

Education Group 2026 Report

Godly Play

We have continued to offer our weekly Godly Play sessions in the Lady Chapel which take place during 10.00am services on Sundays. Although the number of children we share worship with does vary from week to week, we are happy to say that there have been a good number of small children (aged 3-7) and their parents who join us in these weekly sessions. In these we often parallel the themes being covered by the adult members of the congregation as well as some seasonally appropriate study, studying both NT and OT topics. We do this by visual storytelling using models and pictures, with wondering questions, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting. And we always finish with a quiet prayer and 'sending out' at the end of each session.

Due to the dedication of our small team (Michelle, Carole, Katharine, Joe, Bill and Dotun) we continue to be able to provide Godly Play sessions every Sunday of the year. Having such a small team does sometimes create difficulties (particularly when there are five Sunday services in the month where Katharine has been kindly taking an extra session), **so if anyone feels that they would like to help in such a rewarding worship activity then please let one of our team know.**

Bill and Dotun continue to provide age specific teaching and activities for older children, and in particular the Junior members of the Choir (who join us in the Lady Chapel during the sermon and Intercessions on the second and fourth week of each month - the same Sunday that the Church holds Parish Communion).

Although the numbers of regular members in this age group attending church has dropped over the year, they are still happy to have a break from the main service during the sermon and Intercession prayers and always contribute well to group discussions.

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.

Tiny Tots

We are grateful for the hard work done by Heather and Shell in helping in the successful 'relaunch' of Tiny Tots which meet on Thursdays from 12:30 until 2:00/2:30pm in the Windhill Churches Centre. Heather has recently had to leave the team to concentrate on her other work with children – including as a volunteer at St Michael's School and we're delighted that Lucie has joined the team. Although Tiny Tots is primarily set up to meet the needs of parents/carers and babies/preschoolers in term time, older children are also very welcome during inset days and these school holidays. We start with playtime and tea/coffee, songs, stories, activities and a prayer. There's easy buggy access and baby change facilities, and often it's a good place to eat your packed lunch! **We would value more helpers, please contact Shell if you're interested.**

Schools Ministry

We are continuing to do all we can to support St Michael's School including the valued clergy led school Collective Worship.

We continue to host a number of School services at Christmas and Easter in the Church, and are happy to help out the clergy by showing groups of children around the Church.

The Governors' Church School Sub-Committee has recently received some new members and has been looking at ways in which the church can increase its support to the school's good work in promoting Christian values. Watch this space!

Bill Macdonald, Chair, Education Group