

# Youth Worker's Newsletter

## March & April 2023

### School Work

The school work is still going very well. Last term I led Year 3 RE lessons on Holy Week. I also carried out an end of term Easter Service for the Nursery children.

The whole School came into the Church for an Easter service and the children told us about Easter. There was such a great vibe in the Church with dancing and singing their hearts out. At the end of the service when Fr David was thanking everyone (including me), the Year 6 children started to chant my name which was very heart-warming. The feedback from parents is that they really enjoy the end of term services and which was definitely reflected in our Easter service. Lots of school families joined us and also from some of the young people themselves talked about it.

Topics we have covered in Collective Worship are:

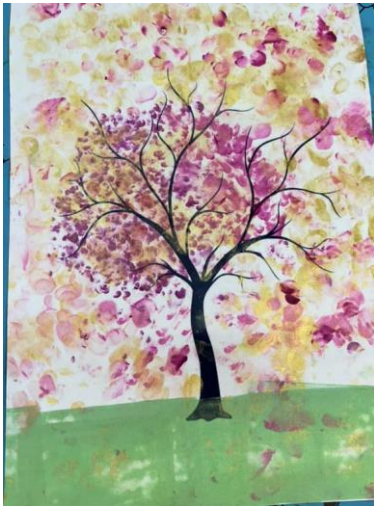
- Climate: looking at us as Keepers of God's world
- Wisdom
- Easter
- Hope: looking at the hope we have in life and Jesus
- Love

### Yodah School Group

The group has continued to do well in 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's activities have been:

- Hama beads
- Blossom tree painting
- Sweet bingo
- Sock rabbits
- Easter Tomb biscuits

- Lego
- Pom pom making



## 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 been going to Downlands for a while. In my last newsletter I sent out I talked about growing from 7 young people to 19. It has since grown again and we are now seeing 22 young people attend the Christian union each week from both The Beacon Parish and Hassocks. I am so pleased that God is blessing this ministry so much.

## 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 Mondays. We have a regular number attending. With the new term starting we have started our new push for this outreach to see if we can grow more with new posters.

## Yodah Youth Group

The new format for the group is working well. One week when I forgot about our table time of sharing due to clearing up after cooking, a young person asked if we were doing it as they like this time of sharing with each other and the prayer.

Activities that we have done in the last two months are Sweet Bingo, escape room, free art evening, fridge cake making and pompom making.



## 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 it if anyone would be willing to help purchase the items needed. If yes, drop me an email.

Portable hanging basketball net £75

Badminton free standing net and equipment £85

Portable speaker £36

Pictionary Air £14

Batteries £7

Football £10

## Future Plans

In the near future I am hoping to start up a Men's Fellowship Breakfast. If anyone would be 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. To order breakfast, we would have to charge £10 per person to cover costs of our time together.

## Volunteering

We started on the 20<sup>th</sup> April Coffee and Chat. This is open to everyone and runs 10am and finishes at 11.30am every Thursday during term time. 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](mailto: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](mailto:gpickett170@gmail.com) or [admin@beaconparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@beaconparish.co.uk)

Blessings

Gary Pickett - Youth Worker for The Beacon Parish