

Informal Reports for APCM 2021

Parish Chaplain – Rev. Mark Newman

Looking back over the last year I can see a landscape of highs and lows. Much of which is, of course, connected to the ongoing COVID pandemic. So much has changed or had to be put to one side as we as a church family have reacted to the ever-changing nature of restrictions.

However, despite these challenges the ministry of the church has adapted, improvised, gone 'online' and we as church family have grown together to support and be there for one another during this very difficult last year. I have felt, and continue to feel, that God has been in all the small details and have sensed His strong desire that we remain united around His love for us and our love for one another.

It has been a real joy to work alongside Kate Jackson as we have tried to offer and coordinate pastoral care within and sometimes outside of the church family. We are both very grateful to all those who have called, knocked, 'Zoomed' or otherwise tried to connect with others over the last year.

I am particularly grateful to Tamsin and Neil, staff team and PCC for their support, prayers and encouragement over the last year.

With thanks and every blessing,

Mark

Mission Partners

The last year was a very difficult one for both of our Mission Partners. However, despite the difficulties and restrictions of the COVID pandemic our partner in Moldova was able to continue to offer vital local help, providing much needed relief to many within local communities, while Moldova itself faced huge challenges with COVID.

The project we supported with Send A Cow came to an end and we decided to continue to support SAC and the proposed new project which will make a very big difference empowering local women.

More widely, we continued to pray for and support both The Mary Wood Trust and MANNA. Through wonderful support from both the church and local community £10,000 was raised in support of those affected by the devastating conflict in Mozambique.

Becca Rowe served with Mission Altitude at the beginning of the year and we were delighted to pray and support her as she wonderfully served others.

As ever we are so very thankful for all who are involved with our Mission Partners, for those who pray, those who give so very generously and all those who work behind the scenes to make a very real difference to people's lives.

Children and Families Ministers Report 20 / 21 – Jill Rowe

Friday Club – a weekly club for primary aged children supported by a group of teenage young leaders, meeting each Friday in term time to learn about Jesus’ love for them through games, stories, crafts and prayer activities.

COG – a fortnightly club on Sunday afternoons for children aged 8 – 11 who want to explore what their faith looks like through bible study and games.

Tiddlypeeps (formerly Mothers and Toddlers) – a weekly support group for parents / grandparents and their little ones, with toys, chat, singing and refreshments.

Pandas, Preschool and Little Angels – A weekly interactive Bible story for reception and preschool aged children.

A strange year of children and families’ ministry at All Saints, beginning and ending in a National Lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic. I will attempt to report on what we have managed to do despite the various lockdowns and restrictions.

During the summer term of 2020 we continued with Friday Club and we delivered weekly activity packs to over 50 children around the village every Friday! Our theme was the ‘I am’ statements of Jesus and we had a lot of fun, some examples include bread making, counting gates around the village and sheep pizza, plus each week children received colouring, puzzles, word searches and a bible story to read. We also held a few Family Friday sessions over zoom which between 20 and 30 families logged into and had a fun hour doing family crafts and hearing stories. About a dozen families opted to continue receiving activities during the summer holidays on various bible characters, for instance – Joseph and Esther.

Sadly, there was no Holiday Club in August 2020, which was very strange after so many years. September brought the excitement of going back to school but restrictions for out of school activities were still in place, so Friday Club took a break and we concentrated on delivering Sunday Activities to our church families.

COG thrived on zoom with weekly Sunday sessions to keep in touch, and to allow children from different schools to continue to see each other regularly. We quickly learnt about screen sharing, break out rooms and online games – a steep learning curve, particularly for the leaders!! We had 3 children move on to Sunday Night Youth.

The school has been through 8 weeks of home learning last summer followed by back to school for the autumn, before being sent back to home learning for most of the spring term. Children are now in classroom bubbles which means my access is somewhat restricted. During the summer term I went into the keyworker group each week to support them. We had an interactive bible story with the whole group then I often stayed on to help with whatever craft or activity they were doing. It was good to keep contact with the school, and the staff who were teaching the keyworkers on a rota system. At the end of term when the year 6 children were back in school, I helped the keyworker group to create beautiful bouquets to give to each leaver on their last day at Marcham Primary school. The children were immensely proud of their achievements and the leavers were thrilled.



