



June
2021

Dear Friends,

I hope that this letter finds you keeping well, and that you have found peace, joy and comfort as you have needed over these past few months during this continued challenging time. I thought you may appreciate **a little update** on how things have been going within Cathcart Youth Ministry Partnership since our last update in September!

Through **October to December**, with the change in restrictions, Cara and Murdo embarked upon a blended approach for the young people – with *Zoom* and face to face activities being offered.



There was great excitement when the young people were allowed to meet together, and they all embraced the added precautions that needed to be in place without complaint! They relaxed and chatted and

laughter marked the return to face to face meetings, and some of the young people joined in by *Zoom*, if they were unable to be present for whatever reason. This blended approach was good, and Cara and Murdo delighted in being able to meet for *Illuminate / Kaio* (Tuesday discipleship group) and *Fusion* (Sunday morning) with the young people down at Cathcart Baptist and in the Gateway – it was particularly special for Murdo, as he had not met most of the young people in person (as he had only started with CYMP on 14th March 2020!!).

There was also an option for some of the recent school leavers to join in too, which was greatly appreciated – and always adds extra enjoyment and encouragement for everyone too! While the blended approach was very good, it has to be said that it was fairly hard work too for Cara and Murdo – but worth it, to make sure those that could not physically be there, could still join in.

December saw the **Advent Adventure** arrive at Cathcart for primary



aged children. Goodie bags were prepared for collection each Monday, with a variety of crafts to do at home. There was a weekly



Friday *Zoom* gathering too – it was great that there was a good mix of children from our churches and our local community joining in.

One of the highlights since autumn, has been the **Youth Prayer Course**, which took place at *Fusion* on Sunday mornings through November /

December, and then this was followed up through March, with the

'**Unanswered Prayer**' course. This was well timed, as the three partner churches were also embarking on the

Unanswered Prayer Course, using the Prayer 24/7 material by Pete Greig too.



CYMP also has started a **Book Group** – for all ages, and if you have not managed along yet, you are most welcome. One of the books was 'God on Mute' (Pete Greig) – as you can see, there was a bit of a theme going on over recent months, and maybe this reflects many thoughts and areas of life that many of us have found difficult. It has been really good for many to be able to share in discussions about the challenges in prayer.

The weekly **Kahoot Quiz** has continued to be a regular highlight on a



Thursday for all ages – Murdo has fairly excelled himself, managing to come up with different quiz themes for over a year now!! The final Thursday

Kahoot Quiz took place (the 55th since lockdown!!), and it was a great evening, being reminded of some of very varied, random-

yet-fascinating questions, as Murdo picked his Top 20 over the 55 quizzes. We are hoping to have another quiz evening in July – watch this space, all will be welcome! Hopefully, this will have face-to-face as well as *Zoom*, and will act as a bit of a fundraiser too.

In April we held the '**Colour in Easter**' holiday club – where more goodie bags were collected, and a *Zoom* event was held for the children to share in at the end of the week too. As you can imagine from the title – lots of bright and cheerful colours were involved, whether in



the crafts or baking! Since January, we have also been holding 'The Last Friday..' which is a *Zoom* event for primary school aged children, and at the start of May, this was held in CBC's garden for children and their families to come and enjoy an ice lolly together, as well as participate in parachute games, football and chasing bubbles! It was a very happy afternoon, with a buzz of excitement in being able to see each other again.

As I reflect on an incredibly challenging year, and those recent months in particular, I think it is important to recognise how very grateful we are within CYMP for the hard work, creativity and commitment shown by Cara and Murdo as they have navigated through these changing times as well as the various challenges that the young people have been facing too. This has not been easy...I don't think any of us would say otherwise! It certainly has been very tiring, and there has been disappointment after disappointment for so many of our young people too. Cara and Murdo have done an outstanding job in showing kindness, compassion and understanding with the young people, and sought to bring lightness and laughter into difficult days. Brighter days seem to be on the horizon, and for that we are all so very grateful. CYMP is looking to the



weeks and months ahead as we see opportunities for more in-person gatherings for the young people, and there are lots of discussions happening about potential 'Vibe' activities (courses for developing creativity and new skills!), likely starting in the local primary school. Summer is not too far away, and although summer 2021, will be very different from both 2019 and 2020, this is an exciting opportunity to work within the current level of restrictions, and perhaps try some new approaches as we continue to look to serve the local community as we consider new Holiday Club approaches.



I am sure most of you are aware that **Cara** has been fully accredited as a Scottish Baptist Minister – after 3 years of hard work, and we are absolutely thrilled for her. This is not only an incredible achievement by Cara (well supported by Mark and Esther too!), but we are so very thankful for all that this extra training will bring to the work of CYMP as Cara continues to lead the work here in Cathcart. **Murdo** is also busy just now, finishing off a dissertation for his degree and we trust that he will have been successful in the work that he has put into these last few years too. Lots of encouragements around – and we are looking to the coming months with great anticipation to see what God is already doing in our community, and where we can seek to share in the lives of those around us.

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers, and support – the delight of sharing as partner churches continues to be such a source of inspiration and encouragement....and I am very much looking forward to that day, when we can have another joint Youth Service, gathered together...what a joyous day that will be!

Karen Gurling
Chair, Cathcart Youth Ministry Partnership