

ASD Schools Team Report for the AGM October 2020

Schools work in the parish has been continuing in fits and starts this year. The team of Ruth, Carolyn and Nigel was significantly enhanced when Matthew joined it in January 2019 during his year out of uni. This became even more significant after Rev Nigel's departure.

As a foursome we worked very well together and continued monthly assemblies at Alexander First school with stories from the Old Testament and then the New.

The Art in Heaven competition and exhibition in May 2019 was a huge success in so many ways with all our schools.

For Harvest last year we offered the Sower. As a follow up the new RE teacher at Dedworth Green First school asked us to lead RE lessons for the whole school, each lesson with a subject heading from the SACRE syllabus. We thoroughly enjoyed engaging with these delightful children in some challenging questions, like *Does the Christmas narrative need Mary?*

The Creative Christmas story as we acted it out for them, both in church and in the First schools, was written by the pupils. Some of the characters were their inventions – like Emily the shepherdess, Alice Mary's sister, Ali and the Cockerel. More church members were roped in to deliver all that.

For the younger children we took the Hat and Scarf Christmas story to them, so in many cases we did 2 presentations in one school. With Clewer Green and Hilltop also coming to use our premises for their carol concerts, and our invitation to Braywood School, (not in our parish) we were extremely busy.

We had planned our Easter assembly to take round the schools and had a visit to church from all Dedworth First school pupils all arranged when . . . Lockdown . . . and everything stopped. None of it happened.

This term we have offered a Harvest assembly on Zoom / YouTube for Alexander at their request. It was well received so we have also offered and then sent it to Dedworth Green and Homer. Braywood have asked for it too.

For the future, we are now looking to Christmas. In addition, Alexander are asking for help with their RE week in January 2021.

The Children, Youth and Schools Teams continue to meet for monthly Bible study and prayer, now on Zoom.

The total impact of what we have done in God's name and to his glory will not always be clear to us, we are aware, but we are happy and feel blessed to have had the opportunity and to have been given the support we needed.

Thank you Lord.