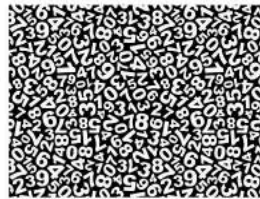




**young**  
**crown**  
**annual report**  
**2018/19**



ENERGIZE v2.0





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## Welcome to the Young Crown Annual Report 2018-19.

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## **Achievements and Performance**

The Trustees were very positive of the prospects in the 2018 report following on the establishment of Young Crown SCIO in 2015 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. His current contract runs until 01/12/2020.

## **Financial Review 2018-2019**

A surplus of £2784.23 was the outcome for the year. Reserves stood at £7734.70 at the year end. We have the continued support of the Go for it Fund for 2019-2020 and the first half of 2020- 2021, however further sources of funds will be required to be found after that date to continue the work at its current levels.

Alan Nelson

Chair

**Young Crown SCIO**



**Statement of Accounts - to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

Income:-

Donations	£3,039.38	
Standing Orders	£11,581.00	
GoFort Funding	£12,443.00	
Gift Aid / EasyFundraising	£3,860.77	
	<u>£30,924.15</u>	£30,924.15

Expenditure:-

Wages	£20,161.16	
Tax, NI	£7,059.24	
Pension	£1,033.20	
Insurances	£646.34	
Expenses	£1,904.62	
	<u>£30,804.56</u>	£30,804.56

Surplus for the Year £119.59

**BALANCE SHEET**

Opening cash at bank and in hand £4,950.47

Surplus for the Year £119.59

Closing Cash at Bank and in hand £5,070.06

Bank & Cash Balances:

Bank Account £5,070.06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary McAra".

Gary McAra  
Treasurer

4<sup>th</sup> October 2019



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

I have much to be thankful for in this year's report. If you flick through these pages you'll see stories of growth in spite of reduced leadership; new projects starting even in time of vacancy; more than one event of national significance and an international celebrity theologian hosted by us. I'm good, but I'm not *that* good! (We've most certainly had divine help is what I mean to say!!)

Having spent all of the last year in vacancy, there has been an undercurrent of frustration at having to shift priorities and support a lot more church-based work – however that isn't to say this isn't great work to be involved with! There has also been much to enjoy about shifting our dynamics with how we love and serve in schools and community without the mad piano skills of Peter and Brigid – much missed but much cherished not least in their legacies of foundational work with Young Crown.

With some words you may find similar to last year's address: in these 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. The front cover gives you two strong clues as to my theme for this report. I'm sure you worked it out already, but if not... We need you. You own YOUng crOWN.

If you see on these pages something that sets your spirit soaring or your heart alight, know that this is your invitation not just to enjoy the work being done, but to be involved in it too. You can join us in prayer! You can help us in the kitchen. You can share your gifts with the folks around us being reached by Young Crown. You can be part of it too. In fact, we need you to be part of it. Otherwise Young Crown isn't linking people up with church.

This isn't just a report. It's an invitation.

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 more to expect as we look forward!

**Struan**

# Worship

## 9:30 Service

During the last year we have continued to work hard for the now well established 9:30 service. This offers 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.'

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 encouraged to see more and more people taking up invitation to share with us too. One family who have joined church through the 9:30 service told us that the service is "exactly what we have been looking for for the last few years; now we've found it!"

For Young Crown, we retain a passion for the maintenance and growth of this accessible worship service - it forms a critical part of our overall 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 too far outside of their experience to be comfortable.

Within all that we aim to do in outreach, we want to keep the worshipping 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.

As the vacancy has progressed and extended in length, we have found it has given Young Crown some totally predictable capacity issues. Much of the Coordinator's time and efforts have been plunged into midweek tasks that would otherwise have been undertaken by and incumbent minister (or even a locum, if we had one!) With that said, this isn't so much a source of frustration as simply a note to mention that Young Crown's capacity for growth and innovation in other areas has been limited with the continuing vacancy. We love church and have loved to support and encourage the congregations during this season of change. It has been a privilege to serve in these ways (many unseen, often unacknowledged!!!)

We look forward (at time of writing) to the arrival of Crown Church's new minister in the new year 2020, and all that he will bring not just to the life of the church, but also into the freedom of Young Crown to shift and refocus on some more outward-facing and community-based ministry opportunities.



# Schools Work

We love our schools! School is the place where children and young people:  
Spend most of their time;  
Learn about the world, societies and how we operate within them;  
Form their worldviews;  
Shape their sense of self outside of the household.

At Young Crown, we know just how critical it is, therefore, to be in schools offering the impact of the Gospel of God's Kingdom. We want to walk alongside and encourage those who are Christians (schools can be difficult places to be 'different'...); display that Gospel for those who haven't encountered it yet; and support those in authority (both because they are in authority – and because teaching is hard going!)  
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 – and even serve in brand new territory!

