

JUMP Annual Report 2020



JUMP, Jesus Use My Potential our 11-18yrs youth group, started 2020 with our usual programme of meeting fortnightly, alternating between Christ Church Rooms and one of our JUMP leaders homes. We started back after Christmas on the 5th January with a film night watching the Prince of Egypt. During January, February, and early March we moved from the Old Testament and Moses to the New Testament, to Jesus and the theme of blessings.

The middle of March we had just about finished planning our annual weekend away at St Johns in the Vale, scheduled for 20-22nd March, almost had our cases packed in fact and then well we all know what happened... We sadly had to cancel our weekend away and our JUMP sessions meeting in person. Like the rest of the country, we were all in a very unknown position. As leaders we were extremely aware that our young people were finding this time very hard, with their lives turned totally upside down with bedrooms becoming classrooms and parents becoming teachers. With this in mind, we knew we had to get something started soon and on Easter Sunday 2020 (12th April) we had our first ever ZOOM JUMP. It was a new experience for us all, but we were back "together" yippee.

This first session and the next few during Spring, were lots of games, quizzes and full of laughs and fun. Come summer, without summer holidays, we decided we would keep going and not have a summer break as we would usually have done. Some of our JUMPers were not comfortable on Zoom and decided to give Zoom JUMPs a miss but are still in contact on our WatsApp group, while we also gained some new regulars, Sudarshan's (former vicar of Brigham, Clifton, Dean & Mosser) two eldest children, have been able to join us from Lincolnshire.

By summer we had quite a rhythm to our online JUMP sessions. Key parts of our online JUMPs include active challenges (scavenger hunts are a favorite), introduction to the theme, a short video, an activity sometimes in breakout rooms (a cool Zoom function), sharing as a group, some form of craft activity/ reflective activity and then a worship song video. Over the year it has been wonderful to see the young people grow in confidence and in their faith. Back in April it felt very formal, most young people did not feel confident speaking and hands were raised if people wanted to speak, but by summer we were chatting away and all more relaxed and having some great down time from the strains and worries our young people were facing. We had a great end to 2020, although no Christmas party wrapping each other up in paper this year, but still great Christmas fun online.

Appreciating this is a 2020 report, I thought you may like to hear how 2021 has started. We continued to meet on Zoom, having met every fortnight without breaks for a year on the 11th April. We undertook the Youth Wellbeing journey, a video series exploring elements of wellbeing such as physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual wellbeing. It has been a really interesting course and at the last session, vocational wellbeing, we invited back two of our previous JUMPers who explained what they were up to now, which our young people loved and enjoyed asking questions. Now the restrictions are easing we are planning three outdoor JUMPs during June and July these will include a BBQ on the beach, field games and a surprise....

This last year has been a challenging year for us all, not least our young people, whose lives have been churned up beyond anything conceivable, learning from home, exams canceled, new schools but "in bubbles" to name a few challenges of the last year. We are delighted that we have been able to continue to meet during the last year and we are very much hoping after a summer break, we can return to meeting in person and welcoming some new members, as well as those who did not feel comfortable joining us over the last year on Zoom.

Please do keep our young people in your prayers, it has been an extremely challenging year, as I type this a number of young people are revising for exams, having no idea how grades will be allocated.

Let's hope and pray our third time lucky rescheduling our weekend away to November, will go ahead and we can have awesome fun together in person once more.

We welcome anyone from Yr7-13 to join us at JUMP, you can find out more on our webpage here <http://cockermouthareachurches.org.uk/jump/>