

Young Crown annual report 2015-16

Young
CROWN

ENERGIZE

SU Holidays
YOU BELONG HERE
Young CROWN
Treasure Island!
Weekend away for P5-7s
September 23rd-25th



↑
Journeys

LIGHT
PARTY



10
DECATHLON

YOUTH
FILM
SERIES
Alpha

OPEN

SUPA
CLUB

www.young-crown.co.uk

Young Crown (SCIO), SC045802

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Contents

Welcome to the Young Crown Annual Report 2015-16.

Contents.....	1
Message from the Trustees.....	2
Financial Report.....	3
Youth and Children's Work	
Coordinator report	4
Schools.....	5
Events.....	6
Local Support.....	8
Worker Support.....	9
Groups.....	10

From the Trustees

It is a joy for me to offer a brief report of the first year of "Young Crown (SCIO)".

The Trustees have met regularly since its inception. In the latter part of 2015 there was a fundraising drive. Young Crown (SCIO) was recognised as a member of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). The Trustees appointed, as a Youth and Children's Coordinator, Struan McRoberts, as from 1 December 2015 and exercise continuing oversight over his work and the activities which he, in collaboration with many volunteers, carry out in the name of Young Crown (SCIO).

Young Crown (SCIO) has appreciated the generosity and collaboration of Crown Church, Inverness, in its ongoing activities. Some though not all of the adult volunteers are drawn from the membership of Crown Church. Some though not all of the financial support has come from people who likewise are members of Crown Church. Only a minority of the children and young people engaged with by the Coordinator and associated volunteers have a regular connection with Crown Church.

Crown Church itself has offered office space and technology facilities to the Youth and Children's Coordinator. Crown Church has also offered hall space and some of its own equipment for indoor activities which comprise some though not all of the outreach being carried out by Young Crown. Furthermore there has been engagement by Young Crown with some community groups which happen to use the Crown Church halls. The Coordinator has also operated within local schools and in collaboration with other providers of children's and youth work in Inverness. Read on and enjoy a reporting we have commissioned from Struan which will give a taste of this first year's operations.

Peter Donald, Chair

12 September 2016



Young Crown SCIO

Statement of Accounts - to 31st August 2016

Income:-

Donations	£19,447.50	
Easyfundraising	£26.02	
Standing Orders	£6,602.00	
	<hr/>	
	£26,075.52	£26,075.52
	<hr/>	

Expenditure:-

Wages	£14,522.14	
Tax, NI	£5,196.20	
Mileage	£39.60	
	<hr/>	
	£19,757.94	£19,757.94
	<hr/>	

Balance / Cash in Bank		<hr/> £6,317.58
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary McAra", enclosed in a rectangular box.

Gary McAra
Treasurer

10th September 2016

Coordinator's Report

Youth And Children's Work Coordinator's report

What a year it has been for Young Crown! Alongside all of the activity in this report comes a great deal of behind-the-scenes work, process, planning and prayer. Some of the most encouraging answers to prayer have come in ways that don't hit the pages of a report like this – but I'll do my best to share some of these encouragements in this section.

My Young Crown adventure began in earnest at the beginning of December, although Young Crown's journey began a long time before. Through the dedicated hard work of a skilled, determined and prayerful committee, the project has gotten off the ground and made leaps forward. As a youth worker with many years' experience, it has been a privilege to be involved in helping to shape and move the project on. It's certainly an exciting time for all!

Amongst the highlights in the following pages, you should also know just how pleased I have been to be able to report them. The work in schools has, for example, been particularly encouraging. As with any serious institution, schools are a place where one must earn the trust of senior management – and so the ability to do as much as we are in schools represents not only a great deal of work, but also a great depth of trust earned in a relatively short period.

I have also spent a great deal of time making contact with children and families who have slightly dropped off of the radar in terms of church attendance and establishing new links with local families who perhaps don't have many ties to the local church. We find ourselves in a situation (both nationally and locally) where familial links with church have been broken or eroded for two or even three generations. In order to seriously tackle that, we need to keep investing in finding ways to love, serve and reach our local community with the gospel.

With all of that in mind, I'm looking forward to the next steps in the life of Young Crown: to open and establish a clothing exchange; to grow the chaplaincy available in local schools; to extend invitation to our known children and families to new, innovative and welcoming forms of worship; and to see that invitation grow wider as we can engage and embrace new communities too!

