

Youth Worker's Newsletter

June 2021

School Work

I am continuing to do collective worship 3 times a week in school bubbles and topics we have covered this month are:

- Lord's Prayer line (Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Amen)
- Colour coded prayer
- Moving on / Moving Up

I joined Years 3 & 4 on their school day trip to Blacklands Farm and I had a group of Year 4 students. During the day we went on a zipwire, create challenge, problem solving and a rock scramble. I managed to have a go at the zipwire but the instructor had to push me off as I didn't have the courage to jump off. We all had a great day together.

Next month I go on the Year 5 & 6 residential which I am really looking forward to.

Yodah School Group

Our Yodah School Group is going really well. We started a new term and were over subscribed again which is fantastic. A few disappointed young people who missed out.

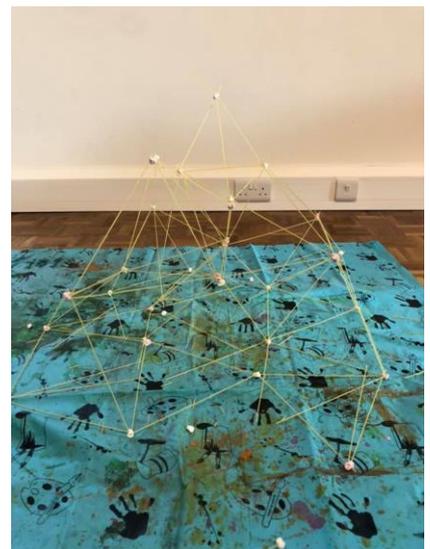


So far we have done lots of activities which includes sweet bingo, Father's Day gift, tower building and sweet bingo again. As I said last time, we always finish the session with a prayer and we have had to have a list now of who is doing the prayer at the end of the session as they all want to do it.



Yodah Youth Group

Our evenings at Yodah Youth have been full-on with lots of activity, discussion and free time. Activities included in this half term: What 3 Words challenge, cake decorating, tower building and sweet bingo.



Prayer Spaces 2021



This term we ran prayer space in the church and we had 5 activities which were:

- Dove of peace (Praying for those affected by natural disasters in 2020)
- Plastic planet (Looking at our single use plastic)
- Cross of forgiveness (Praying for the things we have done wrong)
- Prayer wall (Based on the Wailing wall in Israel and praying for 4 different areas)
- Plasticine people (Looking at our community and how we fit in. We made a plasticine version of ourselves)

All the activities worked really well and we had 200 students interact with the spaces. Below are the thoughts from Liz who helped bring the young people to the activities from the school.



Prayer Spaces June 2021

The week of 'Prayer Spaces' presented another opportunity within the setting of St Margaret's Church to encourage the children from Ditchling Primary School, across all the year groups from Nursery to Year 6, to engage in a series of fun activities to ask questions and explore their thoughts and ideas. These were linked

to the PSCH¹ curriculum, the school values, the Christian element of the RE curriculum and the ethos of a faith school.

From previous occasions, it was encouraging to observe the children's growing development and understanding of the qualities based on the school values (e.g. perseverance, compassion, forgiveness, trust, thankfulness, community koinonia), being comfortable to talk about these and apply them to their own lives and experiences. At their various levels, the children were able to acknowledge differences and opinions between people without feeling fear or anxiety. From the dialogue, the supporting adults were able to share beliefs and personal experiences. Gary had linked the school values to each activity, as well as a Biblical reference to encourage the children to think more about their place in the world and responsibilities we all have.

I was particularly touched by a Year 3 boy in my group who, following two different activities, asked if he could pray. The second time he told me, 'I feel like God is sitting next to me.' Further conversation continued but this little example shows the beginning of an inner sense and as Christians, prayer is crucial to our spiritual growth and faith. At 'The Cross of Forgiveness' activity, when asked the open question 'What do you think about when you look at this image?', some others replied 'God, Jesus and the Spirit.' Through the activities which Gary leads within school time and extracurricular, as well as building upon family traditions, there is increasing awareness amongst the children of God's presence in our world.

May the congregation within the Beacon Parish and the many visitors enjoy looking at and be encouraged by the activities laid out in St Margaret's Church and may we collectively continue in our prayers and support to enable these seeds to grow and flourish in the children within our community.

Written by Liz Curry

¹ PSCH is Personal Social Citizenship Health and Economic

Volunteering

As restrictions ease up it would be good to start to be able to look into more activities but I can't do everything alone. I do need help to set up and run some events. I would like to do a Messy Church on a regular basis but to do this we need a small committed group of people to plan and run these events as it is a big task for just one person. Can I ask you all to consider if you could commit to being part of a team to run these active family church services.

If you are interested, please drop me an email gpickett170@gmail.com

Funding Support

As many of you know I do lots of different events and activities for the young people. This is only possible through your support to the continuation of my job role and equipment for the event.

I know that times are tough for everyone and lots of people are asking for financial support but if you want to see the Church reach the young people of the villages of the Parish then I would really ask you to pray and discern what God is calling you to give to this work. I know you may not always see everything as I do but I can full heartedly tell you I have built up lots of connections with the young people and it would be amazing to carry on building these connections and to keep sowing the seeds of faith.

Blessings

Gary Pickett

Youth Worker for The Beacon Parish