12	
Insurances	£611.80	
Expenses	£2,476.63	
	<u>£31,033.44</u>	£31,033.44

Deficit for the Year	<u>-£3,061.63</u>
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**BALANCE SHEET**

Opening cash at bank and in hand	£8,012.10
Deficit for the Year	<u>-£3,061.63</u>
Closing Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>£4,950.47</u>

**Bank & Cash Balances:**

Bank Account	<u>£4,950.47</u>
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary McAra".

Gary McAra  
Treasurer

10<sup>th</sup> September 2018



## **Youth And Children's Work Coordinator's report**

Another amazing year!

Obviously for me the biggest thing to report is the departure of Peter Donald both as the minister of Crown Church and as the chair of trustees for Young Crown. I have been grateful to the trustees for their continued diligence, hard work and support of all that's going on in these pages and beyond. I am grateful, too, for everything brought to us by Peter, Brigid and the whole Donald family.

The work goes on! Much of our output was structured around the partnership of myself and Peter and so there has been a fair degree of adjustment - for our own working patterns as Young Crown but also in the dynamics with other organisations, schools, etc. There also has been a significant shift in my focus towards covering things at Crown Church. That said, we are far from standing still.

These pages will, I hope, be as encouraging to you as they are to me about all that God is doing in His faithfulness to us and to His people here in Inverness. I've themed this year's report "a part of the whole picture" as it is precisely that. In the close of his gospel account, John tells his readers that all of the books in all of the world couldn't contain the works of Jesus - and surely that is true for this report too. In the pages I've tried not just to look back, but also forward. God is doing exciting things and calling us to exciting things with Young Crown - vacancy in church or not!!

We're working away in so many arenas and building really strong links with school, community, groups and individuals. There's so much more to come! In this modern day age with such societal shifts away from church, we're remaining conscious of all that goes with it - and making big strides to bring the Kingdom of God close at hand.

Where we pray "your Kingdom come" and mean it, we see amazing things. The naked are clothed, the hungry are fed, the blind see. And Jesus said "the Kingdom of God is for such as these" referring to children. Where children are captured and engaged in God's Kingdom, there's nothing quite like it.

Much to be thankful for as we look back. Much to expect as we look forward!

**Struan**



# Worship

## 9:30 Service

During the last year we have been working hard to further establish the 9:30 service as a weekly provision of all-aged and intergenerational worship for Crown Church. The service team has been meeting weekly to organise, prepare and innovate. The aim of the service is to provide an informal and relaxed interactive church service - to offer something for everyone from beginners to pros. The service has been developing links with BB and other groups, in order to provide a diet of worship that welcomes and encourages families who have limited connection with "Sunday Church" but are getting to know us throughout the week. With an aim to be 'church for people who don't go to church', the task is broad; but we're establishing a strong and faithful community who love to worship together and are starting to see more and more people taking up invitation to share with us too. For Young Crown, this is a key element to the strategy. To be able to develop a church service which helps people to feel that they can access "church" in a way that suits them and makes sense is a huge plus when so much of our outreach is with children, young people and families who might well feel like traditional worship services are perhaps just a little outside of their experience.

During the Summer term in 2018 we issued an update to our BOX project - little boxes of faith sent home for families to take the conversation of faith and life back into the home and encouraging everyone to get those **B**ibles **O**pen, **e**Xplorers! At both the 9:30 and 11:00 services we were following the early church through Acts and exploring some amazing themes and journeys - with our boxes we were able to join in the exploration not just on Sundays, but at home throughout the week too. As part of the box, we issued all recipients with a copy of Diary of a Disciple: Peter and Paul's Story - a contemporary version of Acts written in the now-popular interactive diarised format. A gift well received by all, and one which hopefully enabled families to grow a little deeper in faith together.



At time of writing this report, we're just about to re-launch Cloud 10 (or perhaps something which is the same idea, but with a different name)... We have a group of those in P7+ we're hoping will slot into a new group on Sundays to keeping digging in to the Bible together and enjoy themselves doing so!

