

Education Group

Godly Play

In addition to our Tiny Tots sessions on Wednesday mornings, the main activity we have for children and young people continues to be the weekly Godly Play sessions in the Lady Chapel during 10.00am services. Each week we invite children and their parents to share in Godly Play which can involve a short visual storytelling based on a relevant scripture, with wondering questions, stories, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting on occasion! And we always finish with a quiet prayer at the end of each session.

The team that do the teaching (currently Katharine, Joe, Dotun, Michelle, Carole and Bill) have managed to ensure that we can provide Godly Play sessions virtually every week of the year (including holidays), something we think is important so that parents can bring their children to the Church any week and know that there will be activities provided for them.

Although most of the children who attend are younger, we do get some older children (KS2 and above) and so we now provide age specific teaching and activities for these older children in the second and fourth week of each month (the same Sunday that the Church holds Holy Communion). We would love to expand this group, and maybe in the long term separate the two groups.

A small display showing what the children have been learning that week can be seen on one wall of the Lady Chapel if people would like to find out more, and we always leave out what we have been doing so that people can see it when they are walking back from taking Communion.

Behind the scenes Katharine works hard to plan the sessions and find suitable material – something which is really appreciated by the other members of the team!

Schools Ministry

We are continuing to do all we can to support St Michael's School. In addition to the valued clergy led school services, Katharine carries out weekly teaching session with early years children at the school. Katharine also (as church representative, within her Pastoral Enabler role) together with Val (as Co Chair of Governors) took part in a shared worship in school with Year 6 last term and presented a Youth Bible to each child, as a gift from the Governors.

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. As well as the Reception and Nursery classes of St Michaels School, we will be hosting Year 3 children from Northgate next term.

Bill Macdonald, Chair, Education Group