

## **Family and Children's Ministry**

Since the first Covid lockdown we have provided a weekly activity for any children who are listening in to our services. This generally consists of a telling of the main story for the week – generally the theme of the main service, though sometimes varying if it doesn't provide much for children to relate to. Then there will be a suggested craft activity, or other thing that the children might do, often with a word search puzzle as well. Children are encouraged to share what they do so that pictures can go on the website, and we now have quite a gallery.

We do not, at this stage, have a way of telling how many children are now part of our congregation, but the first service in the garden on Easter 2 saw four families with children join us, and one other family booked, but prevented by a need to go to the hospital.

Sunday2 in its breakfast style of service was, of course, wiped out by the lockdown. However we have continued to use the broad format of the service on the second Sundays. We retained some of the liturgy that we had used before, to give our younger viewers in particular a sense of continuity: the opening and closing prayers, and the 'pink sentence' response. We have made good use of visual material and have learned to do stop-shot animations. Our listening congregations have had activities suggested to them that they might do. As we come out of lockdown, we are trialling worship in the church garden – 'muddy church' - as a way of bringing a congregation together again.

Sadly, the Mission Partnership activities have effectively ceased, though not, I hope forever. Similarly work with Clifford All Saints has been curtailed, although I did provide material for Harvest and for Ash Wednesday online which I believe was used.

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