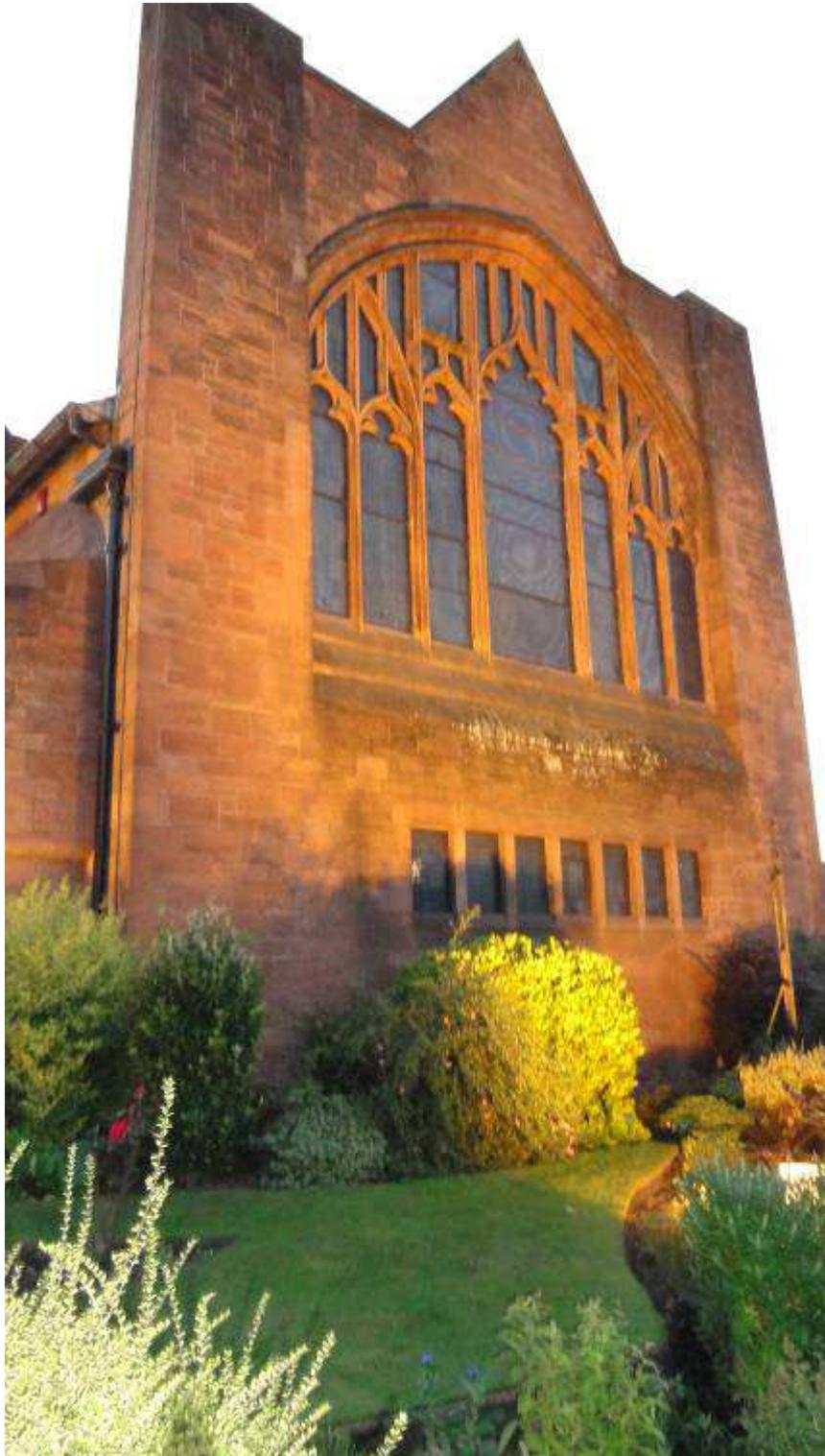


15th October 2010
“Icreate”
St Matthew’s Church, Paisley



Create Paisley meet in a local church and once a month stage a Battle of The Bands event to enable young people the chance to play and sing in front of their contemporaries, with the last event having attracted over 200 young people.

Also once a month is staged an evening, Icreate, with the help of dedicated volunteers Clare, Tim, Jamie and others, where young people get the chance to create through differing mediums. As part of The Mental Health Arts and Film Festival, Jane was booked to go along to St Matthew's Church of the Nazarene in Paisley to run a drumming workshop and the event ran from 7-9.00pm. The church hall was set out with various activities for the evening including a circle of chairs for the workshop. Jane was joined by Tom and Jeanette, who brought some of the goodies from the Buddy Beat stall at The Hub in the hope of making a little sale.



Dr Bentley



The Duchess



Major Tom

As the hall began to fill, several of the young people took seats in the circle, including Peter Quinn who sang at The Hub the previous Saturday and he seemed really keen and interested to get going. With perhaps 6 in the circle, we set off with little or no structure and jammed for five minutes, creating some neat rhythms and the hall vibrated to the Sound of The Circle. Everyone looked chuffed to have created such a beat and this encouraged several more to join, including a talented young chap who plays in a samba band. We then amazingly free-styled for 20 minutes and the group really keyed into listening to each other and many styles and rhythms were created during this. By the time we finished, practically the whole room were either sitting in the circle or gathered around. Rarely have we heard such boisterous and rousing rhythms and thankfully the roof was nailed down! We all whooped with delight and took a break for five minutes to catch our breaths and shake out our drum beaten hands.

After our respite, some others were encouraged to join in. Off we went jamming again and the beat got faster and faster until Jane managed to finally instruct the circle to bring it back down. That was great but after ten seconds a couple of the boys tore the beat away once more and we rocked the hall sideways! Some of the circle wanted to try other things and firstly members were given the chance to swap to percussion before Jane led a Copy Cat sequence and what was great here was that she didn't begin with baby steps but instantly upped the ante and no matter what she threw into the mix, the group brilliantly responded. Next Jane had everyone playing Rhythm Tennis and this gave the circle the chance to show us what they could create and there some great rhythms exhibited!

As the time grew to a close, Jane led a final jam taking the noise levels to a new high and ended on an almighty boom. Then Jane was asked to lead a final, final section where everyone in the hall was persuaded to join in with either percussion or drums and we finished with five thunderous minutes of music which went down a storm!



The Icreate gang getting into the groove with Jane and Tom

This was great two hours and lots of fun. Pleasing was the minimum structure needed and the circle changed almost continuously as the Create people moved in and out at ease. This ensured that the music stayed fresh and changed many times over and the time passed by too swiftly. Jeanette and Tom also sold a few items, earning a penny or two for the group. And Jane soldiered through this despite suffering from a devilish allergy attack!

Smashing!

Words and photos by Tom Chalmers,
With group scene photograph kindly submitted by Jeanette.