

Coronavirus: Leicester Church Uses Minecraft to Teach Bible to Teens

Coronavirus: Leicester church uses Minecraft to teach Bible to teenagers

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A church has turned to Minecraft to teach children about Christianity during the lockdown.

Leicester's St John the Baptist Church has been recreated on a server so the youth club have somewhere to take Bible lessons.

Josh Young, the organiser said it was a means of meeting younger people "where they are" and engaging with them in a context they are used to.

They can also make use of virtual reality to create their own lessons.

Mr. Young for instance made an underwater whale to teach them about Jonah's story. He also challenged the kids to build boats to find out more about Jesus calmed an incoming storm.

The 27-year-old youth worker added: "Having a community for these young people is really important and I wanted to carry that on during the lockdown.

They don't have friends and many are struggling in the present. On Minecraft they can chat, meet and play games without physically being present. It's a great tool to engage and build community.

"Young people" live in this online world and the Bible encourages us to meet people where they are within their communities.

"Jesus broke the boundaries of what people thought was normal worship, Jesus would be content with the thought that the church is moving forward."

About 20 youngsters between the ages of 11 and 17 years old, spend two and a half hours on server each Wednesday.

In that time they're free to explore the world or pursue their own projects However, for 30 minutes they're transported to a common area to complete a Bible-themed mission.

Mr Young said they had made sure the adults could prevent bad language, control those who joined and were given permission from parents for their children to join.

Rosie, 15 is one of the teens who joins regularly. Minecraft-servers.fun "I am a fan because I can chat with my friends while playing, I enjoy it as much as meeting up for our regular youth group," she said.

"I thought it was a good idea when Josh teleported everyone to the same spot and we held a contest to build the most beautiful boat from Matthew, Chapter 8, when Jesus stopped the storm. My team won because we built little lightning storm clouds."

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At the end of the year the church may not be back on course.

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