

THE GETTING CONNECTED DIARY

A TAPPER'S PERSPECTIVE



A TAP INTO IT PUBLICATION



FOREWORD

In 2021, Tap into IT partnered with Slateford Longstone Church of Scotland in a 3 year project to help housebound older people, in their local community, to connect more effectively with others and reconnect with groups and activities for health and wellbeing.

The project is being funded by the Tor Foundation.

80 percent of Slateford Longstone Church of Scotland's 175 membership roll are over 70 years of age.

Many of their elderly members have been affected by lockdown, and whilst some of them will return to being in the sanctuary, and others have grasped the opportunity of using Zoom, a significant number remain disconnected from the life of a worshipping community.

The church knows their community well and have identified the second group of people who are most likely to benefit. This group includes Margaret, who kindly agreed to



FOREWORD

keep a diary of her ten weekly Zoom sessions as well as her monthly drop in sessions.

Margaret was assisted by Yvonne a member of the church congregation and a volunteer.

Milo van Mesdag, a Tap into IT Digital Support Worker and tutor is leading the weekly Zoom sessions.

The volunteers received initial training from Tap into IT in January 2022.

Tap into IT will continue to mentor the volunteers to ensure that the necessary ongoing help is there for people to stay online and connect with others via Zoom etc.

2 FEBRUARY 2023

My name is Margaret and I am a member of Slateford Longstone Church, Edinburgh. I've been selected to be one of a small group who are "Getting Connected" with the church and each other using the internet (via Zoom). I have agreed to keep a diary of my experience during these sessions.

I own a mobile phone but it still confuses me so I am panicking about using another gadget.

Luckily, I had a helper with me, called Yvonne. She is a church member too and helped with the first "Getting Connected" group last year.

Today was my first lesson on how to use an iPad (provided via funding from The Tor Foundation) and I found it quite daunting. There was a bit of confusion whilst trying to get connected to Zoom, which didn't help.

Once connected, we introduced ourselves to the other members and helpers.

9 FEBRUARY 2023

Today, I attended the monthly connecting people session held by Slateford Longstone Church with learners from the Church's first "Getting Connected" group.

This was my unofficial second lesson on how to use my iPad as it was held face to face rather than on Zoom.

Milo connected my mobile phone to my iPad so I now have access to the same contacts, emails, Apps, photos etc on both devices.

Yvonne, my helper, then showed me how to email.

I actually sent three emails to my family: I was very chuffed with myself. Later that day, I sent some more emails by myself.

24 FEBRUARY 2023

Today, I'm back on Zoom with the "Getting Connected" group, for the second time.

It was a rocky start: I struggled to get connected on Zoom as it has been three weeks since the first session and I'd forgotten how to. Luckily, I had Yvonne to help me.

I met Joyce online for the first time. She is a novice like myself but a Zoom session down on me!

Yvonne had to leave early so Sam, Minister of SLC, helped disconnect me from the Zoom meeting as again, I didn't know how.

2 MARCH 2023

Today, I should be “Getting Connected” to the Zoom group on my iPad.

Unfortunately, neither Yvonne nor I could connect to Zoom with my iPad today.

The only option was to join the group using Yvonne’s iPhone. This meant that I didn’t learn anything new on my iPad, but I was still learning - the iPhone is a smaller version of the iPad.

The next day, I tried to connect to Zoom and it worked! It’s a bit of a mystery as to what went wrong, but these things happen!

9 MARCH 2023

Today, I attended another of the monthly connecting people sessions at Slateford Longstone Church.

I prefer the social aspect of the face to face sessions because you get to know everyone. I also find it less stressful than Zoom.

It is encouraging that it's not just us newbies that make mistakes - the experts do too!

I'm beginning to understand symbols (icons) better and my family have even noticed my progression.

I have managed to download several knitting patterns and a couple of games (perhaps not a good idea as it gives me an excuse to sit down more!).

16 MARCH 2023

I managed to join the Zoom "Getting Connected" group today (a good start) - it's only my 4th Zoom session.

On Zoom, I feel that I don't pick up a lot of information, despite having Yvonne's help.

I'm better one to one as that's when I see what to do first-hand. I'm a bit slow taking facts in, so I need to write things down, step by step (back to school) and Yvonne is a great help with this.

I added a jigsaw puzzle app to my iPad. I selected a jigsaw but found it difficult to complete. It was my first attempt, so I can only get better. It is quite addictive and it's amazing how the time passes.

I haven't downloaded any more knitting patterns. I used to knit for the family but now as my fingers get painful, I knit smaller items which mainly help the church with their shoe boxes.

I made a few mistakes typing this diary, but I managed to rectify them (woozy woo) that's progress for me.

23 MARCH 2023

It's my 5th Zoom session with the "Getting Connected" group and a new member has joined us called Christine. She has replaced Joyce.