## Crown Primary School

Throughout the year we've been continuing with our regular 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. We've been so grateful for the time and talents of a few musicians - including the young maestro (Louis Jones) - who have stepped up and played the notes for assemblies, services and classes. We also hosted a GLEE club event where the acapella group blew the roof off of the church!

In last year's report, I intimated that this year's report would include news that we were able to recruit a new leader to continue the work of running a lunchtime SU group in the school. Unfortunately this has not happened. We would be so grateful for a volunteer to come forward to help run a lunchtime Scripture Union club – could this be the reason you're reading this very page right now?

We're so pleased with how we've been able to be involved in the school over the last year, though I must report that we would love to have been in more and offered more. It is entirely down to the lack of capacity to offer any more, with Young Crown's resources already so thinly stretched!



## Millburn Academy



Keen readers of reports past will have spotted an upward trajectory in reported numbers of attendees at the Millburn Academy drop in (last year's report saw a regular 80-100 every week). 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. Our numbers have, perhaps unbelievably, gotten even bigger in the last year. We regularly exceed 100 pupils attending the Drop In! This has truly been one of the key features of a currently very strong chaplaincy support we offer at Millburn across all year groups and with staff and senior management too. Crucially, we have noted both an increase in attendance and decrease in committed adult leadership which will prove to be unsustainable unless we manage to recruit more people into this vital, and still-flourishing, avenue of chaplaincy.

We have also significantly added to the workload too in terms of increased activity with teaching lessons and a smaller chaplaincy team slotting into the assembly programme.

Once again we managed to bring the YFC touring team up to Millburn in November. The Sense provided assemblies, music lessons, RME lessons, lunchtime performances and so much more. At the end of the week we held a concert at Caffe Nero in town which was well attended by a wide range of people.

## Charleston Academy

The Head Teacher from Charleston Academy got in touch during the year for some consultation with us about the positive role of chaplaincy in the school and, in particular, the re-introduction of religious assemblies into school life. It had been a long time since religious assemblies were practiced in the school and there were multiple reasons why this proved a tricky conundrum; with some historical concerns as well as a general feeling from staff that this was not just unnecessary, but also in some cases worth actively opposing.

It would be fair to say that, especially given the opposing factors and the size of the task, one of the things of which we can be most proud to report this year is that with our help Charleston Academy now has an active stream of religious assemblies and the foundations of a positive chaplaincy starting to form. I'm very proud to have delivered the first religious assemblies in the school for a long time, and to have been received very warmly in so doing!



# 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 for the last three years been the mainstay of the YC weekly calendar in the last year. We're so grateful for all that's gone on through the club over the years. This year was, sadly, the last one for our Energize club. I say "sadly" but...

## YC inc.

'The King is dead... Long live the King.'

Recognising that Energize had served us so well over the last few years inspired us to stop it and reimagine the youth club format. We gave ourselves a term off to meet as a leadership team and dream – asking the question "what would the ideal youth club look like here?"

Over a term we built a club up with key aims including:

Sustainability; increased link up with church; buy-in for whole families; more activities and interests catered for; clear and relevant Bible teaching; serving opportunities for young leaders; increasing familiarity with the church building; and more. After trying to envisage what it should look like, we then went about taking that list and shaping it into what it could look like. And YC inc. was born!

We're still at the exciting early stages with the new club – and I know there's more scope to grow and develop it; but signs of progress are good in many of the aspects we were hoping to grow through the new-look club. Watch this space for more as it really takes off!!





### **Little Crowns Toddler groups**

In light of Kingsmills Toddlers finishing up, last year's "report big announcement" was that we were exploring the opportunity to serve our community by offering toddler groups in their place.

Having begun by experimenting with the viability of running three groups per week, we discovered after two terms of experimentation that the afternoon group wasn't viable. This was not for a lack of enthusiasm for it, but driven by a lack of usable space in the building.

I am pleased to report the continuing success of the two (Wednesday and Thursday) morning toddler groups – both with regular and enthusiastic attenders; and with non-negotiably proper coffee on offer!

By running the Toddler groups ourselves, it has proven to be a valuable service to the community. Our groups represent a good mix of people but especially comprise many for whom the group is their only link to church. We love to serve them!

And we can always use more help in the kitchen if you're interested...

### **Summer**

Over the summer we maintained a weekly programme of activities for everyone from nursery to S2. We ran two clubs – including 'YC summer daze' on Thursdays; 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.

### **Youth Alpha**

At time of writing the report, we're nearing the end of this year's Youth Alpha course. If you know Alpha, you'll be aware of just how good this course is. Amazing things happen. If not, why not? Maybe join us for one next year!! The best bit to report about this year's Alpha is that the leadership has successfully begun to have been taken up by young leaders (past attenders). We hope in the future that Alpha won't just help young people move on in their journeys of discipleship, but also in discovering the exploring gifts of spiritual leadership too.



