

ST MARY'S SUNDAY CLUB AND YAC REPORTS 2021-22

During the summer of 2021 Sunday Club initially continued meeting online via Zoom. However, in June we were able to hold two meetings in person following very strict Covid19 guidelines. We put a number of measures in place to keep us all safe and drew up a Risk Assessment to cover these. We were delighted to be meeting in person again. At the end of term we were able to meet up on Send Recreation Ground for a socially distanced family picnic with activities based on Psalm 121 and the idea of travelling.

In the autumn we were able to continue meeting together in the Church Rooms, with slightly more relaxed COVID 19 restrictions in place. At the end of half-term we held a Halloween Light Trail around the village which was produced by Scripture Union. The trail began and ended at the Church Rooms and involved lots of sweet treats along the way. The event concluded with hot drinks and cake. Lots of families from the village joined in and each family went home with a Light Booklet.

Sunday Club leaders were able to plan the first Together Service since the pandemic began. It was well attended by St Mary's congregation on the first Sunday in November. We met in Send Primary School Junior hall for the first time where we were able to take advantage of their technology and hold our first paperless service, which was very appropriate since the service was on the theme of Climate Action. We are very grateful to the school for allowing us to use their premises. YAC also started up again on Sunday evenings in the autumn, continuing into the spring term. The group met for refreshments and a game then watched the Youth Alpha videos. Some serious questions and discussion were involved.

Our joint Christmas Party was a brilliant trip to Spectrum in Guildford to go bowling. The players ranged in age from 3 to 15 (the leaders ages will remain private) but age was no barrier. The competition between the three teams was fierce but everyone excelled and great fun was had. Over refreshments gifts from FC were handed out before it was time to go home.

Once again Mary with Jane's help wrote a very entertaining and meaningful Nativity play for members of Sunday Club and YAC to perform in church in December. The title was "Born in a Stable" and told the story of Christ's birth through the eyes of all the animals who were (possibly) present, including mischievous mice, glamorous sheep, a wonky donkey and a pair of haughty camels.

During the spring term 2022 the highlights were the Christingle at Candlemas service on 30 January when a fantastic sum was raised for the work of The Children's Society and the Lent Together service on 6 March, led by Jane and co-led at the last minute by Susie, our recently recruited Assistant Leader, in the unplanned absence of Sally. This year the children made felt heart brooches and cards for Mothering Sunday gifts.

The final activity on the Sunday Club spring term programme was the Easter Sunday service followed by the ever popular Egg Hunt in the churchyard. For YAC members the final activity of the term was the confirmation of four of the group, and the baptism and confirmation of one member, at the Easter Eve Service at Guildford Cathedral.

We are always very grateful to St Mary's congregation who are extremely generous with their practical support when it is needed and with their ongoing donations of stationery and craft materials. They also help us financially through their Traidcraft purchases at the monthly Coffee Shop and their orders. We also appreciate their prayers for our children and youth work at St Mary's.

Sally on behalf of all the Sunday Club and YAC team.