

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES UPDATE, MAY 2022

SPLASH Children's Church regularly has 6-12 children attending. COVID caused a drop in volunteers and a prolonged change of venue (use of St. Luke's room), but with the rise in Under 3's, this needs to be looked at and the school hall needs to be re-considered.

Huge thanks go to Non Vandenbraak, Susan Riordan, Melanie Walton, Emma Tyldsley, Sandra Hunt and Roseanna Treharne for their support. We also had 2 young volunteers who were doing their Duke of Edinburgh during Spring Term.

YOUTH group has a regular attendance of 5-10 young people. Times of meeting are varied, with a once-a-month breakfast and youth get together with the Bridge Church in Bulwark.

Two of the Youth, Chantelle & Joel will be joining other young People from St. James, Bream, for a working/mission trip to Brazil for 3 weeks in the Summer. It was fantastic to welcome Sergio to St. Luke's in May and hear him speak plus Joel & Chantelle kicked off their fundraising to help cover the costs of the trip.

Five of our young people plus Emma, Ethan & Non will be joining 2 Church Youth groups from the Forest of Dean and attending Limitless in August (Christian Youth Festival). Prayers for all would be much appreciated.

Everyone was incredibly sad to say Goodbye to Ethan in December. The Youth have missed his input as well as John Ross's, who has been incredibly busy over the last few months. This has left the Youth leadership team quite depleted with Emma, Non and sometimes Ethan & Nicholette holding the fort. The vision and prayer is that there will be a Youth leadership team hopefully consisting of some young adults (Jonno and Corette being two of them).

A Family weekend has been organised for this weekend with Canoeing, BBQ/Picnic, Camp over & Outdoor church on the menu. There has been a small uptake but God works all things for good so I am hoping that it will be a blessing to all that attend.

TUTSHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school ministry has been constantly evolving since Sept 2001. Initially, the classes returned weekly, one class at a time to St, Luke's. In March it changed to key stage 1 and key stage 2 and in May we had our first whole school assembly (210 children), which will now take place every other week. Again, due to COVID volunteers have been thin on the ground but I have now been introduced to the Worship team (YRS 4&5) who will join me before every assembly and be involved in running and leading.

OFFA'S MEAD PRIMARY

Ministry here has been a bit slow off the ground, but Polly & I were delighted to receive an invitation to go in and do an assembly over Easter. We will now be running an assembly once a month.

Every child in both schools received an Easter booklet from Tidenham Parish Church. Unfortunately, due to no one's fault but my own, St. Johns did not receive one BUT will get one next year!!

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

Fiona continues to lead worship at St. Luke's for St. John's school. (Thank you so much Fiona)

COMMUNITY

NEW PARENT & BABY GROUP is regularly attended by 12-15 Mums plus babies/toddlers. It has been a privilege to watch friendships and babies grow. Offering a friendly, loving, chilled out space for these mums is so important. The Church should be really proud of this ministry. Huge thanks go to the volunteers, Leonie, Margaret, Susan, Elaine & Non. Also, even huger thanks to Jane Penny & Non who started this ministry during lockdown.

SEDBURY STAY & PLAY

Non and I restarted the group in October 2001. Numbers were initially sporadic as COVID swept through the country over the winter. However, we now regularly have 12-15 carers with their babies/toddlers/pre-schoolers attending and the group has relaxed as friendships have formed. Our volunteers are a mixture of church and non-church goers which is wonderful. Again, I feel that this is a wonderful ministry, and the church should not forget or underestimate what these groups mean to mums, dads, little ones and the volunteers.

SEDBURY COMMUNITY WORK

It has been great to have been able to team up with Emily Timmins (Tidenham Parish Youth worker). Over Easter we ran an easter trail with artwork provided by the children from Offa's Mead. This was really well attended by over 30 parents and children. In the afternoon, Adam Legge from Sportily arrived with a van full of sports equipment and held a free two-hour session on the field behind Sedbury Space. This was attended by approx. 35 children, 90% from Sedbury. Adam and I were approached by 3 parents who asked if the sessions could be held monthly. They were also eager to get Sedbury parents together to fundraise so that the children could have a day out.

Adam, Emily, I & Nikki have since met with the parents and are moving forward with this however much prayer is needed around how this pans out.

Adam & I recently met up with Lucinda Driver to talk about how Sportily can work with the school.

The Tutshill Scarecrow Trail, Easter 2022 was a great success with approx. 1000 people participating and £1276 raised for SARA, Teens in Crisis, and Tidenham Parish Churches. A huge thanks go to Lifestyle Express for selling the forms and the Scarecrow Trail team (Susan & Robin Riordan, Carol Clammer, Melanie Walton, Sarah & Nick, Non and Carol Clammer) plus all of those folk that made Scarecrows and hosted them. Without their hard work and input, none of this could happen.

There is a lot still to work on, one of those things being our response to the Ukranian folk and children coming to the church.