

Spread the love – spread the Green!



By Grace (aged 8)



I went to a Zoom call which was based on climate. It was a webinar called Green Agents of Change and it was run by the Methodist Church. I did this on 22nd August 2020 at about 10^{AM}. Because it was on Zoosoom we didn't have to bother about Social distancing. It was run by Lynne Norman, the Children, Youth and Family Development Officer of the Methodist Church, and Phoebe Parkin, Methodist Youth President. I had fun.

There were lots of other children from all around the country on the call.

There were other adults on the call too, including Emily Roe, the Methodist

Youth Rep to the British Youth Council, Andy Dye, who is a World Church Relations Officer and James Appleby, a Methodist COP26 Worker. After we had introduced ourselves we were shown a video by another adult (Roxanne Bainbridge) who is the Methodist Youth Rep to the World Methodist Council and works for a charity called All We Can. The video was made by her colleague (Matt) and it sounds like a charity I would like to donate to.



**GREEN
AGENTS
OF
CHANGE**

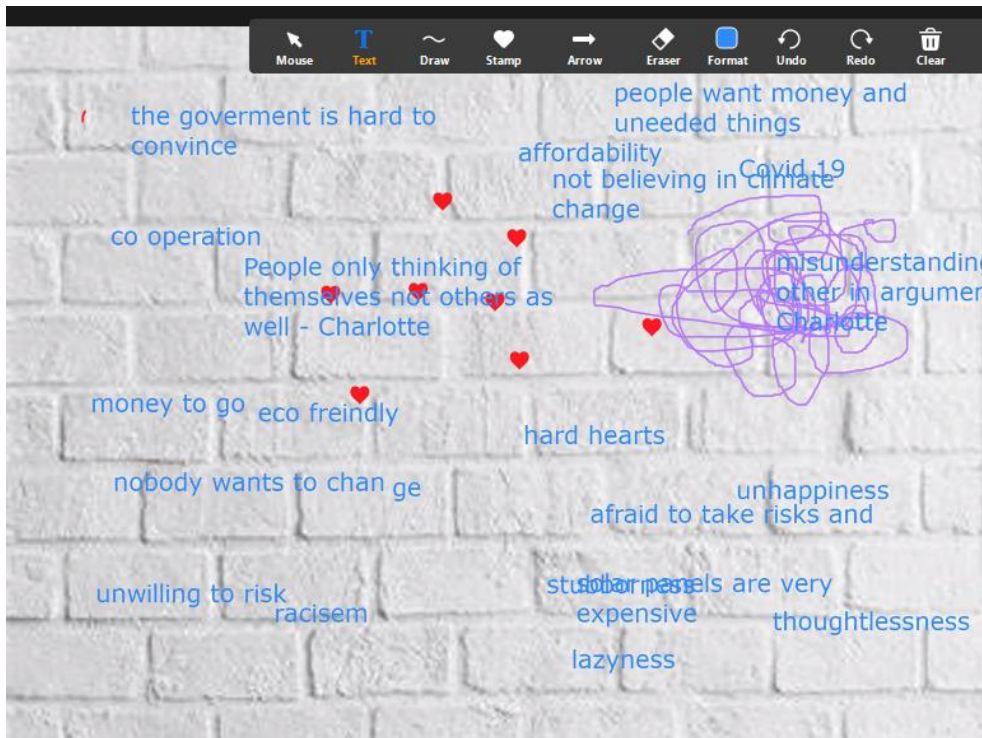
CATALYST EVENTS

Phoebe asked us to draw our dream world and here is mine:



I drew it like this because I would like the earth to be full of love and plants. We then were split up into 2 groups. In our groups we shared and explained our drawings. Other children had drawn electric cars and teamwork.

