



Christingle and cake

Lights are everywhere at Christmas - on trees and bushes, in windows, on roofs and hanging from gutters - white and multicoloured - twinkling and still. But what about the real light - Jesus the Light of the World?



During the Christingle service we decorated an orange with red ribbon, cocktail sticks loaded with sweets and fruit, and a candle, to represent the world God created and the light Jesus provides to us. Fortunately no one was counting as not all the sweets made it to decorate the oranges - and it wasn't just the children sneaking them! Once the Christingles were finished we lit the candles and sang a song reminding us that we should try and shine like Jesus -

setting an example - being kind to people and helping out where we can. It was special to see the real candles flickering in a near dark church.

With the electric lights back on everyone was able to enjoy drinks, cake and chat to round off the first of our Christmas services.



WLTD0

We have now had three 'Who Let the Dads Out' sessions on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 11.30am.

The fun starts as children, Dads and Grandads walk in and are greeted by the offer of tea or coffee and bacon baps or buttered toast (with jam as required), or healthy snacks and squash for the younger members (some of whom prefer the adult option!)

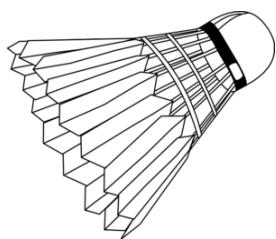
All ready and waiting is the mammoth connect four game and table football, both of which are very popular. We have a 'bowling alley' and have even been known to have a game of indoor cricket. For the scientifically inclined we have various construction kits and books for all ages, plus train tracks and dolls and dressing up clothes. There is also a craft table which has produced a handprint hedgehog and a 'what's the weather doing?' sheet. We have even made paper darts.

Many conversations make the time go amazingly quickly which brings us to our finale of parachute games and our farewell song. The song goes to the tune of 'One, two, three,

four, five, once I caught a fish alive,' our version is as follows: 'One, two, three, four, five, thank you God that we're alive; six, seven, eight, nine, ten, bless us 'til we meet again.'

We look forward to seeing lots of Dads, Grandads and boys and girls, aged up to 7, on the first Saturday of each month during 2019.

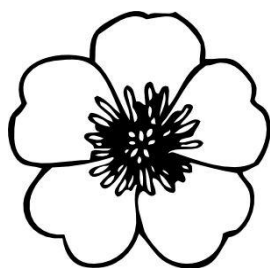
Junior Badminton



The session before Christmas was games linked to badminton skills, with sweets given instead of points. The finale of the evening was playing with an illuminated shuttle in the dark.

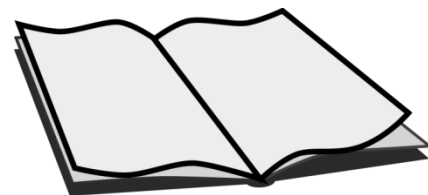
We are back on Friday 11th January. Happy New Year.

Poppy Project



In November we saw the culmination of our poppy project with a wonderful 'weeping cross' installation. Community, church and school based groups had worked amazingly hard creating clay poppies that were then gathered and curated into the artwork. We gathered 350 poppies in total and created a 4 metre waterfall of red poppies.

With wonderful booklets about soldiers who had lived in Formby contributed by Formby High, poetry and artwork donated by St Luke's Primary school and a variety of war memorabilia lent to us, we created a whole interactive experience that we were pleased to welcome over 250 people into.



It was wonderful to see a wide range of the community engaging with the project. All ages from little toddlers to those wise in years came to visit the installation and we were struck time and again by how inspiring and emotive people found the poppies. During the week we heard stories of family members who had been involved in the armed forces, stories from those who had served their countries and talked about the impact of war and our role in being peacemakers.

The whole event was wonderful and thanks to everyone who made it possible.

Guides

This term the Guides have been busy with a variety of activities.

The four Guides working on their Baden-Powell Award ran a mini Olympics evening and also a Ready Steady Cook competition, some excellent cookies, biscuits and muffins were produced.



The Guides also completed their 'Passion for Fashion' Go For It. All activities were based around fashion and clothing and were enjoyed by all.

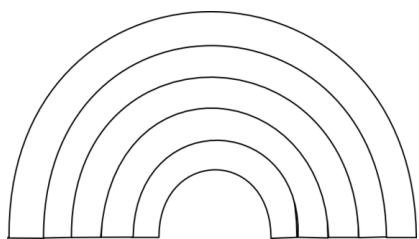
Some Guides have gained their Annual Challenge badges.



A couple of evenings were spent making various Christmas crafts. We also decorated Santa's Grotto for the Church Christmas Fair and ran a stall on the day, helping to raise funds for the Church.

Our final meeting of term saw us at Premier Bowling for a game followed by a visit to McDonalds.