In December we did manage to have a few Christmas services – a Christingle for Friday Club families, A Pram Service for parents and toddlers/babies and an Outdoor Crib Service on Christmas Eve, with a live baby Jesus, kindly produced on cue by Sarah and David Lunn!

From January to March, I was on Sabbatical although this didn't turn out as I had planned due to the lockdown restrictions. The aim was to take some well needed holiday and visit close family and friends for some times of reflection and re – evaluation. The restrictions put a stop to all of that! We did move house and spent a few weeks recovering from that!

During my time away from the day to day childrens' work we decided to lay Friday Club down for a term, but our Sunday Children continued to receive a weekly pack of activities, planned by Vicki and Catherine and then put together and delivered by Anne. I'm so grateful to them for keeping this ministry going. Julia Newman stepped in to help Will to lead COG over zoom, so this was able to continue as well.

During the Spring lockdown Lucy Stevens produced and delivered excellent resources for parents with very young children. This was an amazing ministry and meant that we now have contact with over 30 young families. Well Done Lucy!

So now we are out of "the last lockdown", things are slowly reshaping and groups restarting. Our Sunday Children now meet outside each week for "Outdoor Church". Friday Club is also meeting outside in the churchyard and numbers are up to nearly 30, more than pre – lockdown, which shows this is something the children, and parents really value. COG has returned to face-to-face meetings.

We are looking forward to the possibility of being able to run a holiday club again this August, although I guess it will look very different, with the possibility of number restrictions. I'm grateful that Becca Rowe has agreed to head this up.

It will be good to get back to supporting the life of the school and preschool as soon as I am allowed. We have a number of Baptisms pending, with families having to wait until we are able to do these.

In conclusion, a busy and productive year, despite the many changes and restrictions imposed on us, and I am so pleased and grateful to everyone who has helped to maintain and grow our ministry with children and families not only within the church but the wider community too.

Thank you – you all know who you are!!

Jill Rowe – Children and Families Minister
30/05/2021

YOUTH WORKER APCM REPORT – JUNE 2021

This report covers events and changes since the previous APCM which, due to be delayed, was held in October 2020.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- **YOUTH WORKER HOURS:**
Previously 0.5 full time equivalent, now approx. 0.3 FTE.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT PRESENT

- **SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH** – This has resumed in-person and is conducted weekly but at the earlier time of 16:30. To minimise COVID transmission risks, this event will be held outside in the churchyard for the remainder of the Summer Term 2021 and then reviewed.
- **DETACHED YOUTH WORK** – Being able to conduct this outside has meant this has been easy to resume. Currently this is undertaken on an irregular basis, but regular slots and integrated activities are being progressed at the moment.
- **VIRTUAL PLATFORM** – As some activities are still not easy to resume, some of the Youth Worker's time is still used to maintain and update the online platform for viewing church services and catching up on sermon content.
- **PASTORAL** – Working with individual young people or families on specific pastoral concerns.
- **CONSULTANCY** -The Youth Worker has had the opportunity to consult with other churches in the Diocese on how to help young people in matters of mental health and wellbeing.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **DROP-IN YOUTH CLUB** – this is set to resume in the new Marcham Centre for the winter-half of the year (October Half-Term until Easter), with alternative, detached, outside activity-based provision being provided for the summer-half of the year.
- **SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH** – Sunday morning youth content is set resume. Initially this will follow the previous pattern of being on the 2nd and 4th Sundays – but will be reviewed after the Summer Term. This is set to begin on 13th June. It will be held outside in the churchyard for the remainder of the Summer Term.

PRIORITIES

- **BAPTISM & COMMUNION** – to continue the good work undertaken pre-pandemic on the admittance of children and young people to communion prior to confirmation and to offer the opportunity for those wishing to be baptised.
- **ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE** – to continue to encourage and promote the engagement of young people in the activities of Sunday morning services and the wider activities of the church and in so-doing, to explore their specific talents and gifts.
- **RELATIONAL** – to respond to the isolation of the pandemic by prioritising making spaces accessible, comfortable and enjoyable for young people to meet together, be with church family and to grow together.