Within all that we aim to do in outreach, we want to keep the worshiping life of the church as core. Being able to outreach with the gospel is an amazing privilege, but unless we have the ability to help people find a home in our family of faith, then we'll lose people just at the point when they're found! We love the church and all that goes with it - old and new; traditional and trending.

During the vacancy in particular the amount of work that has gone towards church worship and structures has been vastly increased, but it feels a good place to be devoting such energies and, I think, one where we're beginning to see some valuable fruit.



# Schools Work

The last year has involved, once again, a particular attention and focus on our work based in schools. It is so key to our ministry to be connecting with children and young people in their schools - the places they spend probably most of their time and form many of their worldviews. Our ability to positively impact schools with God's Kingdom depends hugely on both the receptivity of schools to having us and our ability to work well and positively within reasonable parameters.

We've been able, in partnership with schools, to significantly build chaplaincy presence once again in the last twelve months. We love our schools!

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jeremiah 29:7

## Crown Primary School

One of the biggest events in our year would have to be Crown Primary's saying "goodbye" to Dr Donald after so many years of faithful service. He has been so much loved and cherished by children and staff alike, and will be so missed. In the time after such a departure, there could always arise a degree of uncertainty regarding our future relationship with the school, and we've been delighted to be continuing in loving and serving the school moving forward.

Throughout the year we've been continuing with our programme of assemblies, teaching RE lessons and collaborating with classes on project work. We have kept running with our end-of-term and end-of-year services too; which has been particularly pleasing to do. With the departure of Dr Donald, we not only lost his skills in delivering up-front but also his musical prowess. We've been so grateful for the time and talents of a few musicians - including young Louis Jones - who have stepped up and played the notes for assemblies, services and classes.

We continued running Scripture Union Club on Tuesday lunchtimes and saw another increase both in number and regularity of attendance. It is with great thanks that we celebrate the years of dedicated service by two parent helpers at SU; but with some sadness that their time has come to an end. This time next year, I'm going to be delighted to report that we have a new member of the team or two in place and doing well!





As a marker for the flourishing work we do at Millburn Academy, I'd point you in the direction of our Drop In. To remind you, or in case you don't already know, this has been a weekly fixture at the school (on Thursday lunchtimes) and pupils know that the youth workers will be in and ready to serve up a fresh blend of hot chocolate, games, the odd debate and – crucially – a listening ear. The drop in has been wholeheartedly endorsed by the senior management in school and has amassed a big following amongst the student body. Last year's report stated 60+ pupils in regular attendance - this year we're between 80-100! This is one example of how embedded we have been in the school and the sort of value we can add with chaplaincy support.

We managed to bring the YFC touring teams up to Millburn again in November. The Sense and Stance provided assemblies, music lessons, lunchtime performances, some out-of-hours worship leadings and so much more. At the end of the week we held a concert at Caffè Nero in town which was very well attended by a wide range of people. Added to the musical mayhem we also brought Claudius England and Veshone Cunningham during September to bring a flavour of Jamaican culture, music and faith in Jesus. The school are in a period of change at time of writing - in search of a new head teacher. We've been able to offer some strong and very well received chaplaincy support during this time, and we're building strong connections to carry on into the future too.

### **Festivals:**

As in previous years, we've managed to link up with schools for a blessed and beautiful advent season. We visited Kingsmills and Abbeyfield Nursing Homes and Woodlands Centre too with groups from Crown Primary and the Beavers to do Christmas carols for (and even with) the residents. P1 shared a very cute nativity too. We again participated with Millburn Academy's end of term Christmas services – a full day of services done year-group at a time. At Easter, Crown's Primary 3s presented the Easter story by explaining the Rose window to the whole school and parents - a lovely event.

Helping all sorts of groups to celebrate Christian festivals has again been a huge privilege this year.



