

# **Children's and Youth Report**

## **AGM October 2020**

### **Pre – Covid**

#### **Sunday School**

Before Covid we offered Sunday school most weeks. Each week an average of 25 youngsters attended one of the three groups aged 2-5, 6-9 and 10+. Our team of leaders has grown throughout the year and we have been putting particular effort into mentoring and nurturing new leaders. A big thank you especially to Kerry for taking over the co-ordination of the rotas. Our themes have included bible characters and encounters with Jesus. We have continued to use Urban Saints material. Thanks to all the leaders who have taught and loved our church throughout the year.

#### **Youth Group.**

Youth group is one of my favourite evenings of the month, always filled with laughter. Pre-covid we met on the first Sunday evening of the month. This has been led by Carolyn, Nigel, Matthew and myself. We have between 5 and 12 young people aged 10 and above. Each evening consists of chatting, games, a bible time and lots of cake. We have also had several socials including BBQ's, Windsor Monopoly and a day at Big Church Day Out. Carolyn and Nigel have also taken some of our older youth occasionally to Kerith church Bracknell who put on youth events on a much larger scale. At the beginning of February we had a youth weekend together. God directed us to stay at church rather than go away, which was perfect as it allowed the youth to dip in and out and therefore more were able to attend. The weekend included 6 sessions using a resource called Uncut which was written for Youth for Christ. It included DVD clips, games and discussions. We also had lots of great food including a three coursed meal cooked by the youngsters in a Bake Off challenge. A highlight was on the Saturday evening when we had All Saints has got talent, and oh my - what talent they have. I was especially encouraged with the way they all supported and cheered each other along. And to top it off, several gave their life to Jesus in the last session.

#### **Summer Holidays**

We fundraised and sent off 5 of our young people to three different camps in the summer of 2019. Soul Survivor, The Track and Campaigner camp. Fundraising included babysitting, a movie afternoon and a summer bbq and fun afternoon. Thank you so much to all that supported them and prayed for them. They all had a great time.

#### **Holiday Club**

We delivered a beach themed holiday club at All saints in August for children aged 5-12. This was a joint event with Dedworth Green Baptist and Kerith church. It was attended by 60+ children many of which do not usually go to church. We had a wonderful week exploring stories in the bible that were set at the sea side, focussing on Peter. We had daily beach aerobics, baby shark, singing, games, craft and activities. Crafts included making team beach huts, lighthouses and boats. In the afternoons we had team games (including human hungry hippos), water games, a treasure hunt and the grand finale was a beach party and bbq. Much fun was had by all, children and leaders included.

## UV Light party

This was another joint effort with Dedworth Green Baptist and Kerith church. The UV Light party was an alternative to halloween. We spent an evening and a day transforming the church. We bought UV lights especially for the occasion .A dance floor, a glow in the dark pin bowling alley, glow in the dark Jenga, UV nail and face paint, glow in the dark apple bobbing were just a few of the activities. We had a massive shock when more than 80 children turned up and unfortunately we had to turn a few away. The evening included group games, a meal and a short talk by Carolyn. It was a great night but many lessons learned and we had lots of ideas moving forward. Unfortunately due to Covid these have not yet happened.

## Halloween Part 2!

On actual Halloween evening, as we often had before, we lit up the front of the church and gave out goodie bags and hot chocolate to the trick or treaters. We were overwhelmed with the amount of people that popped by, now considering it a tradition to come to All Saints as part of their Halloween evening. Our 80 goodie bags which included a book and sweets were given out very early on. We had some great chats with our community.

## Working with other churches.

As above we have been working with Dedworth Green Baptist and Kerith on youth and children's outreach to the community events. We had been regularly meeting with leaders from both churches as part of our monthly schools and youth meetings. This was a good time to get to know what each other were doing and planning, and to bounce around ideas for future things we could do together. More recently the minister from Windsor Fellowship church had also joined us. We had a plan for an Easter holiday club day, Easter Masquerade ball, Summer holiday club and another UV Light party. We had also started praying about the possibility of regularly doing a larger event (similar to Kerith Bracknell) for the older youth at Kerith Dedworth, but with all of the churches working together. Obviously this is all on hold at the moment.

## Covid Response

### Youth Group

Youth group went from meeting monthly to weekly pretty early on in Lockdown. We switched to zoom meetings which have been lots of fun with mainly games, but has included a bible and prayer time. During this time the group has planned and led a pre recorded Sunday morning You Tube service. We also joined in with the United Breaks Out festival in the summer, which we did in person, socially distanced. This included lots of games, take away food and the evening meeting which we watched on a shared television screen but all had wires to our own headphones. We have just started meeting once a month again at church, but zoom youth continues on the other weeks.

## Younger Youth

We added an extra zoom youth group for the slightly younger youth 9 -10 year olds. This was attended by 3-4 youngsters weekly and followed a similar pattern to the older youth, although shorter. This discontinued at the beginning of the summer holidays.

## Prayer bags

Sensory prayer bags were made for all children on the Sunday school registers, plus a few more. Each bag consisted of several prayer cards with everything you needed for the prayer. They included prayer washing lines, growing sunflowers, bubbles and sweets. The Joy was in the delivering of the 40+ bags and being able to catch up with the families face to face for the first time in a long time.

A big thank you to everyone who supports our children and youth, whether that is by leading and teaching them, or praying for them and us leaders. I love it when I come into the 10.45 service, and someone from the 9.30 asks how an event has gone or has said that they are praying for us. So thank you.