

Children and Families' Ministry Annual Report to PCC November 2021

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Regular Sunday Children's Groups:

- Our Children's Sunday groups have running intermittently over 20/21 and without interruption since Sept '21.
- We have reduced the number of groups we ran from 4 to 2. Partly due to number of available volunteers and also the reduced number of children attending regularly.
- Over the past two months an average of 11 children per week attended.
- We've introduced new teaching material from YFC Go.
- We've run a few Family Socials in 2021 including a Woodland Walk and Beach Day.
- We've made a larger more comfortable creche space in church for families with 0-2s.

Challenges:

- We currently have no volunteers able to run a church creche so we have no provision in the centre for 0-2 year olds on a Sunday morning.
- Numbers of kids attending church has dropped significantly. In 2019, we had an average of 30 children (0-10 years old) per week, we currently have an average of 11. 22 Children attended at least one session since Sept.

Children's Club:

- During the pandemic including the lockdown at the start of 2021, KidZone became KidZoom and moved online. It was attended by 8-12 children regularly.
- A typical session started with welcome, moved to games, a 'bible' talk and worship.
- Light Night ran in October attended by 14 children.
- Summer Holiday Club, ran for 5 sessions in the Summer. We served 134 hot lunches to children.

Challenges:

- As children went back to school and were mixing socially an online session didn't seem to fit anymore. Because of a lack of available volunteers, we are currently unable to restart KidZone in person.

Toddler group:

- Toddler group continues to be an important mission field with over 50 children visiting us most Monday mornings across two sessions.
- We recently were awarded a grant from Action for Children for £500 to purchase resources and refreshments.
- Earlier in the year, 30 of our toddler parents responded to a survey that helped us understand their needs better.

Challenges:

- A severe lack of volunteers means that toddlers was unable to begin at the start of term and may not be able to keep running weekly.
- Very few of our toddler parents make the leap from toddlers into church.

Schools:

- During the pandemic, Carrie led online 'teams' assemblies at Willowbank.
- Since Sept, Carrie was leading twice weekly assemblies at St Andrew's Primary. These are currently on hold because of the pandemic and cases in schools.
- This term, St Andrew's Primary and Cullompton Pre-School have visited the church for an explore session led by Carrie. Noah's Ark Pre-School (who we've not linked with before) have also booked in for a session.
- Both Primary schools and Cullompton Pre-School are visiting for Christmas Services

Supporting Parents:

Carrie continues to have pastoral involvement with many families.