

Report from FIZZ ... Faith is

For those of you who are wondering – FIZZ is for adults 19+ with learning disabilities. Meetings are held on a Saturday once a month at Tynings Lane Church from 12 – 2pm and include worship with instruments and flags, drama and puppets, craft, video, Bible teaching and prayer as well as time to share lunch and build friendships. The group is affiliated to Causeway Prospects, a Christian organisation which values and supports people with learning disabilities.

FIZZ started in October 2006 largely as a result of the vision and enthusiasm of Lizzie Jones and has grown steadily in numbers over the past eighteen months or so. We now have a 'core' group of 12 regular attenders most of whom come with their carers. Other people come on a more occasional basis – much depends on the availability of carers and/or minibuses, especially for those who live in residential homes! Catering can be a challenge as far as numbers are concerned but God (and Pauline!) always seem to make sure we have enough food to go round!

The group is run by a dedicated team drawn from across the parish as a whole – we have one planning meeting each month in addition to the Saturday meeting and it is so amazing to see how the Holy Spirit draws our thoughts and ideas together to create a pattern of worship, teaching and fellowship that is incredibly special.

This past year has seen the group feature in 'Spotlight' and attend the Causeway Prospects Annual meeting in Solihull as well as take part in the recent One Big Family event at the Church at Junction 10. It was good to learn some new songs with Makaton signing and to meet with other groups but mostly it was uplifting simply to be there, sharing in praise and thanksgiving and to get the 'thumbs up', 'church good' response. At Christmas we were invited to go to the Springside care home to share some songs and the Christmas message. We pray that more doors may open up not only in the sense of opportunities to minister God's love but also in terms of the lives of individuals (we do have something of a 'captive audience' in terms of the carers who come along!)

We have recently said goodbye to Lizzie (a very big *Thank You* to her for her faithfulness to God's prompting) but we have welcomed more helpers on board and I would like to thank the whole team of David and Carrie, Pauline, Andy, Trevor, Dave, Katie, Katie B, Peter and Pat, Adele and Jake for their commitment and enthusiasm.

If you would like to find out more about FIZZ and perhaps come along to a meeting please contact Glennys Davis on 01922 447527. It would also be really good to know of anyone with a learning disability who might be interested and whom we could invite along.