

Education Group

Work with children

Our main activity for children continues to be the weekly Godly Play sessions in the Lady Chapel which take place during 10.00am services on Sundays. Although the numbers of children we entertain does vary from week to week, we are happy to say that there have been a consistent number of small children (aged 3-7) and their parents who join us in these weekly sessions. These are now planned on a quarterly basis, with 3 series (one OT, one NT, plus usually some seasonally appropriate NT study) and then offered through visual storytelling with wondering questions, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting. And we always finish with a quiet prayer at the end of each session.

Due to the dedication of our small team (Michelle, Carole, Katharine, Joe, Bill and Dotun) we have been able to provide Godly Play sessions every Sunday of the year (and an improvement from before 2020 when we only offered about 40 weeks of the year due to school holidays). Bill and Dotun have also been able to provide age specific teaching and activities for older children (KS2) in the second and fourth week of each month (the same Sunday that the Church holds Parish Communion). We have also been pleased that Junior Choir members have been joining us in the Lady Chapel during the sermon and Intercessions.

We know that members of the congregation love to hear about what the children have been doing, and they are very welcome to have a look round the Lady Chapel at the end of the service. We also always leave out what we have been doing so that people can see it when they are walking back from taking Communion, and for those who visit the church during the week.

Behind the scenes Katharine continues to work hard to plan and coordinate the sessions and find suitable material – and her leadership and enthusiasm is very much appreciated by the rest of the team.

A small but devoted band of babies and toddlers attend our Tiny Tot sessions on Wednesday mornings under Derwyn's leadership, where the very important first steps are often taken in developing a child's Christian life. It's worth noting that these numbers have decreased from 12-15 each week (pre 2020) to 1 or 2 now: mainly due to the need for parents to return to the workplace and the increased use of wraparound care in nurseries.

Schools Ministry

We are continuing to do all we can to support St Michael's School. In addition to the valued clergy led school Collective Worship, Katharine carries out weekly Collective Worship session with early year's children at the school.

We continue to host a number of School services at Christmas and Easter in the Church, and when the clergy team are not available are happy to show groups of children around the Church.

The Governors' Church School Sub-Committee would welcome members of the church to share in the School Prayer Group which they are hoping to begin again soon.

Bill Macdonald, Chair, Education Group