

St James Children's Church October 2020

We continue to have a small dedicated group of leaders who plan the sessions on a rota basis and work with groups of children each week. The leaders work in pairs and follow a rota that is very flexible. Each pair follow the ideas from the Roots website or any current festival.

We set up a WhatsApp group this year so that we could communicate more effectively with each other.

We have fewer leaders and so all the children have been meeting together starting with some teaching and a focus for the session. This is sometimes games, stories and often involves eating! There are craft activities to reinforce what they have learned. We have a much lower number of children than in previous years with an average of 12 children each week.

Since the arrival of the new rector we have changed the format of the involvement in the main service. The children now go straight downstairs to the hall and start their worship, using a short order of service given to us by Peter. This takes place near the altar table which has on artefacts to help the children calm and reflect. The artefacts were bought using money given to us by the children's group birthday celebrations. This works much better and gives us more time to do the activities.

After the peace, the children return to the main congregation and go to the front where they can show and talk about what they have done and learned.

We use the Roots books and website to get ideas and because this links to the lectionary the children have been learning about the things that the main congregation have heard in the readings and sermons.

Children's church was again asked to put on a display for the flower festival during 2019. Our display was colourful and interesting - thanks to the children who helped make the items for the display.

The children and leaders helped to deliver the Christingle service in December.

Due to lockdown other things did not happen but we did introduce some new elements to our worship on the church's reopening. Nikki Barlow joined the WhatsApp group and sends weekly resources for the children to use during the service either by printing them off or using an iPad. We are also going to use the Roots resources for this.

We have added other parents to the WhatsApp group so that we can communicate better with all the families. We have had roughly 8-10 children in St James each week we are open.

The rector and I agreed that it is not safe to have childrens church sessions at the moment as it would mean children mixing with others who are not in their school or family bubble, we will review this after October half term.

I have spent some time putting all the attendances on a spreadsheet to make it easier to fill in the forms for Canon Slade admission - thanks to Nikki for help with this.

I would like to thank the parents who have led the worship with the children over the last year and offer an opportunity for anyone else who would like to become leader to contact me if they would like to help.

Barbara Kenny