

Youth Worker's Newsletter

May & June 2023

School Work

The work in School is still going very well. In the last 2 months I have been very busy. I've been on the Yr 3/4 Blacklands Farm residential trip where I spent my time with Year 3. I then on a day visit to the Isle of Wight to see Yr 5/6 on their residential. It was great fun and we even got to talk about the Bible. One of the activities was Jacobs Ladder and we asked them why it is called Jacobs Ladder, where and what is the story and one of the children told us all about it. The next day I took those who didn't attend the residential to Hurst College for the day and we had a day of swimming, dance, sports and forest activities.

We had a Nursery 'End of Term' with the older children from visiting the church and we looked at the theme of Respect.

I also attended a Science afternoon with Yr 3/4 and a Maths booster session with Yr 6 where I learnt a lot as well.

For RE this term KS1 have been looking at Judaism and to support their learning I had arranged them to go to a Synagogue for a morning and I joined them on this trip.

Topics I have covered in Collective Worship are:

- **Trust – Mosses and the Parting of the Red Sea**
- **Joy – Jesus and the Widow's Son**
- **Fellowship – The 12 Disciples**
- **Friendship – Jesus heals the paralysed man**
- **Community – Our differences but we still fit in**
- **Generosity – Feeding the 5000**



Yodah School Group

The young people are continuing to lead our closing prayer which is great. They are really starting to think about what they are praying about.

During the last 2 months we have done:

- Crowns for the Coronation
- Cake decorating
- Games afternoon
- Bugs
- Biscuit decorating
- Fathers' Day graffiti
- Wooden hearts
- Sweet Bingo



Foodbank

Please remember the Food Bank. The current food levels have dropped as the numbers are growing and so anyone willing to make a donation to the Foodbank would be much appreciated in this current climate.

Downland Secondary School

Our group is still doing well with some deep conversations and some more light hearted conversations with the young people in Downlands, it has been great to see a regular number of young people attend this weekly group. What is nice is to see the young people who I used to see in St Margaret's Primary School attending

to explore their faith a little more in a group they are willingly attending. Rather than it being a set RE lesson.

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.

Yodah Youth Group

The attendance in the group has been lower in numbers recently with GCSE exams taking place and the young people focusing on their revision. With the end of year we have been exploring how we can grow our numbers for the next academic year. We want to boost this group and see more young people attending and enjoying their time with us.

We have had a great variety of activities running with anything food related evenings being the best received I think it may be all the sweets that make that why 🤔

May Camp

At the end of May we took a group of 31 young people and 8 adults away on the Diocese youth camp based on Plumpton racecourse. We had an amazing group of young people who all arrived super excited for their long weekend away.

We started our time together as a group of over 300 young people all tucking into a hog roast before moving into our first main venue worship and teaching time. Some of our group had never experienced church or worship like this before but it was great to see them embracing something totally new to them.

Each day had a similar pattern with morning worship, talks, lunch, activities, dinner, evening worship, evening entertainment and late-night worship.

Our young people are asked to attend both the morning and evening worship. As the weekend went on we had most of our group dancing and jumping up and down during the worship. For the morning talks all our young people are asked to

choose a talk to attend. The first morning most of our group decided to go to the sport and my faith talk with some of the others going to 'grill' a Bishop. On the second morning we had a lot attend lightsabers and snack and prayer spaces talk sessions. I have to say I was proud of all our young people as they embraced something so new to a large part of our group and none of them complained about it and all got stuck in with all the talks and worship.

For the afternoon activities it was a struggle to keep up with everyone, all busy and having lots of fun. There was so much to do: an inflatable assault course; slip and slide; archery; bell ringing; walks; crafts; the café area; a football tournament and so much more.

The thing that I loved to see was that during the football tournament most of our young people were down at the football pitch either playing or supporting our 2 teams. We had such a good time and our teams did really well against some teams who were twice the size of our young people. One of our teams came second overall in the tournament. As they came as a group anyone who played joined the celebration of our coming second but not as two separate teams but as one team coming together. This was amazing and such a joy to know that they wanted to be one team.

I can't wait for May Camp 2024.

[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 some new equipment and would love if anyone would be willing to help donate / purchase the items needed

Portable hanging basketball net £75

Badminton free standing net and equipment £85

Portable speaker £36

Pictionary Air £14

Batteries £7

Future Plans

In the near future I am hoping to start up a Men's Fellowship Breakfast. If anyone is interested in joining the Group I would love to hear from you. The aim would be to meet once a month on a Saturday morning 10am – 11.30am with breakfast, a time to chat, and to have guest speakers join us. We would have to charge £10 per person to cover costs of our time together including breakfast.

Please can you get back to me if you are interested in attending as I need to look at if this is possible to set up.

Volunteering

We are looking for volunteers to come and get involved in our activities across the Parish from children, 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