

Youth Worker's Newsletter

July & August 2023

School Work

The work in School work is still going very well. We had a very busy July with helping to take classes to see the Year Six production at Hurst College, Year 6 leavers service at Christ Church School in Horsham, Sports Day and lots lots more.

Prayer Spaces. During one week every child from all the year groups attended the church for prayer spaces. We had 5 spaces around the church covering these topics:

- **The big questions**
- **Who is God to you**
- **The beautiful world**
- **The broken world**
- **Fizzy forgiveness**

Each space had instructions, a bible verse and an activity. I was really impressed with how all the young people engaged with the spaces. There was some really good thoughtfulness and reflection by the young people. The feedback that I have received was amazing.



We have been preparing for the launch of Godly Play in September. We have also been updating reflection areas in each class and also the School Altar.

We had Nursery 'end of term' with the older children from Nursery attending the church where we had a graduation service for those leaving nursery and attending school in September

We had the delight of having a packed church for the 'end of year' and 'end of term' service. This was a special service as it was the last one for Year 6 pupils who once again lead the way in the singing. I think the thing that everyone will remember is the fact that Bishop Ruth joined us for this service and said such kind things at the end of the service. The best comment was that she has never seen such great singing and enjoyment in a school church service

Topics I have covered in Collective Worship are:

- **Moving on**
- **Prayer Spaces**
- **Bible Presentation.**

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 two months we have done:

- **Suncatchers**
- **Lego Build Challenge**
- **Sloths**



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 for the foodbank it would be appreciated in this current climate.

I have taken part in a sponsored walk during the summer where I have walked 40+ miles across the Downs to raise money for the Foodbank and the Kagando Mission Group.

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 attending this weekly group. What is also nice is to see the young people who I used to see in St Margaret's Primary School attending. They explore their faith a little more in a group which they willingly attend rather than it being a set RE lesson.

Toast Club

Toast Club sees a regular number of young people on a weekly basis and we hope that numbers will grow in the new school year.

Yodah Youth Group

Since my last newsletter, we only had two more sessions before we broke up for summer. It was good to see those who had been doing their GCSE exams start attending again. For our last night we came together and had a BBQ.

Holiday Club

During August we held our annual family fun activity sessions. Our themes this year was painting party and dinosaurs which both sessions were really good fun and we had a variety of families and ages across the two sessions which I am really pleased about.

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 purchase the items needed

Portable hanging basketball net £75

Badminton free standing net and equipment £85

Pictionary Air £14

Batteries £7

Volunteering

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