

Dolphins/Little Fishes

Dolphins and Little Fishes remained combined throughout 2019 and the age ranged from about 2-10 years old. We continued to use resources from Scripture union, selecting the most appropriate material from Bubbles (5s and under) and Splash (5-8 year olds) to help cover the age range. We also use the internet and our own ingenuity!

Continued prayer for the children and leaders would be much appreciated. In particular, additional leaders would be helpful.

I'd like to thank Ellen Flowers who has co-led the group and Rob, Rachel and Tom for all their support as helpers; it couldn't run without them.

Katie Ashmore, 30 September 2020

RE:Charge

It feels so long ago when we enjoyed meeting once a month before this pandemic. Looking back at the material we (Jackie and I) worked through last year, we enjoyed time together looking at parables and some of the traditional stories Jesus taught with our small group of young people, RE:Charge, of between 2 and 6. We continue to use the Energize material, enjoying the conversations, and hearing what they understand the lessons are from each parable - From the wise and foolish builders to seed sowing, hidden treasure and Good Samaritan. Whilst also finding and reading the scriptures and trying to relate them to current experiences.

As important was hearing how they were all getting on a school the fellowship is always very positive and nice to see how supportive they are to each other. We also had the opportunity to hold a social evening where we watched a film and spent time together. Often it was when there was only one or two young people where we enjoyed a healthy session reading the bible and sharing experiences. I look forward to when we can spend time together in our own place of worship, next year.

Mandy Tucker/Jackie Clarke, 12 October 2020

Monday Minis

Monday Minis enjoyed another good year serving our local community and as in previous years has grown and changed during 2019.

We continued our pattern of basing each week on a story and use this as the theme for our craft and sensory/messy play activities. At the end of each session we then share the story and sing together. We also celebrate key Church Festivals by telling both the Easter and Christmas stories during our sessions (and giving copies of the Bible Society Christmas and Easter stories to our attending families as gifts). Monday Minis usually gifts these resources each year for Philippa to use at family-targeted activities such as Messy Church and services during these key events but the resources produced by the Bible Society at Christmas were not as suitable for our families as in previous years and we were unable to get the alternative from Scripture Union, therefore we used surplus resources from previous years instead.

Monday Minis has also been involved in other projects this year – most notably supporting Acts of Kindness Solent in their appeals for baby items and books, as well as contributing to the Harvest Collection for Barclay and Agnew Houses. As in previous years MM acted as a drop off point enabling

people to donate. As before, these collections were well supported by our families and well received by the charities involved.

Our team of helpers remained the same throughout 2019, we are very lucky to have the support of helpers from both the church and the local community who all work together to keep Monday Minis running every Monday afternoon during term time. As before, the team is spread across the generations with both mums and grandparents contributing their time and skills and always willing to help with any task, either during sessions or behind the scenes.

We continued to keep the suggested donation at £1 per family and feel that it is important to maintain this so that the group is affordable for all. As in previous years we continued to use our funds to supply our craft supplies and replace and invest in new toys and equipment as things break and wear out and are self sufficient in doing so.

As in previous years, MM remains popular with families and very valued within the local community and beyond – we have a number of families who travel from outside of Whiteley to attend each week. We regularly welcome 20 or more families each week and Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Childminders all enjoy what Minis aims to offer – a welcoming environment for all. Our team looks out for the lonely and vulnerable and frequently offers help and a listening ear to anyone who needs it.

As I write this, amid the pandemic, the future of Monday Minis is uncertain. However, we are a team who wish to serve our community and would appreciate your prayers and support, as always, in the coming months.

Suzie Cunningham, 13 October 2020

Thursday Home Group

Our home group met on Thursday evenings at 8pm throughout 2019, except during holidays and crises! It had a core of about 6 regular attendees. We began with fellowship and prayer, followed by Bible study. In the new year, we continued our study of the Twelve Disciples, then moved on to Names of God. During Lent, we paused to follow a course called, Daring To See God Now. We then completed Names of God and enjoyed a meal out at Pizza Express before breaking for the summer. In the autumn, we studied Angels and finished the year with an advent study. We welcome new members.

Katie Ashmore, 30 September 2020

Prayer Group

The prayer group met on Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm, throughout 2019, excluding holidays. Mandy and I were the only regular attendees and would love to welcome a few more people. Thank you to anyone who joined us on occasion. We chat briefly and have coffee and then pray informally for our church and community. We read a bible verse about prayer and say the Lord's prayer. Then, we pray as we feel led, thanking God for answered prayer, lifting church concerns, our leadership team, our finances, our community and the world to God. Please join us at any time.

