

Young People and Family Ministry

Report to Kirk Session — October 2026

Purpose

The Young People and Family Team continues to develop the church's ministry with children, young people and families, with a growing emphasis on building relationships beyond existing church activities and ensuring that future work reflects the wider missional direction emerging through **Imagine**.

The period since the last report has seen an important transition: from putting structures and plans in place to beginning to develop new relationships, opportunities and ministry on the ground.

Martin Carr — Young People and Family Worker

Martin Carr has now begun his role as Young People and Family Worker, following Kirk Session's unanimous approval of his appointment on a 16-hour-per-week, one-year contract. His appointment will be reviewed in June 2027.

The YPF team has welcomed Martin into the role and assured him of its prayer and support. Mark and Martin will meet weekly to provide regular support, review developing work and help maintain focus on the priorities of the role.

Martin has already begun building relationships within the church, local schools and the wider community. This relational work is becoming an important foundation for what develops next.

Schools and Young People

There are several encouraging areas of progress.

A **Scripture Union group at the Primary School** is due to begin on 19 October, with support from a member of teaching staff. Martin is meeting with the Depute Head and older pupils to help shape the group and consider how it might develop.

Plans are also being explored with the Primary School for **Christmas Unwrapped**, with Martin due to meet the Headteacher regarding possible dates.

At the **High School**, positive conversations have taken place with members of the chaplaincy team and senior staff about ways in which Chryston Parish Church might offer further support. Contact with the leader of the Lenzie High SU Group is also being explored as the team considers what can be learned from work elsewhere.

These conversations represent an encouraging development in building genuine relationships with our local schools rather than simply offering isolated church activities.

Coming Alive and Developing Youth Ministry

Young people have expressed a clear desire for **Coming Alive** to continue. Significantly, they have also asked for greater depth in exploring the Bible.

There is interest among the young people in a **residential weekend**, and they have also expressed enthusiasm about a possible missional event connected with the High School. The YPF team believes there may be an opportunity for CPC to take a lead in developing such an initiative.

These are encouraging signs that young people are not simply attending activities but beginning to contribute to shaping what future youth ministry could become.

A Wider Missional Direction

An important theme in both recent YPF meetings has been the desire not simply to continue existing activities because they have always been done.

The team has deliberately spoken about approaching future planning with a “**blank sheet of paper**”: affirming what continues to serve the church’s mission, allowing new work to emerge and being willing to bring other activities to an end where they have fulfilled their purpose.

Christmas, Easter and the Holiday Club have been identified as natural points around which parts of the annual programme might develop. Opportunities to build on existing community relationships, including connections through **68 Fitness** and the Hub, are also being explored.

This approach sits naturally alongside the wider **Imagine** process. The forthcoming X-Groups Leaders Meeting will provide an opportunity to reflect not simply on what groups currently do, but why they do it and how they contribute to the church’s developing missional direction.

As part of this outward-looking approach, the team has agreed in principle to develop a **Meet Your Church** event towards the end of November. The intention would be to create an accessible point of connection with people in the wider community and provide a natural bridge into Christmas.

Supporting Volunteers Well

Work on the new **Volunteers' Handbook** is progressing. Most of the necessary material has now been gathered and Kenny will begin editing this into the completed handbook.

A generic volunteer feedback form is also being developed. Once finalised, this will be made available online and should help teams listen to volunteers, identify areas for improvement and strengthen the way volunteers are supported.

The intention is that these resources will provide clearer expectations and better support for those serving across children, young people, family and other areas of church life.

Safeguarding and Good Practice

Safeguarding remains an essential part of the development of the ministry.

Martin has had an introductory meeting with Mhairi Moore and further follow-up is required. Existing risk assessments are considered satisfactory at present, although they may require adjustment as activities develop.

The August meeting also identified the need for appropriate PVG membership, risk assessments and, where necessary, joint-working agreements when working alongside external organisations.

One action remains incomplete: final details of planned activities have not yet been forwarded to Mhairi. This should now be completed as the programme develops so that safeguarding remains integrated into planning rather than being addressed retrospectively.

Looking Ahead

Over the next period the priorities are to:

- establish and develop the Primary School SU group and continue strengthening relationships with both local schools;
- develop plans for Christmas Unwrapped and the proposed Meet Your Church event;
- listen carefully to young people as Coming Alive, the proposed residential and possible High School outreach develop;
- complete the Volunteers' Handbook and volunteer feedback process;
- ensure outstanding safeguarding planning is completed alongside new activities; and
- use the Imagine and X-Groups processes to help shape a coherent longer-term vision for children, young people and family ministry.

Overall

There is much to encourage us.

We are beginning to see a movement from maintaining a programme of activities towards a more **relational, outward-looking and intentionally missional ministry**. School relationships are developing, young people themselves are contributing ideas, new community connections are being explored and the team is increasingly asking not merely, *“What have we always done?”* but, *“What is God calling us to do now?”*

There remains important work to do in turning emerging opportunities into a sustainable programme, ensuring safeguarding and volunteer structures keep pace with new activity, and identifying which initiatives should become longer-term priorities.

However, the direction is becoming clearer: to build genuine relationships with children, young people and families, create natural points of connection with the church, and help people encounter Jesus.

For Kirk Session

Kirk Session is invited to:

1. **receive the report and note the encouraging progress** being made in the development of Young People and Family ministry;
2. **continue to pray for Martin, the YPF team, our young people and the developing relationships with local schools and families;** and
3. **affirm the continuing move towards a relational and missional approach,** in which existing and proposed activities are assessed according to how effectively they contribute to the church’s wider calling and direction.