

Education Group

Godly Play

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. 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 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). Bill and Dotun 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).

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. 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!

See separate Tiny Tots report for more details.

Children's Space on the Green Carpet

In addition to the worksheets on the table, we have begun to prepare weekly colouring sheets with Bible verses which relate to the Sunday scriptures. These are a welcome addition and are also used regularly by visitors with children coming to the church during the week.

We have a small library of Children's Books on the bookcase on the Green Carpet. We tidy and organise the bookshelves and place seasonal material on the top shelf. It would be great if a volunteer wanted to take on this role. Please see Katharine Stanley for more information.

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 are happy to help out the clergy by showing 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.

Bill Macdonald, Chair, Education Group