Katie Ashmore, 30 September 2020

Cornerstone CofE Primary School

The school has now been open for 7 years and we are in our third year of having classes from Year R to Year 6. Work on building our new school on a new site started on 11 May 2020, and we are due to open from September 2021.

We have fortnightly or three weekly themes for Collective Worship. Following the period of national lockdown and school phased reopening (March – July 2020), we have focused in the Autumn term of 2020 on re-exploring and re-establishing our Values of Love, Forgiveness and Hope. In normal circumstances each week the children engage with: Headteacher, Reverend Philippa, Class, Singing and Celebration Worships. However in the Autumn term of 2020, Headteacher Collective Worships are held online and Singing Worships are not taking place.

The school has continued to host Messy Christingle. This was again a very special occasion for us as a school to work in partnership with the Church for the community. We also continue to promote other Church services and events through emails to our families and our Facebook page.

Each classroom has a 'Special Area' with items to help the pupils reflect, opportunities for them to write their own thoughts or prayers and a Bible. We have a 'Special Book' in each class to record key comments from the children when reflecting during their RE sessions, Collective Worships or as part of the 5 moments. We also enjoy sharing of a moment from the week from every member of staff during our Celebration Worships.

These 5 moments help the children consider aspects of their lives and experiences from a spiritual perspective.

- Mirror moments are when they reflect on themselves: their thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams, beliefs and values
- Footsteps moments are when they consider things from others perspectives: making relationships, connections and growing empathy
- Window moments develop appreciation and awe for creation all around them
- Tree moments are when they reflect on our school values of Love, Forgiveness and Hope
- Candle moments represent the times they reflect on the world beyond their own: looking for deeper meaning, intangibles and God.

As a school community we are proud of our achievements and progress we have made over the last year and we look forward with Love, Forgiveness and Hope to the next 12 months of our journey of growth, and to sharing this journey with the congregation of Whiteley Church.

Tim Clarke
Headteacher
17 October 2020

Tech Team

2019 was another good year for the Tech Team. Our equipment performed well throughout the year, with no significant failures. Regular services were supported, through a combination of Paul, David and Rob, with David (once again) producing all of the PowerPoint slides. Thanks to good planning and preparation, special events passed with no major problems: Paul's waterproofing of electrical supplies proved of great value for the Remembrance Service; and David's purchase of dimmable LED lights made Candlelit Carols much more manageable. The only area of slight concern is the church laptop is beginning to show its age; a replacement is likely to be required in the not too distant future.

Rob Ashmore/Paul Cunningham
30 September 2020

Open Door Café

Open Door is held on Tuesday Mornings from 9:30-11:30 during term time and sometimes during the school holidays.

We have a regular group of mostly elderly people who attend weekly but anyone of any age is welcomed. We have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat about all sorts of topics of the day and friendships have formed and grown. Occasionally we go out to lunch as a group to celebrate each other's birthdays. As in previous years, the group has continued to be run by Sheila and Merlin.

Church Without Walls

The Garden continues to be tended and mowed on a weekly basis, especially between April and August, then maintenance slows down a bit. Mowing duties are the biggest resource requirement and are carried out by no more than two people despite continued pleas for help. A ride on mower still used regularly and the walk behind Honda mower is still used regularly, especially for the site edges. A garden health and safety policy was implemented in late 2017 and was reviewed in summer 2019. The garden maintenance schedule implemented in Sept 2017 is still in use and the First aid book and first aid kits remain present on site at all times along with locker keys available in a coded lock box on site. It has become increasingly difficult for Matthew Potts to keep travelling into Whiteley on evenings and weekends to maintain the garden. In 2019 Matthew stated to council that eventually, transfer of the the garden coordination will have to move to someone else from Whiteley Church who lives in Whiteley and is able to check up on it much more frequently. We still have good support from Fred who conducts some mowing duties, but it is apparent, other members from the congregation will be required to do their part in helping with the maintenance or development for the site.

The Whiteley Church BBQ was held in August and was a very fun event as always, and well attended. Very few other church events take place on the garden, although it is thought members of the public are making some use of the quiet green space.

The 'path to nowhere' was opened up in 2019 and this provides much better visibility of the church site for passers-by and will hopefully encourage more users. Notes of caution by WTC (Whiteley Town Council) about a risk of antisocial behaviour occurring on the site has yet to be founded or seen as a problem.

Matthew Potts
15 October 2020