Rainbows



Once again we have had a busy and exciting time at Rainbows. We said goodbye to some girls who jumped over the Rainbow to join Brownies and have welcomed some new Rainbows.

We have been talking about safety in the home and 'Values and what matters most' as we start our brand new programme of interesting activities, topics and badges.

We have made firework pictures and celebrated St Andrew's Day.



Leading up to Christmas we visited the Methodist Church to follow their Nativity Trail, decorated pine cones and made snowmen as Christmas decorations. We ended the term with a Christmas party.



Illumin8

There was a competitive atmosphere in the Church Hall one Saturday evening in November. The 'oldies' were determined not to be beaten by the 'young ones' in a game they had played in their youth! I won't tell you who won the game of duster hockey - the hall floor got a good clean and the 'oldies' will try their best to win at the next meeting on the 5th January. There will be the usual games of pool, table tennis, table football and more before a well deserved hot chocolate and snacks. Anyone from Footsteps or Explorers in year 5 and above is welcome to join us.

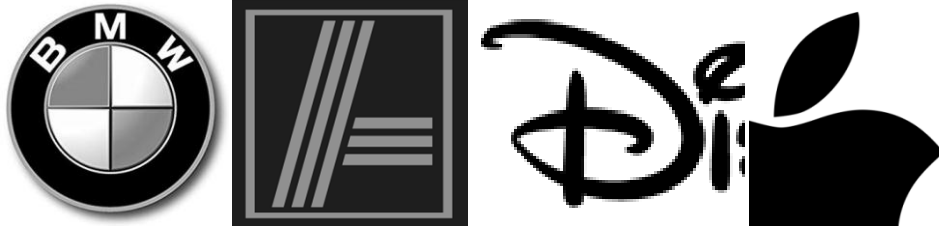
All age worship

On Sunday 27th January the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides will be joining us for morning worship at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Girls, if your parents aren't able to stay for the service they are welcome to pop in for coffee after the service.

Explorers

Are you any good at recognising logos? Go on, see if you are. Have a look below, how many do you know?

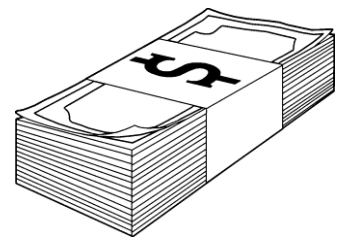


The Explorers knew all of the ones they were given, I'm not sure if the adults would know them all!

Logos or brands are used by companies so that we recognise a particular toy, food or other item. We then know what we like and what we want to buy if we have saved enough money.

Wouldn't it be nice to have enough money to buy whatever you wanted?

Imagine you had won the lottery. If you had a million pounds to spend, what would you spend it on? A new computer game? A holiday? For the adults, maybe it's a car or new house. One of the things on the Explorers list was to share the money with their family members, which was a great idea.



Following on from this chat we heard a Bible story where Jesus was talking to a rich man. The man asked Jesus what he needed to do to follow him. Jesus told him he needed to follow the commandments. These commandments included things like:

- Do not hurt anyone
- Don't steal

- Don't get jealous

The man told Jesus he had kept these commandments. Jesus then told him that he should also go and sell everything he owned and give the money to the poor. The man became sad. This was something he didn't think he could do. He was very rich.

Jesus doesn't ask us to sell everything we own but he does ask us to do things that we think are very difficult.

Do you like playing and talking to your friends? Next time you are on the playground have a look around. Is there anyone on their own? Is there anyone who needs some help? Even though you may like to stay with your friends you could go and talk to the person who is on their own or help someone. It may be something you don't want to do but it will probably make the other person's day.



Brownies

How much can you fit into a half term? If you are 6th Formby Methodist then it's loads!

We started off by completing the agility courses which we had designed in October. It was brilliant to see the sixers and seconders guiding and encouraging their six. That evening we also fitted in firework safety and our first carol singing practice.

The week after, we visited the Church's poppy display and created our own remembrance display. We were thinking about the soldiers from Formby who died in WW1. Each of their names is inscribed in the letters on our display.

A promise evening followed where three young ladies confidently made their Brownie promise and Elf owl renewed her promise as a young leader.

Mr Tiger Muffin popped in at the end of November and helped us make bath bombs, we had so much fun!

Over the term we completed the world issues, agility and fire safety badges before starting on the toy maker badge.

December saw us think about the Nativity story and carol singing, as well as having the best time at our Belle's Enchanted Christmas pack holiday just before Christmas.



If you want to find out more about what we do check out our twitter page @6FormbyBrownies.