# 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!

## **Nero gig**

After a successful week embedded in Millburn Academy, we hired out Caffe Nero on the High Street to host a special gig with the YFC touring team. The band entertained for 1.5 hours and it was both well attended and well received. Caffe Nero have partnered with us in this again only too happily having worked with us before, and so it was particularly pleasing to be able to further cement that positive relationship. Who knows what else may be possible in venues outside of the church building like this one?



## **Festive seasons**

As in previous years, our advent season was spent well in helping schools and uniformed organisations to look forward to Christmas. 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. P3 shared a very informative nativity too – told entirely in rhyming couplets (very impressed with the rhyming skills of seven-year-olds in front of hundreds of people!).

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 1s presented their favourite aspects of new life during a memorable Easter service.

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

As well as that, we had one of the festival events of the year when Crown's eldest reached the end of their schooling as Young Crown hosted "P7EXIT". Not sure anyone who witnessed it will ever be quite the same after.



### **Crown Community Fete**

On Saturday 31st August we **didn't** run the Young Crown Community fete! It was absolutely tipping down. It was so wet that our wet weather alternatives wouldn't have even worked because people would have had to swim just to get there! So we postponed for a week...

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.

Postponing meant that a good number of people who had made arrangements to help out and offer services couldn't make it the following week, and I'm so grateful for the graciousness with which they took the postponement. Our one-week-late fete did end up running on a beautifully sunny Saturday afternoon with a great atmosphere. The event itself was, understandably, scaled back due to the postponement (and many people booked up elsewhere) but really encouraging nonetheless.

A good number of families, children and young people came through to enjoy the bouncy castles, BBQ, refreshments, fete games, book swap, wonky bicycle, best-priced-coffee-in-Inverness, and so much more! The atmosphere was as good as the weather (on the actual day), and many people from the community came out and experienced a warm welcome. We even made a small profit in spite of the increased overheads of the one-week adjournment!

### **Grow**

GROW training is the branding we've given to a local collective of youth and children's work practitioners offering high quality, relevant and accessible training to people across Highland. We put it together for locals and have it delivered locally. This is to try and balance out the geographical divide that sometimes limits our access to the best of training resource, but also to deliver the sort of training that is relevant and truly useful. It is, however, no exaggeration to say that Young Crown has offered in the last year some of the best youth work training in the world. How can I make such a claim? Because this year saw us host a youth work forum with Kenda Creasy Dean (Princeton Theological Seminary) – one of the world's top youth work theologian / practitioners! What an amazing night to host an international superstar!!

**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 been a crucial part of guiding Elevate into a structural change and revamp. The operation of Elevate was proving to be increasingly unsustainable. In principle, this was because they have seen a large turnover and reduction of adult leaders and therefore an increasing need for organisational structures to be reviewed and refreshed. As a result of this, after due consideration (under consultation with Young Crown), they are in the process of creating a partnership with Scripture Union Scotland which will help them to review policy arrangements and provide a structured support mechanism for a new leadership team. This is an exciting and encouraging step.

Young Crown can be proud of the achievements in breathing new life into this vital outreach event.

## **Deep Impact**

Scotland's national youth work 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 few of years - providing expertise and direction to the group. The event in January once again sparked discussion in the Scottish parliament with the Deputy First Minister having attended - prompting ministers to minute their thanks again on behalf of the nation for the work being done!



# Extra! Extra!



## **The Big Footprint**

This was an event designed to celebrate the church's place in the local community – developed by the Guild, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade in partnership with the (then) Moderator of the General Assembly. From the Church of Scotland website: "The Big Footprint event... is a chance for the Church of Scotland to show itself as a visible and active presence within local communities by walking together. The organisations mentioned had arranged for larger "Main events" in Glasgow, Dundee, Edinburgh and Aberdeen; but also wished for local churches to organise their own events too.

According to our source on the BB national executive, our event here at Crown was the best attended in the country. Even including the "main events", we still managed to run the biggest of all such in Scotland. More people gathered for our celebration of the church's place within the community here than anywhere else! We're not just reporting this for some back-slapping or bragging, but to share with you some of the joy of real connection we're making with our community through the work of Young Crown.

## **Friday Drop In**

Just an idea we were exploring at the time of last year's report...

With school finishing at lunchtime on Fridays, we discovered an opportunity arising on Friday afternoons to serve our school, community, young people and families all in one!

The experimental phase of the project had worked successfully; the first attempt at running for real not so successfully. How do you think we've fared since??

I'm pleased to report that this is a project that has seen real signs of becoming well established. At time of reporting, we are now running the lunch club weekly throughout all term times in the year and our regular numbers are between 14 and 20! We so love to eat together and then hang out on a Friday afternoon talking about anything and everything. It's a hassle normally to get the young people to leave – sometimes it takes until about 5:30 to persuade them to go (having spent 5 hours hanging out at church!!)

We love Fridays!

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[www.young-crown.co.uk](http://www.young-crown.co.uk)