George’s oral history discusses this time as Vicar of St Mary’s Church Hambleton from 1984 to 2002. In this extract he remembers the Covenantors and JUCOs groups

“Well, it was Covenanters and JUCOs. We had a go at starting Covenanter group, which was at that time 13-plus, and this would be probably about late 1985-ish. It didn’t really go very well, because there were only two people came to it, it were Matthew Lee and Michael Ingle, and they came regularly, but it obviously wasn’t taking off, so we stopped it for a while, and then started again. Now, I remember Donald he was one of the first members when we started it off, and he’d just gone up into high school. So, I can’t remember what year it was, but it would probably be about 1987, and then it began to grow from there.

A bit later on, we started a Juco group, and Nick Hollis’ year were sort of top group at school.

Officially the top two years of primary school, so that would be 10s and 11s and then they fed almost automatically into the Covanentors so it gave it a bit of a future then. And I think -- now, JUCOs would have been 14 years’ old when it was closed down, so that would be in 2003 or 2004, so it was started about 1990 I should think. Half of the time was spent on bible classes and the other half was football and indoor games anyway. I think -- I mean they obviously came for the indoor games more than the bible class.

I always felt it was a complement when one of the ways that the parents punished them if they wanted to punish them was stop them coming to JUCOs or Covenanters, which, you know, said well for them, because it must have been a punishment not to come.

We used to go out, we took them on the Youth Hostel holidays quite a lot, most of the half terms and main holidays we’d go for a few days. Then days out, Yorkshire Dales usually. So, you, wouldn’t have been able to do it now, because Child Protection and you’ve got to have at least two adults with them. There’s so many rules and regulations now that there weren’t then.”