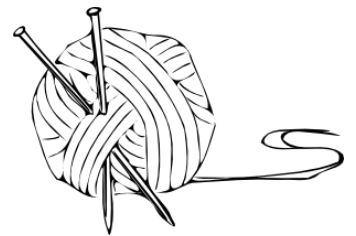
Angel Trail



Throughout December Formby has been full of angels - from the small angels left in shops and communal spaces, to the larger angels which have formed this year's village trail

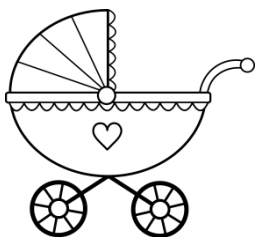
(last year you may remember that we were herding sheep!). Ten angels were hidden in shops around the village and the whole heavenly host were rounded up to join in festive fun in Formby Library on Saturday 15th December. Despite it being a rather wet and wild morning, we had a great time with the angels - which included reading the story of 'Angel Small' and angel themed craft activities which were enjoyed by young and old alike, with everyone receiving a chocolate angel.

'Well done' to all those who took part in the trail, and a big 'thank you' to all who made it possible - especially all our knitters and crocheters for making the beautiful angels.



May they remind us all to be messengers of God's Good News wherever we may be! I wonder what we will be looking for next year?

Toddlers



During the last two months we have welcomed eight new babies. We have been delighted to give each of the little ones a prayer book or a book of Bible stories.

It was lovely to have some of the toddlers and their families at the Church breakfast held on Sunday 4th November. There were games in the hall for the children before everyone gathered in Church for a Family Service.

Since half-term we have been busy preparing for Christmas both at the craft table and in our singing. The children made beautiful Christmas cards with a picture of the Nativity scene. We have a wooden Nativity set which is popular to play with each December and it helps to teach the wonderful story of the first Christmas. The children have enjoyed learning to sing 'Twinkle Twinkle little Star' and 'Away in a Manger'.



On December 13th we held an unrehearsed Nativity play. The children enjoyed dressing up in some newly bought costumes. We had Mary and Joseph, lots of angels, wise men, a shepherd and lots of sheep!

As usual, our Christmas party was very popular, with 67 children attending and lots of Mums, Dads and Grandparents. The highlight was Father Christmas who arrived with presents for all the children.

Nativity Trail

In December we transformed the church into a walk through Nativity Trail. We recreated Mary's house, the stable where Jesus was born, the shepherds out in the fields and the wise men's home, complete with straw, sheep and many, many fairy lights. We even had real life characters: Mary, the Angel Gabriel, some hard working shepherds and a couple of regal



wise men.

Those visiting the trail heard stories from the characters, could take part in activities and reflections as well as having food to taste, things to smell and lots to touch. At the end of the trail children could take part in a whole variety of crafts and every family received a book of the nativity story to take home.

We were pleased to welcome over 230 people into the trail across the week it ran. Old and young alike really enjoyed the trail and engaging with the Christmas story.

It was wonderful to read all of the good news shared with us at 'Mary's house' and to see the questions people had for God on our 'wise man's washing line'.



A big thank you goes to everyone involved in making it happen. Thanks also to everyone who came, we loved meeting you and hope you had a wonderful time.



TODDLERS **L**ITTLE **C**HURCH



Our 2019 sessions will be

21st February

11th April

30th May

25th July

30th October

9:30am to 11:30am

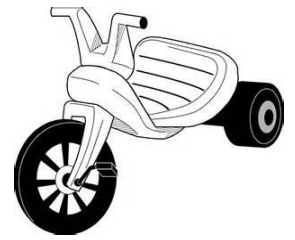
**An active Bible story time for you and your
toddlers, with refreshments, at
Formby Methodist Church.**

**For more information email:
toddlers_little_church@yahoo.co.uk**



Adventurers

How many sides in a triangle? How many wheels on a tricycle? How many singers in a trio? How many panels in a triptych?



Yes! If you did not know you have just guessed 3.

Definition: A triptych is a set of 3 associated artistic panels of pictures or carvings usually hinged vertically and seen in churches.

We have been busy with your old Christmas cards and had fun sorting, cutting, sticking and mounting three Nativity themed panels. We call them our stained glass windows because they tell the Christmas story in colourful collage. We started at the beginning of Advent. After acting out the story of the angel appearing to Mary we made the first panel to celebrate Mary's willingness to serve. With maps we planned lots of journeys then thought about the journey to Bethlehem and made our second panel to represent the birth of Jesus. Our third panel celebrates the first visitors to Jesus. The shepherds are there to represent us ordinary folk and the wise men to focus on Jesus as King. We hope you like our triptych.

Since our pizza lunch party in November there have been lots of good things to join in with: Shoebox Express, toy service, Footsteps, Christingle and Nativity services so thank you for all the cards, cake and Christmas treats and happy new year to you all.



Shoebox express

If you received a Christmas present this year that said 'Будь-ласка напишіть' what would you make of it?