Then Phoebe put a white board up and we all set to work, writing what we thought were the obstacles to our dream worlds becoming real. I hope you can read this:



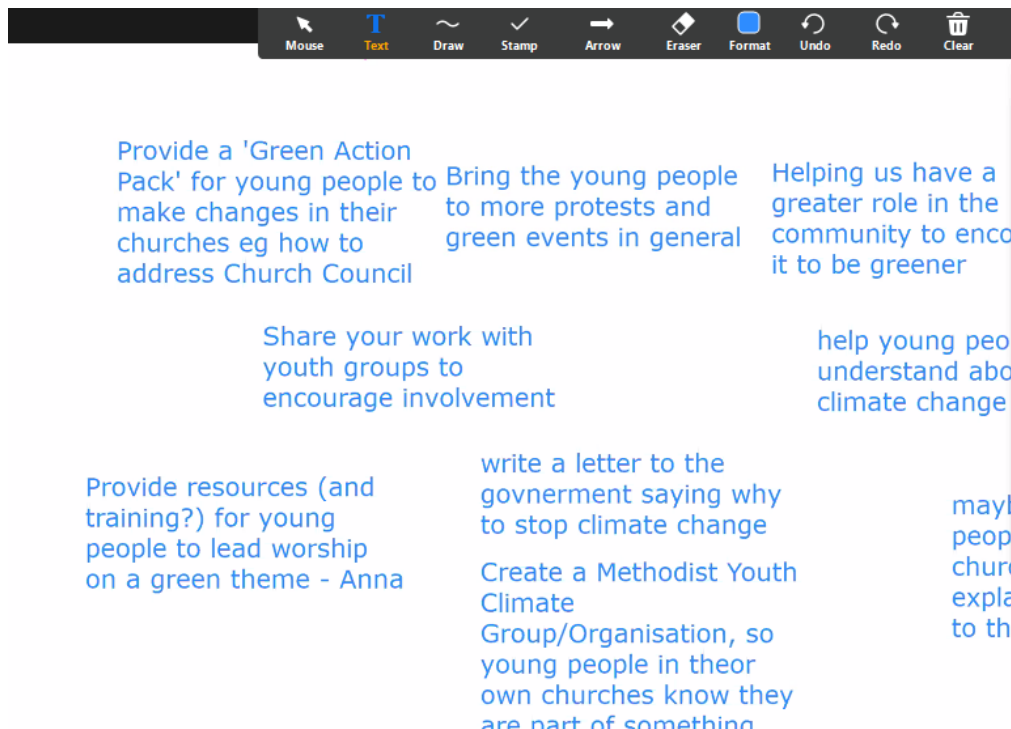
We then joined the other group and showed each other our whiteboards.

Then we were shown two interesting videos from the COP26 workers, James Appleby (who was present) and Mollie (who was on holiday). COP26 workers help the church to persuade the people at the UN Climate Change Conference in November 2021 in Glasgow to help stop Climate change. In the video, James introduced Domino, his cat and then Domino joined us live in the zoom call !

Then we were asked to tell our stories of what we did and do to help stop Climate Change. One girl met her MP and makes her own yoghurt. Two sisters have solar panels, no car, shop second hand and fairtrade and made a petition. Another girl tries not to buy plastic. I said how I went to a protest and that we make our own soap and cleaning products.

After that we went into our groups again and wrote down the things that the Methodist Church could do to help us to be Green Agents of

Change. We had fewer ideas so parents mainly wrote ideas. Here is the suggestion board for my group:



Fun, Music and Cats

I felt that I had to give this paragraph a title to give you a hint of the fun. There were two songs called "Touch the sky" and "You're still God." Another girl recommended a book called "No one is too small to make a difference" by Greta Thunberg. I will read it soon. Then came the cats! We all did a show and tell of our cats. I showed our Maisie and there was a cat called Madame Curie. Obviously Domino was there too.

Conclusion

This was a wonderful opportunity for many things. I made new friends, I learnt about nature having needs as well as us and I came up with new ideas to make this world a greener place. It made me want to speak in my school assembly again and meet up with the other Green Agents. It made me proud that SMC uses solar panels.

The meeting made me want to ask CHYPS to use eco-friendly resources, such as compostable brown paper sticky tape and biodegradable glue and glitter. I hope the next church holiday could be in a place with lots of green space and that has a low Carbon Footprint. I really love all our delicious church meals and I would love to persuade the church catering group to make church meals fairtrade, organic, local, use less meat and if we have meat let it be from happy animals.

This meeting was a wonderful influence on me to help a little bit more in being green.

Grace (aged 8).