# Groups

Young Crown has been involved with, or fully in charge of, planning, shaping, delivering and running loads of groups for children and young people throughout the year. Here's a bit of what we've been up to:

## Energize

Our Thursday evening club has once again been a mainstay of the YC weekly calendar in the last year. Our regular attendance remained strong throughout the year, with a particularly big group of Primary 7 children coming up through the ranks.

With that sizeable group of P7s having come to an end of their journey with Energize Club, we made a few changes after the summer. The group moved to an earlier timeslot and began advertising to a younger cohort with the aim of building a group up from P4-6s. At time of writing we have had cause to rethink and perhaps take Energize in a new direction - aiming more towards the S1-4 age bracket.

Aloingside our regular programme of Bible-based activity, we also enjoyed several 'social' events including: giant inflatables; bowling; film and pizza nights; and one night where we again took 40 people to Jimmy Chung's!

Whatever the future holds for Energize, we can be happy for all that's gone before and confident that the seeds planted will take root. Our job with this now is to find out the next stage in the journey - be it sowing more seeds or watering the ones already planted!



## Organisations:

There have been many organisations we've partnered with over the last year. Once again, lots of work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inverness BB company, providing informal chaplaincy and extending welcome from the church. We have also spent time maintaining links in various ways with GB, Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and Air Training Corps.



## Summer

Over the summer we maintained a weekly programme of activities for everyone from nursery to S2. We ran three clubs – including ‘Summergize’ on Thursdays; ‘YC Club’ and ‘Kick’ on Fridays. This meant we could provide a space of fun, games, enjoyment and Christian nurture and offer it both to regulars who were missing BB / GB and others too. These clubs were again reasonably well attended and also very appreciated by families as well as the children themselves. We explored all sorts of different Bible teaching – from looking at Jesus’ parables with the youngest, through exploring some of Jesus’ miracles with upper Primary and looking at themes with the older children.

Whilst delighted to have run a full programme throughout the summer, we’re looking at the regular output and just beginning to see what might be possible throughout the summer instead / as well. It’s good to have done these clubs over the last couple of years, but we certainly want to keep fresh and provide what’s truly needed - if that means changing up the programme in coming years, we’re praying to be open to it!

## Youth Alpha

Ben + Jason + brand new video series + pizza =



This summer we ran another Youth Alpha course with the (new for 2018) YA film series. Once again an interesting, entertaining and influential time for those present. 8 Young men somewhere on their journey with God moving on a little further. Exciting stuff!

The challenge for next year is for some of those young guys to run an Alpha Course.  
Even more exciting stuff!!

# Events / One Offs

Life has its special occasions. Birthdays, celebrations, milestones. At Young Crown, we want to share that life IS a special occasion - and so that means there's plenty of opportunity to celebrate!

## Activity Weekends

Across the last 12 months, we've subsidised places for (and sent) young folk from P5-S3 away on three multi-activity weekends at Alltnacriche near Aviemore. SU Scotland ran these weekends with folks like our Y+C Coordinator providing leadership support. Of the three weekends, we sent Struan away on two and some campers to each!

A great opportunity to take time away and have loads of fun, superb activities and also some time spent digging into the Bible, and making sense of what it has to say to us today.

## Nero gig

After a successful week embedded in Millburn Academy, we hired out Caffè Nero on the High Street to host a special gig with the TFC touring teams. The band and dance teams entertained for 1.5 hours and it was both well attended and well received. Caffè Nero have never done anything like it before, and so it was particularly pleasing to be able to host the event well and bring the message to the kids in a different and exciting setting.



## Pancake Day

We held another Pancake Day event where 27 children filled up the Olive Grove and munched their way through the start of lent.

Whilst there we took the time to look at lent, why we do it, and how Jesus used God's promises to overcome temptation, even though He was hungry!

This year's event did have perhaps too many children for the adult supervision available. A good problem to have, but one which Young Crown needs to take on board. If we're to continue to grow, we need more hands on deck!



