



Childrens + Youth Work Update

BLYTHE BRIDGE METHODIST
+ ST PETER'S CHURCH

P: 07435 734 311

E: youth@stpetersforsbrook.org.uk

A: The Rectory, Cheadle Road, ST11 9PW

Dear Friend

Thankyou so much for your support of our ministry with children and young people in our local churches. I'm writing this letter in my first few weeks as Youth and Children's Ministry Leader, reflecting and thanking God for the privilege of serving Him in this way. It has been a real blessing to have led this work over the past few months in a temporary role, and I wanted to share with you some of the ways God has blessed our Children's work over the Winter term.

X:Cite (our Sunday morning children's group in St Peter's) is flourishing. Due to an increase in numbers, we are now gathering in the bigger upstairs meeting room. The children are loving the extra space which has room to chill on the beanbags as we listen to bible stories, do theme-related crafts, and learn the actions to popular worship songs. Our volunteers have enjoyed leading sessions based on the church lectionary readings, and we find ourselves learning new things at the same time as the children. Since September, some of our slightly older members of X:Cite have taken on roles as 'young leaders' and it has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence in their new role. It has been fantastic to welcome a couple of new leaders onto our amazing team. Our leaders' passion and enthusiasm to share God's word with our young people is a blessing!

Friday Club (ages 7-11) and Youth Fellowship (ages 11-19), our young people's groups running in Blythe Bridge Methodist Church, had great fun over the winter keeping warm with fun energetic games, chilling with their friends, and reflecting on issues facing life as young Christians. We have loved welcoming our new leaders and more children to the group which has led to us setting up a waiting list as we're at full capacity – praise God! The leaders have been particularly creative in their ideas for fun, craft and games. In December, we enjoyed an end-of-term party which was visited by the one and only Dan-ta. The children were delighted and it was lovely to gift each child a book reflecting on the Real Story of Christmas. In January we have welcomed Louise and Caroline onto our team. We also have three of our older teenagers, (Amelia, Trinity and Grace) helping in Friday Club. The addition of new leaders and the exceptional support and dedication of our current team has meant that we are going to be trialing weekly youth club sessions again this term. We have got an exciting plan for the year of themes which we have linked to Bible stories. We're also looking forward to a fun day out in February, and a church sleepover.

Our young discipleship group for 16-19year olds, GodSquad, has spent the last few months engaging in the YouthScape Health and Wellbeing Course. This is a great Christian course which reflects on how God cares for our health and wellbeing, and explores ways we can care for ourselves better. As part of this course, we have been reflecting on the blessing of friendship and enjoyed celebrating the American tradition of Thanksgiving with a delicious Christmas meal cooked by the young people. It has been lovely to welcome a new member to our group. Some of our young people have turned 18 over the past few months which has been a great excuse to enjoy donut stacked birthday cakes.



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Our assembly team have done an amazing job going into all three of our local primary schools on a fortnightly basis to share fun and interactive bible stories with the children. This has been gratefully received by students and staff. The children are getting to know the team and enjoy them coming in. At Easter, we are going to be starting Open The Book assemblies once a month. Open The Book is a resource from The Bible Society which sees a group of local church volunteers acting out bible stories led by a fun and simple script. If this is something you feel you would like to hear more about, please speak to Sophie, Louise Purnell or Rev Pam who would be delighted to tell you more.

This term we started a half termly prayer space in Forsbrook Primary for any pupils, parents or teachers who wanted to be prayed for, which was well received. We were also pleased to be invited to Forsbrook and Springcroft Primary Schools this year to lead them in their Christingle Services. Some of the classes got to make their own Christingles which was great fun. It was fantastic to welcome Year 7 from Blythe Bridge High School back into St Peter's Church for their Christmas Service. The teachers and students all shared with us why Christmas was such a special time for them, and it was wonderful to reflect on how the real meaning of Christmas had meant so much to so many of them.

The Messy Church Team have worked incredibly hard this winter for our Messy Light Night and Messy Christingle. It was amazing to see so many families join us to hear about Jesus the Light of the World. You may have seen some of the photos from our time together in the Blythe and Tean Times.

What can you be praying for our Youth and Children's ministry?

Please join me in thanking God for our Children, Youth and Leaders.

Please pray for our leaders and young leaders as they give their time and energy, that God will inspire us with what he wants to us teach His children.

Two of our GodSquad members have started a Work Experience placement helping with the children's groups. Please pray for them as they offer their time and explore their gifting.

God has blessed us with so many opportunities to reach out to so many children. To keep serving in this way, we need help. Please pray with me for more helpers/leaders.

Mission costs money, please pray for us that God will provide for His work in this place.

Please pray for our Open the Book volunteers as they prepare for helping to deliver assemblies.

With thanks and praise for all the support you have given in blessing our children's work.

Sophie

Sophie Roberts