So thanks for all of your support and prayers, keep praying – the Lord is faithful!

Struan

Crown Primary School:

During the year, we've taken an active part in both learning and extra-curricular activities at Crown Primary School. We were privileged to be able to lead Religious Observance assemblies throughout the year on a regular basis, and are excited to have that invitation extended into the coming years too.

We also spent some time with various year groups in class helping them to prepare for end-of-term extravaganzas, musical productions and also teaching classes about the church and what Christians believe.

Amongst all of that, we were also involved in running a Scripture Union group alongside a couple of very dedicated parents. This group meets weekly during the winter months and has learning about the Bible in a fun and engaging way right at the centre.



Schools

Millburn Academy:

Likewise with Crown, we've had some fantastic time in the High School too... Between leading Chaplains' Assemblies and teaching a series of PSHE classes for the upper school, we've also managed to find time to get involved with the Scripture Union group (both in school and on an outing) and set up a brand new extension to the chaplaincy provision at the school – we call it the Drop In.

At the Drop In, we have Struan, Farquhar (now with Inshes Church) and Kate (Salvation Army) providing a weekly presence in the school, as well as free hot chocolate! It's early days at time of writing, but we're so grateful to God for His answers to our prayers in being able to extend the chaplaincy work we do in the school.

And we know there's loads more to come too...



Events

Discover Easter:

This was the first time we've tried an event like this – something for all the family to explore a little more of the amazing Easter story together. On the morning of Good Friday, we saw a really great turn out – with many people accepting invitations through letterboxes, at the doorstep, through toddler groups and also by word of mouth. It was fantastic to see so many, and to be able to welcome them in and share some of the good news of Easter.

The event walked everyone through the Easter story using arts, crafts, a puppet show, singing, a short talk, an Easter egg hunt and some time of fellowship fuelled by real coffee.

We had a lot of positive feedback and enjoyed some lovely conversations with people who were thinking of coming back to church – or even start coming. We are grateful to be able to report back on that!! This was one of the key reasons for running the event and we hope and pray that the connections we've made through it can be built upon and strengthened.

Visitors:

Amongst other things, we've also taken opportunities to get some very special guests into schools this year. Perhaps most notably Professor Sir Geoff Palmer and Claudius England – who were both, in very different styles, fantastic, informative and engaging guests to the local school children. The commitment of Young Crown to produce great opportunities for young people to be inspired has been and we hope will continue to be a strong element of our work.

Christmas:

During the run in to Christmas, we had several opportunities to spread seasonal cheer amongst children and others. We visited both Kingsmills and Abbeyfield Nursing Homes with groups from Crown Primary and the Beavers to do Christmas carols for (and even with) the residents. We also 'took the show on the road' and had the P7s sing carols in the Eastgate Centre which, whilst nerve-wracking, was also very well received and in the end quite an enjoyable experience.

We participated too with Millburn Academy's end of term services – a full day of services done year-group at a time. Helping all sorts of groups to celebrate Christian festivals has been a huge privilege this year.

Giant fun day:

On a sunny day in August 2015 Young Crown held its first event – a David and Goliath themed fun day.

Much to our delight 84 children aged between 5-11 arrived to join in the day's activities which consisted of a David and Goliath reenactment, crafts, songs, outdoor games and a bouncy castle.

The festivities ended with a family BBQ which was a huge hit.

This event marked the culmination of months of planning and discussion, and the start of the public-facing ministry of Young Crown. The committee worked together to produce the event and one of the things it produced was a contact list of a great many families in the area who had made or remade connections with the church.

Just as Jesus' public ministry started at a party; so this felt like an appropriate "first" for Young Crown!

Local Support

Kingsmills Toddlers:

As a slightly higher profile area for our work initially we're pleased to report that we now have a good team of church volunteers in twice-a-week supporting the toddlers and their adults by serving them from the kitchen. We have been well received by the groups and their committee, and our work has already started to pay off. The groups have been in receipt of monthly visits from a CALA (Care and Learning Alliance) support worker – see this extract from an email from that worker: *"I feel that as the group is now doing so well, you could be moved from monthly visits to biannual visits. It's been so great to see the number of members rise and the introduction of support from the church as well"*

We've seen new families engaging with church on various levels as a result of this work – with some even coming along to Sunday services to give it a try out. Keep praying that we can outreach well and effectively, and grow in our service to local parents, carers and little ones!

