

Youth Worker's Newsletter

November & December 2023

School Work

The work in School is still going very well. There is a new noticeboard placed outside at the school which is great to advertise everything we are doing in the Parish.

Godly Play has really taken off this term with every class in school now taking part in a session and we have some more stories to make. For anyone interested in what is Godly Play, I hope to run a session in the early 2024 for anyone to see what it is all about.

I spent an afternoon with Year 6 asking questions about the church as part of my university course. I have to say I was really interested in the replies from the young people.

I had a Year 4 RE lesson where we spoke about being "Fishers of People" and how the church is a "Fisher of People".

The school has made a new altar cloth for Christmas and Easter celebrations, and this was done with a nurture group and the help of a church parishioner.

We had a great time joining the nursery children for their end of term nativity service where I got to lead a few things with everyone. The School Choir held a concert in the Church leading up to Christmas which raised funds for the Food Bank and the School.

Then we had a packed Church for the School end of term service. It is so great to see the church services grow with parents and the fact we have to add additional seating in the side chapel to accommodate everyone.

Topics I have covered in Collective Worship are:

- **People of the Bible – Abigail**
- **Bible Presentation – Reception**
- **People of the Bible – Elizabeth & Mary**
- **Christmas Part 1 – Preparation**
- **Christmas Part 2 – Celebration**

Yodah School Group

The young people are continuing to lead our closing prayer which is great, and they are really starting to think about what they are praying about. The group is fun, and it is amazing to see all the young people develop each week.

During the last two months we have done:

- Pick your box quiz
- Poppy craft
- Biscuit decorating
- Christmas tree decorations
- Sweet bingo
- Christmas paper decorations
- Christmas Party



Foodbank

Please remember the Food Bank. We have had a busy Christmas making up and giving out 45 Christmas hampers this year. As the new year arrives we expect to see donations go down due to the cost of Christmas effecting everyone.

Downland Secondary School

Since my last update I cannot believe what God is doing in this ministry. I have only been in Downlands now for a year and we have gone from 7 young people and ended the term on 40 young people attending every week during November

and December. During the last two months, we changed how we ran the group. We set 3 questions. A fun one so we could get to know people better, a moral question and then a religious question. As we ended we talked about needing a bigger space as this group just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

Toast Club

Toast Club sees a regular number of young people on a weekly basis, and we hope that numbers will grow in the new school year.

Yodah Youth Group

Youth group has had fun since starting back with fridge cake, sweet bingo, a trip out to glowballs in Brighton which was a great night. Then we had Christmas craft, Christmas movie night and a Christmas party. The group is small but great and I would love everyone to pray for this group and see it grow.

		PLAYER NAMES				
Pts	Devo	Paul	Lit	Conis		
1	In your face	4	4	3	9	
2	Around we go	4	12	5	4	
3	Double trouble	6	2	3	3	
4	Chicxulub Crater	9	8	7	8	
5	Sssshhhhh he's sleeping	4	5	4	5	
6	Tricky Triceratops	4	5	3	3	
7	Footloose	2	1	2	2	
8	Isle of Dimetrodon	6	3	5	7	
9	Brontosaurus Alley	8	3	4	3	
10	Flight of the Pterodactyl	8	4	6	10	
11	Hot Stuff!	3	3	4	4	38
12	Extinction	7	3	4	3	
TOTAL		65	63	59	61	

Future Ideas

Coming up in the next few months we want to try a couple of new ideas and we will be speaking to people to see if anyone would like to get involved at all as it would be nice to see more amazing faces involved in amazing missional outreach.

Funding Support

As many of you know I do lots of different events and activities for the young people around the Parish. This is only possible if you support me with the events I arrange and the equipment we use.

I am looking for a new bit of equipment as I would love to mix up the activities and games for our schools group. The item I would love to get is a portable hanging basketball net at a cost of £85 which covers the item and delivery

Volunteering

We are looking for volunteers to come and get involved in our activities across the Parish from Children's, youth and adult outreach if you are willing or able to get involved then please do come and talk to myself or Tessa.

You can either talk or drop me or Tessa an email gpickett170@gmail.com or admin@beaconparish.co.uk

Blessings

Gary Pickett - Youth Worker for The Beacon Parish