

Youth Worker's Newsletter

It's great to be back to work after so long and I am super excited to get going. Here is some information for you all about things that have happened and things that are happening now. I know it has been ages since I have spoken with so many of you (over a year 😞) but I am back to work and want to keep you all updated as best I can whilst we are still under restrictions. Here is my first update for you all. I hope you enjoy the light reading.

Schools Work

During September and Christmas when I was back to work, I was in the school 3 times a week doing Collective worship, I helped with bringing all the classes to see the life size nativity at Christmas and it was great to be back with the young people. Before going on furlough, I had recorded the next term's worth of collective worship knowing that I wasn't able to be in the school but wanted them to still have that connection with the church. I spent my long nights recording them for the school before furlough. During the Pandemic I have been on furlough for 9 months on and off.

After Christmas I was back on Furlough due to lockdown but let's fast forward until 19th April. On my first Monday back, I was in the school talking about my life and faith and my job and about us being fishers of people. I am doing collective worship again 3 times a week in school bubbles and topics covered this month have been

- Daniel's Journey
- Lord's Prayer line (lead us not into temptation)
- I can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

It has been great being back face to face with all the children and the collective worship topics have been well received. I also spend some time between collective worship and Yodah Schools reading with years 1 & 2.

But most excitingly I have been invited onto the school residential and we will be running prayer spaces for the school after half term.

Yodah Schools

Yodah Schools group runs on a Wednesday and it has been amazing that the school has allowed us to be one of the clubs. They have currently limited the number of groups in the school.

Yodah details were put out to the classes and we had filled our allotted spaces within 10 minutes of the website update. I had the school asking if we would like to run another session so we are now in the school on Fridays during this term only so we can see as many young people as we can. We made Sock rabbits in our first session and played sweet bingo the week after. Our format for the group is craft, games, then we always finish the session with a prayer.



Yodah Youth Group

During my brief stint last year, we started the group up but soon had to go into lockdown in November but carried on with some virtual sessions. We are now back running face to face at the Emmanuel Centre. Our first night back was full of sweet bingo and a talk about May Camp and then some free time. We look forward to how the rest of the sessions go during this term. Our evening is filled with an activity, discussion and free time and the young people all enjoy their time with us and obviously their friends. We have a full session planned up to the summer and as the restrictions lift, we look forward to expanding the group size as well.

May Camp 2021

So, this year's May camp won't be as normal as we will not be heading over to Plumpton. But we will be holding a SUPER SATURDAY MAY CAMP EVENT DAY at St Francis Church Hassocks as part of our joint working with our neighbouring Parish. This is due to the amount of young people we may have attending. This church provides us the most adaptable space under current restrictions. The day will be filled with food, games and virtual content from the Diocese with worship, seminars and much, much more.

We have set a ticket price for this event but I would love it if everyone across the Parish could help support this event. I am asking for those of you who can and would like to, to make a donation to our May Camp event. I and the young people would appreciate it. I am asking if everyone could donate anywhere from £1 to £5. This would be amazing and ensure we have everything we need to make this an awesome evangelistic event for the young people.



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.

Food Bank

For those who have supported and are interested in the update.

The Food Bank has been running now for just over a year and it has been fully supported. This has been a great help to so many in the community. We have supported 432 households within those households we have supported 250 adults and 182 children. These are the figures up to the end of 2020, so as you can see it is a needed area of support in the village. The food bank has supported families in Ditchling, Hassocks & Hurstpierpoint.

At Christmas we gave out 34 Christmas food hampers filled with Christmas goodies.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this update

Blessings

Gary Pickett

Youth Worker for The Beacon Parish