Organisations:

There have been many organisations we've partnered with over the last year. Most notably: lots of work with the 3rd Inverness BB company, particularly in helping them get to grips with Daniel 1-6 in time for their Bible quiz, and in a broader sense just getting to know the boys, leaders and their families through weekly activities. We have also managed to get involved in various ways with Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and Air Training Corps.

It has been a privilege to help shape the output for youth from across the Highlands with the work we've done to support Elevate Highland too.

Worker Support

Training:

By investing in training, we have been able to broaden the horizons of Young Crown. We were involved in several training opportunities throughout the year both for Struan and the volunteers. These included a day at Deep Impact, Scotland's premier youth work training event where we formed some links with Urban Saints Scotland (which later became the basis for the Energize platform we're now using for a youth group) and some invaluable communications advice from a church media pro (obtained for the price of a cup of coffee)!

On top of that, we attended local training conferences on the topics of radical discipleship and an event for churches with few or no children present. We also were engaged in safeguarding training – making sure we're up to speed with the safety and wellbeing of those in our care.

With more training coming up, it's great to be an organization committed to learning and growing in our understanding of what we do and why!

Volunteers:

Without our amazing volunteers, none of what we've been able to do this last year would be possible. A huge "thank you" to everyone who has helped, in any way, with the ministry of Young Crown this year!

Website:

We have built and maintained a website for Young Crown this year – it is regularly updated and will remain a constant source for up-to-date information about all we have going on. Check it out and give us some feedback: www.young-crown.co.uk

We also maintain social media feeds on Facebook and a group page for Cloud 10. Search for us on there, or link through from the website.

Fundraising:

As you'll have seen from the financial reporting, our ability to do all of this wonderful work is based on the incredible generosity of all who have given of their finances for it. We're so grateful!

We have a way of generating a bit of extra income for Young Crown for FREE whenever you shop online – it's called easyfundraising and details can also be found on our website!

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:

Decathlon:

During the summer, we decided against running a Holiday Club – and ended up running three! The Decathlon Clubs were a series of ten weekly club nights for each of: Nursery – P3; P4-7; S1-S6. The clubs were Gospel-centred and sports-based; meaning each week we'd try out a different sport and then use that to help us think about a Biblical theme. (Well, Paul used loads of sports metaphors in his letters, so we thought we would too!)

We had an absolute blast throughout the summer and so did the 40 children (plus 6 from Belarus one week!). In fact we had such a good time that the P4-7s didn't want it to end and so we set up...

Energize:

Our new Thursday evening 'youth club' night for P4-7s. At time of writing, this is still in its infancy, but we've had a steady attendance of around 22 youngsters each week. This is such an encouraging thing to report – with this being a key pool of young people to share the gospel with and encourage on into the life of faith!

Youth Alpha:

During the summer term, we took over the Olive Grove Café every Sunday evening to run a video-led Youth Alpha course. We discussed (fuelled by pizza) many great, deep and meaningful topics, and had loads of fun too. It was a particular highlight to see our small-but-faithful group grow in knowledge, faith and love during this course.

Treasure Seekers:

During term times, we've been working on maintaining quality output for children during church services. We've been resourced in following the Narrative Lectionary by Spill the Beans, and have tapped into other resources too. This is to ensure that the children are looking at the same Bible passages and learning the same things as the adults in church. We've also been producing "funsheets" which follow the church teaching available weekly in church to keep the engagement level high and also offer a 'take-home' message. These are also downloadable from the Young Crown website.

Cloud 10:

We maintained links with the Cloud 10 group by meeting regularly on Sunday evenings to share food, fun and faith together. We also maintained presence together via social media during the last year – it has been an exciting year for the older teens getting into the worlds of work, further study and fledgling careers!

Café Church:

Alongside the usual provision of Sunday School activities, we also held Café Church events monthly between Easter and summer. These were an initiative to invite families along together for something a bit different during worship services – an opportunity to worship together in a new and fresh environment. These acted well as a precursor to our series of summer services...

Summer services:

For ten weeks spanning either side of the summer holidays, we ran family services at 9:30am. The theme of the services was "Journeys" and each week focused on a different journey that people had taken in the Bible. We held the services in the hall, and along with refreshments after, managed to generate a wonderful, welcoming atmosphere and a beautiful sense of community worshipping together.

The service was well attended by families – some regular attenders, some we haven't seen for a while, some brand new, and visitors too. Not only that, but it was so much more – all generations worshipping and fellowshiping together!

