

Youth Worker's Newsletter

November & December 2021

School Work

In the last two months of term, we had lots going on in school. We started with making poppies for Remembrance to hang in the church which the RBL Ditchling District Branch paid for our printing.

I continue to carry out weekly collective worship in school and subjects covered this term have been

- All Saints Day
- Reception Bible Presentation
- Jehovah Nissi (the Lords my banner)
- Jehovah Shalom (the Lords my peace)
- St Andrews Day
- Introduction of Prayer spaces

We had a packed two weeks at the end of term with nursery Christmas service, prayer spaces, Susan's leaving service, and end of term service.



Prayer Spaces

This school year's prayer spaces were decided to run over the Christmas term as Susan was leaving and wanted to take part in her last one with Ditchling Primary. So, I set out to plan a smaller scale prayer space due to the busy time of year and the church potentially being super busy. All our spaces were made to be in view but to give space for all the Christmas services. We came up with some really exciting activities which all linked to the school values and all contained a Bible verse.

Our spaces were.

- Tree of thankfulness
- Choir of angels
- Crib of prayers
- Sand of worry and forgiveness
- Giant advent calendar



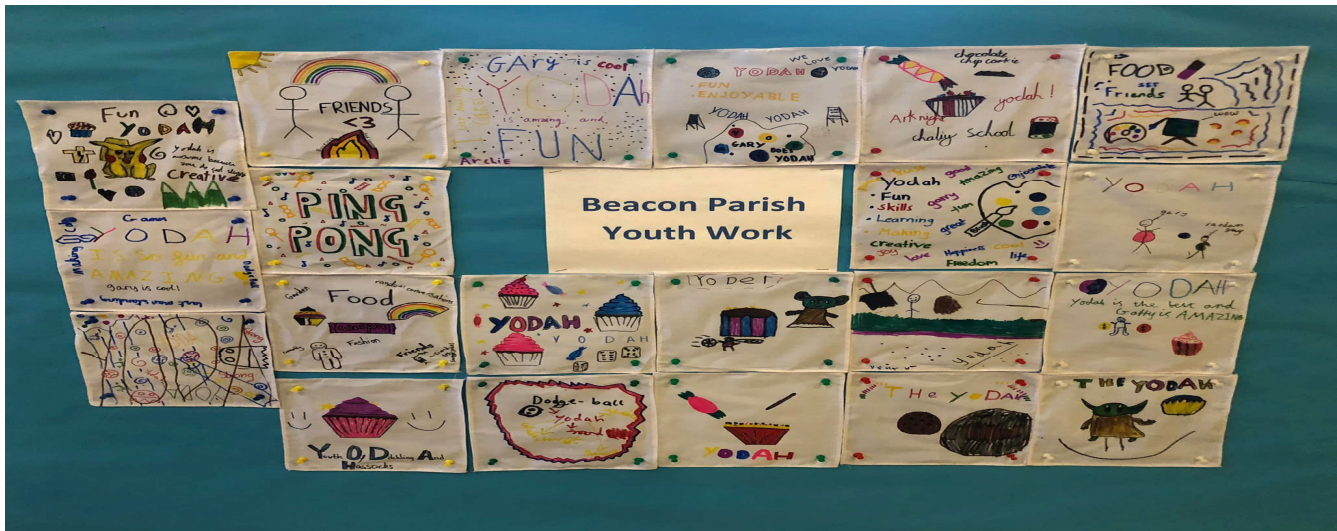
The children all had an amazing time reflecting on what they have in their lives and also those who may not have everything. Our Choir of Angels was great as we got every child to pray for another child in their group which was a new experience for everyone as it was asking them to pray for someone in their class that they may not have known well. It got them to think of something around the theme of compassion to pray for that person.





Yodah School Group

Our Yodah School Group are amazing young people as they continue to ask to lead our closing prayer so much so we have a list of who is leading it until the end of term and this is helping them to grow in a prayer life.



We have done lots of great thing in the last two months of term with activities including sweet bingo, patchwork (which you may have seen in the Church), biscuit decorating, t-shirt designing, Christmas decorations and lots of games.



Yodah Youth Group

This term has been exciting with lots of new activities and some favourites. Our numbers have fluctuated this term with mock exams and Covid being high in the school. We still managed to have fun with an escape room, fire pit with sparklers, art night, sweet bingo and chocolate pudding making. On our last night we had a party and as the big kid I am we had pass the parcel, musical chairs and my favourite jelly and ice cream.



Acorns

This term we had a visit from the Acorn's nursery group to St Martin's Westmeston for their Christmas Service. We had lots of fun talking about Advent and Christingle and we then had a hunt around the church for a Christingle picture that they could take home with them. After our hunt we talked about and made a Christingle each and finished our time together by ringing the bells.



Blessings

Gary Pickett

Youth Worker for The Beacon Parish