

Little Fishes Playgroup

The past year has been another busy one at Little Fishes. We currently run five sessions a week and have nearly 70 on roll, with a waiting list for each of our morning sessions, and the afternoon ones filling rapidly. With other playgroups struggling to survive, we are very grateful for the healthy numbers and the support and goodwill which surround us.

In October we were awarded Quality Assurance Accreditation from the Pre-School Learning Alliance. Many of our children now receive Early Years Education funding, entitling them to the same standard of teaching and opportunities as they would receive in a school setting. We really look forward to the time when we will be able to move into new church rooms with a dedicated children's work area!



The new staff mentioned in last year's report fitted in very well, giving us one of our strongest teams ever. We are very grateful for our current staff, who always show such dedication and willingness to 'go the extra mile' for Little Fishes. We are also delighted to have Rachel back to full strength; her positive attitude throughout her illness was an inspiration to us all.



The children have again enjoyed a wide range of activities from bug hunting and car washing, library trips and snowy hikes, to making ice sculptures and bird cakes. We have learned about other children, less fortunate than those at Little Fishes and tried to help them with activities such as baking and selling 'Pudsey Bear' biscuits and making up shoe boxes for Operation Christmas child.

As always, one of our great joys is seeing so many of our Little Fishes and their families becoming involved in other areas of our church life and we pray that we may continue to reach out into the community and start to show them Jesus' love for them.

Our thanks must once again go to those in our church family who support us so faithfully with practical help, advice and prayer and especially to all those who work in the church rooms and have no choice but to share in the children's...exuberance and the Joyce Grenfell-like outbursts of the staff echoing along the corridor. It can't be easy discussing diocesan matters with the Bishop with cries of 'please don't lick your shoes Daisy!' in the background.

Please continue to pray for the group, that our actions and work may reflect our desire to show not just care and professionalism, but also God's love, to the families we meet and serve.

Rachel Vause, Anna Haywood, Annette Cook,
Sue Churchill, Eliza Rooke, Jan Moss & Sue Morris