

Youth Worker's Newsletter

January & February 2023

School Work

The work in School is still going very well. In the last 2 weeks I have led Year 1 and Year 2 RE lessons. Year 1 on Creation and Year 2 Forgiveness. For role play in Reception they have set up a church. I popped in to see them and to show them some Church role play that they could do.

It was amazing to have the Church congregation go to the school for a service with everyone being introduced to Mrs Clarke and hearing her journey up to her appointment at Ditchling. Mrs Clarke has invited us to have more services at the School in the future. We have also had another amazing altar cloth made up and plans to make some more.



The whole School came into the Church for a Lent service. We learnt about Lent from the children and I had an ash cross placed on my head and went to show the whole church. There was such a great vibe in the Church with dancing and singing our hearts out and a rap.

Topics I have covered in Collective Worship are:

- Peace – over 3 weeks we have looked at Peace from conflict, quietness and anxiety
- Tolerance – the first week we looked at how we interact with people who are different to us. In the second week we looked at how we may see things differently and how we accept people having different views.

- Epiphany
- Wisdom and looking at King Solomon asking God for Wisdom.

Yodah School Group

The group has continued to do well in the school. The young people still ask to do our closing prayer which is great. They are really starting to think about what they are praying about. This month we have done:

- Christmas hot seat
- Stress ball
- Biscuit decorating
- Paper plane races
- String letters
- Sweet bingo
- Pancakes

Foodbank

Please remember the Food Bank. In the last month the number of clients that we see has tripled and food supplies are becoming more stretched each week – Budgens have a box at the front.

Downland Secondary School

I have now been going to Downlands for a while. When I first started going into Downlands to help run the Christian Union there were around 7 young people. This last Tuesday, we had 19 young people attend, WHICH IS AMAZING.

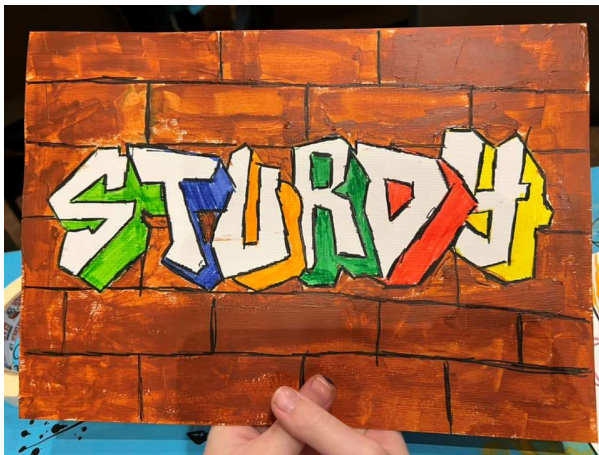
Toast Club

Toast Club has been running for a while now and was set up as a joint Parish group. It's a free drop in session for young people on their way home from school on a Monday. We have a regular number attending and we are hoping with a new push across the villages we can see this number grow.

Yodah Youth Group

The new format for the group is working well. At the end we share together our thoughts and finish with a prayer. The group are sharing more which is great to see as it shows that they are feeling comfortable with this.

Activities that we have done in the last two months are Sweet Bingo, puzzle frenzy, cake decorating, I love art studios, crochet, pancakes and bell ringing.



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.

As always, I am asking for financial support to see the Church reach the young people. I ask you to pray and understand what God is calling you to give to this

work. I am building lots of connections with the young people and it is amazing to be able to carry on building these connections and to keep sowing the seeds of Faith.

You can easily donate by clicking on this link which takes you to our Donate button <https://www.beaconparish.co.uk/yodah-campaign>

I also have an Amazon Wish List which I would be very happy to send to you if you are interested in helping.

Volunteering

A group of us have been looking at what other activities we could start up and run in the village not just for the young but for also for their parents and the Parish as well.

If you would be interested in getting involved and can offer some time and help, please let us know. There are various initiatives under consideration and perhaps one of them will fit with you!

We are running a Baby & Toddler Group in the Emmanuel Centre on Thursday mornings until the Easter Holidays. After Easter and starting on the 20th April we hope you will join us for Coffee and Chat. Mums have asked us to start later and so we will begin at 10.30am and finish at 12 noon. The more the merrier and all are welcome. Come and meet, share news and support each other. Please let us know if you are available to help and make cakes! admin@beaconparish.co.uk

Messy Church on Saturdays. We are looking for lead volunteers and then a group of people to help support them and to be there to talk with parents and the young. If you feel this is for you – please consider getting involved.

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