



Methodist Recorder article by Roxanne Bromley, Youth Rep to Methodist Council

I have had the privilege holding the position of Youth Rep to Methodist Council for three years. During this time I have been witness to change in the Church and the excitement of new projects blooming. If someone would have asked me what I would be doing five years ago I would not have imagined any of this. As a young woman who grew up in a non-religious family the last thing I would have expected was to be in the middle of church life, or even moving away from home to study at university.

My journey with God has been hard at times and, like any relationship, I have had to keep fighting for it. I was baptised with my friends at the age of 15 and my faith had never been stronger. After the honeymoon period was over and my mental health struggled over exam season and family illnesses started to worsen I suddenly wondered, "Where is God now?" Little did I know he wasn't by my side, he was carrying me. I can't remember many Bible verses but one that has kept me going is Isaiah 40:31, "Those who trust the lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles soaring upwards on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired." On my bad days, my stressful days where I can't see past the next exam or piece of coursework due, I try to remember this – that my strength is with God when I am weak.

As a Youth Rep to Methodist Council, not only do I get to sit in the council meetings to make sure the voice of children and young people is being heard, I also get invited to some very exciting events and projects happening around the UK. I was asked to help plan an event for young people in Lincolnshire in March 2019 and also to help at the Yorkshire West youth weekend in April, as well as helping with some of the plans for 3Generate. Being able to see God's will at work in our churches is amazing and definitely something I will not be able to forget!

God is amazing and knows us better than we know ourselves. If you feel pushed by God to do something, go and do it. You never know what exciting things you'll experience, even if it feels like you're out of your depth. God qualifies the called!

As I move on from university to my new adventure and into the working world I am so thankful for the experiences I have been fortunate to have from being a rep. I hope to carry these on with me wherever I end up in this world, knowing God is there for us all. No matter what we or others think, know that God loves you and cares for you. I'm excited to discover the plans that are waiting for me in my future.