We were all tasked with signing up to the TapIT newsletter in easy stages. Firstly, searching for Tap into IT on Google, clicking thru to the Tap into IT website and then scrolling down the page to the newsletter sign up box. I then entered my email address with Yvonne's help and I managed to subscribe. Another step forward.

Milo has been talking about Google quite a bit in these sessions and I realise that you can search for almost anything with it. I've been wanting to learn to crochet so Milo used this as an example and showed the group how to search for "how to crochet" using Google.

I think I might manage it myself. Things are slowly slotting into place but, I still get mixed up because there are so many options.

30 MARCH 2023

I'm getting more confident in connecting with Zoom but I still need a prompt now and then. It's only my 6th session!

Today the "Getting Connected" group learned how to send photos by email. I didn't have much success using my iPhone.

Milo went through the process step by step. At the end of the session, each member had a go at sending a photo to one another. I am pleased to say that I managed.

I had another go on my own later and managed to send photos to my brother. He confirmed that he received them - whoops woo, onward and upward!

6 APRIL 2023

It's my 7th Zoom session with the "Getting Connected" group and we were screen sharing to learn how to open an App.

We all opened the BBC News App and went through the process of how to personalise news feeds. I found this bamboozling, so much to take in!

I also learned what to do if I forget my password, which was quite useful as I do, forget mine sometimes!

13 APRIL 2023

Today, I joined the monthly connecting people drop-in session at Slateford Longstone Church, and it was busy.

Although, there were quite a few of us, it was easier for our helpers to give us a helping hand as we were sitting face to face. With Yvonne's help, I downloaded the Google Earth App. I found it fascinating to see places I had lived and visited, in great detail. It was as though I was walking the streets myself - it brought back a lot of memories.

I'm still catching up with daily news and my games, there's not much housework getting done. Even my knitting has taken a back seat!

20 APRIL 2023

A new member joined, my 8th "Getting Connected" group Zoom session.

Like me, she hadn't used an iPad before. So this session included a refresher course on familiarising ourselves with the home screen. I surprised myself at how much I'd picked up in such a short time.

27 APRIL 2023

At today's "Getting Connected" session (9 already!), I shared my screen with the rest of the group. Using Google, I searched for information about the King's Coronation - the date and the timings of different events.

During our search, Milo kindly gave me a pointer: I was scrolling in the wrong direction! It seems I still need to get used to reversing my scrolling habits since I often mix up "up" and "down." It's not just that, though. I find myself puzzled by the terms "upper" and "lower case" as well. Why not just say "upper case" for capital letters? It would make things so much clearer.

Additionally, some of the tech jargon still confuses me, and I hope to crack it soon!

4 MAY 2023

Today marked the 10th "Getting Connected" group Zoom session and I have to say, I'm becoming quite the Zoom pro. It's amazing how much more confident I feel using this platform.

In today's session, we focused on screen sharing once again and revisited the Home screen symbols. It was a fantastic refresher for the new member, and honestly, it served as a great reminder for me too!

11 MAY 2023

Guess what, everyone? Today, I attended the monthly "Connecting People" drop-in session and it was fantastic!

I have some exciting updates to share with you all.

First things first, I finally decided to personalise my iPad and changed the wallpaper picture to one of my own—a breathtaking sunrise. Trust me, it looks so much better now! It's amazing how a simple change can bring so much joy.

In addition, I used Google to check on train disruptions. I'm planning a trip down South, to visit my brother, but unfortunately, there are some strikes causing delays and cancellations. I'm keeping my fingers crossed and hoping for some luck so that I can make it there as planned.

18 MAY 2023

As I reflect on my journey in "The Getting Connected Diary: A Tapper's Perspective," I'm filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. It's incredible how far I've come in mastering the fundamental use of an iPad. But this is just the beginning.

Milo recently shared some insightful advice with me. He mentioned that I have officially graduated in understanding the basics of iPad usage. Now, it's up to me to decide if I want to delve into more advanced features and explore the limitless possibilities it offers. And guess what? The church group meetings will be the perfect platform for me to continue my learning journey.

I am immensely grateful to Yvonne and Milo for the all the sessions we've had. We've shared laughter, discoveries and moments of triumph together. With the support and camaraderie of our community, I am confident that I can dive into more serious usage and unlock the full potential of this remarkable device.

UPDATE

While I'm proud of how far I've come, I am also aware that there is still so much more to learn. The world of technology is ever-evolving, and I am excited to embrace new challenges and expand my horizons. The learning never stops, and I'm eager to continue this journey of discovery.

Thank you all for joining me on this remarkable adventure and being a part of "The Getting Connected Diary: A Tapper's Perspective." Your encouragement and support have meant the world to me. Let's keep inspiring one another and embracing the wonders of digital connectivity together.

Until our next chapter.

Margaret