



### **Methodist Recorder article by Emily Roe, British Youth Council Rep**

As I come to the end of my first year as a British Youth Council (BYC) rep I'm reflecting on a year of change and how being a Rep has helped me grow in faith. I chose to share Psalm 139:14, 'I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made' when it was my turn to share on the Reps' Twitter and Instagram as part of the year of testimony in the Methodist Church. This passage means a lot to me as it's part of the constant reminder I have that God has a plan for each of us.

In the last couple of years there has been a lot of change. I started and completed an industrial placement year and, when I applied for the job, I was initially going to be placed in Peterborough where I already had some friends and family nearby but, for a variety of reasons, I ended up in Grimsby where I didn't know anyone. During this period I often found myself wondering why and not fully understanding why this had to happen. Since then, and especially since becoming a Rep last year, I have learnt to trust God's plan although this can still be difficult at times. I have now finished my placement year and returned to university in Sheffield for my final year. The adjustment back into university life was difficult, but the friends I have made through the Rep scheme have been a real support and a constant reminder of God's love to me, and are always reminding me that God has a plan for me. Sometimes it just takes a bit of time to become clear what that plan is.

Being a Rep has also helped me learn to trust God in all I do. Some things will happen that don't make sense at the time but eventually it becomes clear why it happened. At 3Generate this year I was initially put in the 8-11s venue and was looking forward to that, as I enjoy being with that age group. This was changed and I was put in the Still Space venue, which I wasn't particularly looking forward to as it's not a venue I would usually choose. I found myself asking questions such as, "Why have I been put in this

venue? I don't want to be there." However when it came to the event a lot was going on at university, with deadlines approaching quickly, and I was very grateful to be in a venue that was quieter and more chilled. At that point I realised God knew what he was doing even if I didn't.

The theme of 3Generate this year was '*Where is God in my story?*' The children and young people had a chance to reflect on where God is in each of their individual stories, showing them that God isn't just present in church on a Sunday or during their youth meetings in the week but all the time in all they do. I hope that, through sharing my story with young people, that they are able to learn that God knows each of us individually and has a plan for each of our lives before we do.

As we move into the new year and start looking to what the future holds, I know there are more changes for me on the horizon. I am coming to the end of my degree and, with that, comes questions! Do I know what I'm going to do next year?' Do I know where I want to live? Currently the answer to these questions is 'no' but, as I have learnt over the last year, God has a plan for me – I just don't know what it is yet!

'For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"' Jeremiah29:11