### **Crown Community Fete**

On Saturday 1st September we played our part in the Crown Church Community fete. The plan for the fete was to provide a fun and engaging event for all in the local community to enjoy - and for various groups and organisations to introduce themselves to people who didn't yet know about them.

An encouraging number of families, children and young people came through to enjoy the bouncy castles, ice cream, BBQ, candy floss, refreshments, fete games, book swap, wonky bicycle, best-priced-coffee-in-Inverness, and so much more! As with the Young Crown event last year, the atmosphere was great, and many people from the community came out and experienced a warm welcome.

### **Grow**

Across the year, several organisations including Young Crown set about providing locally sourced training for local practitioners. Between a large event in September and a few smaller seminars on evenings throughout the year, GROW has become a key part of our training output as well as a source for training too!

We also attended events such as Urban Saints' Disciples Making Disciples, CoS communities of faith and SU's Growing Young. Such training, networking and sharing opportunities are great for continually shaping and improving our provision.

**GROW**



# Support work



## **Elevate Highland**

Elevate is a cross-denominational monthly term time gathering of S3-S6 teens from all over the place. We meet to worship, share faith, encourage one another and generally provide great fellowship. Whilst there's a loyal core of followers and a good bunch of young leaders, Elevate has been in a state of flux with overall leadership.

We've continued to offer support to help it keep running and grow - and we're seeing some growth both in number and in passing on responsibility to young leaders. Great to be involved in something with potentially a big impact right across the region.

## **Deep Impact**

Scotland's national youthworker training conference sees 350-400 youth workers from across the country ascend to Aviemore for the annual event. Struan has been on the planning team for the event for the last couple of years - providing expertise and direction to the group. The event in January even sparked discussion in the Scottish parliament - prompting ministers to minute their thanks on behalf of the nation for the work being done!

## **Kingsmills Toddlers**

We've spent the last year continuing on faithfully in our support of the local toddler groups. During that time we've seen many children come and move on to nursery and even to P1!

For many years Kingsmills Toddlers had faithfully served Crown's youngest citizens (and their parents and carers) with fun, games, smiles, snacks and [perhaps most importantly] coffee. The groups have loved providing care and thoughtful support for those around them and many of the children in the local areas began lifelong friendships at that very group. The groups have been so cherished, valued and appreciated because they have been so beautifully supported by the various committee members through the years. At their AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the groups decided that the best course of action for the future was to wind up operation. With the increased demands of the charity regulators and the fact that the committee members' children are all now heading off to nursery, they have found it impossible to recruit new members with the time to take on the responsibility.

Read on for the next part of the story...



# Innovation

## **Little Crowns Toddler groups**

In light of Kingsmills Toddlers finishing up, we have explored the opportunity to serve our community by offering toddler groups in their place.

After the summer, on Wednesday and Thursday mornings started up "Little Crowns" toddler groups; with a similar (and recognisable) style and format to the successful ones previously running. We also started a group which runs on Tuesday afternoons as we had researched and found nobody else offering an afternoon toddler group provision.

By running the Toddler groups ourselves, it's a chance to serve the community in a new way - by maintaining a much loved and valued service. We're pleased to be up-and-running with three new groups, a few new toys and loads of new potential to outreach to many families in the area.

## **Friday Drop In**

With Millburn Academy shifting their weekly calendar, we discovered this year an opportunity arising on Friday afternoons to serve our school, community, young people and families all in one!

With school finishing at lunchtime on Fridays, we found that this was a golden opportunity to provide some lunch and activity for the young people we already know through various other contact. We surveyed the young people about what they'd like this provision to look like, and ran a couple of trial sessions in December. These were reasonably successful, with a decent number of people attending and helping us to further shape what our provision will look like.

We then attempted to launch the club as a weekly offering after the Easter holidays, which hasn't fared quite so well. We used this as a learning experience and have gone back to the drawing board...

At time of writing, we're looking forward to re-launching this as a provision across the winter months. Keep praying!!

**to see more  
of the picture**

**www.  
young-  
crown  
.co.uk**