

2009 AGM Reports

Coolbox: Coolbox meets on a Thursday evening in term time from 6:45 until 8pm in the church rooms. The children who attend are in years 5 and 6 (9-11years old). This group is run by Irene Standerwick, Pauline and Chris Stanford and myself, Sue Fung. We also have 3 or 4 members from AYF come along weekly to help. The current numbers for the group are an average of 30 attending weekly.

During the last school term we have based our bible study around life in Bible times – looking at food, clothes, homes etc.

We had a light party for Halloween and at Christmas we had a Christmas Party – the ball was open to Coolbox, Freezer and a group from the Hothouse called BigKidz. The party was attended by about 70 children. At the end of the summer term we will have an end of year party and invite the children with church connections from the next year group along to meet the leaders and sign up ready for September.

Please pray for the coming summer term that the children will be open to learning more about God and for the natural changes that will take place in September as the older ones move up to Freezer and a new group of children start.

Freezer: Freezer is now in its second year. We meet in the church rooms on Thursdays in term time from 6:45 until 8pm. The children who attend are in Year 7 and 8. We have an average of about 15 attending this group weekly.

Just before Easter we started our second run of Youth Alpha. The group is predominantly led by Rob and Vicky Richards, and supported by Vicky Platt, Kath Bowyer and Tom Bryant (AYF).

Please pray for the Youth Alpha course, that those who attend will deepen their love for Jesus.

Sunday Groups: Between September 08 and Easter 09 we have run the Sunday groups in the 9:30am service with one consistent leader in each group. This has been successful in dealing with behaviour, establishing trust and building relationship.

I reported last year that the Scripture Union material that we have been using varied in quality and suitability for the groups. I have now found an alternative which we launched on Sunday 19 April 2009. The new material sees us bring all the groups together and follows a more holiday club style format. We will trial this new format and material for the summer term and evaluate over the summer. The new group is called 'Fusion' in both the 9:30 and 11:15 services

Please pray for this new format. That the leaders will get to grips with it quickly and the children will have a real enthusiasm for coming along each week.

Light Party and Christmas Praise Party: We held a 'Light Party' during the October half term and a 'Very Merry Christmas Praise Party' a few weeks before Christmas. These events were for under 11's and were advertised within Church and Cooper and Jordan. The Light Party was attended by about 70 children and the Christmas Praise Party was attended by about 100 children (it was opened up to under 5's with parents staying). These events took place in Church. These events appealed mostly to under 7's and do rely on a large level of adult volunteers to run. I have reviewed the format of these events and have felt that I wanted something where families stayed together rather than parents just dropping the kids off – this has led to the development of 'Messy Church' (see separate report below).

Messy Church: This year we have run 2 Messy Church events. The first at the end of the February half term to coincide with the start of Lent, and the second on Good Friday. Both events were run in the Church Rooms from 4pm 'til 5:30pm. The first event was attended by about 60 children and 40 adults and the second event was attended by about 90 children and 60 adults. About 12-15 AYF came along to help on the craft stations. The format is a time of fellowship, followed by a time of craft. Then a short time of worship and teaching followed by a simple meal. I have been really pleased with the response to these events and have 2 more lined up – one at the end of May half term to coincide with Pentecost and a summer one just before the end of term. Jenny Holtham, Stuart Pearson and Chris and Pauline Stanford have helped run these events, with additional support with the cooking – thank you to Alison Roberts, Vicky Richards and Alison Trimmer.

School: In school I go into RE lessons across all year groups. Having had time to get to know the teachers they are very open to my input and suggestions within the lessons.

I do 2 assemblies a week – one in KeyStage 1 and one in KeyStage 2. Since Christmas I have used Bible Story Bags with Key Stage 1 – this has resulted in me creating a giant bible filled with knitted characters and props which have been used to tell the bible story. The children have really enjoyed seeing the story built up in front of them.

In KeyStage 2 we have followed the Church of England Live Life Love Lent assemblies.

On a Monday after school I run with the help of Matt Wallace a Christian club called G-Crew. The sessions offer a mix of eating, games, bible study and prayer. It has been encouraging that as the school year has gone on more of the children are engaging with the session and asking questions about the topic we are studying. We started the year looking at 'what is God like' and recently have followed a 7 week course looking at the story of Jackie Pullinger. A number of the children who attend G-Crew do not go to church regularly. As most will be going to Aldridge School in September I hope that they will go along to Random and I will be encouraging them to think about joining Freezer in order to continue developing their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.

Please pray for the children in this group that they will know how much God loves them.