Hmmm. It's a strange mixture of capital and lowercase letters, some of them look back-to-front and there are a few symbols that aren't even in our alphabet. So it's not English, that's for sure! If we were to tell you it has been written on a piece of paper inside some of the Christmas shoeboxes, can you guess which language it is? The previous copy of 'Our News' gave you a very big clue. All this year's shoeboxes have been sent to Ukraine.

That's right, this message is written in Ukrainian, so that the boys and girls who receive your Christmas shoeboxes can read it. But what does it say?

Another clue might help you - there was an envelope addressed to Shoebox Express enclosed with each note. Have you guessed it now? No? Okay, here's the final clue - you probably do this to say 'thank you' for some of your Christmas presents. It says 'please write!'

Wouldn't it be fantastic to hear from some of the children that received your Christmas shoeboxes? It's the first time we've done this, so keep your fingers crossed and start working on your Ukrainian!

WHAT'S ON

Sunday

Services at 10:30am and 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. At the same time as the morning service there are two children's groups.

Adventurers All children are welcome for Bible based games and activities.

Explorers All young people in year 5 and above are welcome for hot chocolate and chat.

Thursday

Toddlers, 9:30am-11:30am. All pre-school children with their parents, grandparents or carers are welcome. Term time only.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet from 5pm onwards. Term time only.

Toddlers Little Church (TLC), 21st February, 9:30am-11:30am. An active Bible story time for pre School children with their parents or carers. Older siblings are welcome.

Friday

Junior Badminton, from 6:30pm. Term time only.

Saturday

Who let the Dads out? 5th January, 2nd February & 2nd March 10am-11:30am. A group for Dads and their children aged 0-7. Come along for a morning of play.

Footsteps, 12th January & 9th March 3:30pm-6:00pm, join us for an afternoon of Bible based family fun and games with refreshments.

Illumin8, 5th January, 2nd February & 2nd March 6:30pm-8pm. Games evening for young people in year 5 or above who are members of Explorers or Footsteps.



Footsteps

Unlike Strictly Come Dancing or Top of the Pops (coming back after 13 years) we didn't have to wait until Christmas Day for the Footsteps Christmas special. It was a really great start to our Christmas activities with lots of regulars and some new people coming along.

The afternoon started with badge, bag and tree decoration making, the quiz and some games.



These included balancing sugar cubes on a lolly stick while holding the other end in your mouth - this is

much harder than it looks, especially if people are trying to make you laugh while doing it. The winner managed 11 (just to reassure dentists, no one was allowed to eat any of them).

During the singing we did the floss again and also learnt a new song - hopefully everyone will remember it for next year! Then we watched a cartoon - 'The New Noisy Neighbour' - which was the Nativity story told by a mouse which lived in the stable. I won't bore you with the details - I'll tell you them - it's a fantastic story - so important - read on.



We heard about Mary and Joseph journeying to Bethlehem, no room at the Inn, Jesus being born and laid in a manger and then the shepherds and wise men coming to meet him and spread the Good News.

From the Nativity story to the family challenge - which was to make Nativity figures - I think we managed all the main

characters apart from an angel, but included a mouse. While the Nativity figures were moved through into church we went into the hall for crafts and more games.

There was a biscuit to ice, fir cone to decorate, mouse finger puppet, treasure box and stable scene to make in woodwork. The origami star which went with the stable was described as being 'easy' to make in the You Tube demo video - those of us who did it don't believe them - but the models looked good when finished.



Everyone was having such a good time that we didn't go through for tea until 5.45pm - still time to eat (including jelly and ice cream) and get the results of the games and quiz.

Happy Christmas to everyone and we hope to see you at the first Footsteps of 2019 on Saturday 12th January.

Christmas Eve Nativity

Nativity means birth and it's always a very special time in a family and our church family joined together on Christmas Eve so the children could dress up and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas, to celebrate the birth, many years ago, of Jesus.



At each part of the story we sang carols that told the story. The grown ups were quite good at that bit!

When you were born I expect lots of people came to visit you but possibly none of these people. A troupe of assorted angels, accompanied by a rogue sheep, told the unsuspecting shepherds of this amazing birth. Having collected their sheep they made their way to Bethlehem where they found Mary and Joseph, who'd been led on their journey by a very happy donkey. They found the baby lying in a manger (somewhere you put hay for animals to eat).



Later, following a very steady star, wise men and their camel arrived from the East bringing gifts for the baby. What would you give? Perhaps a rattle, a warm blanket or cuddly toy? No! The wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh each with a special meaning in Jesus' life.

Afterwards we enjoyed cakes and biscuits, of course!



Formby

Give mum some
time off

*Play group just for dads and male carers
with children aged 0 to 7 -FREE ENTRY-*

Meet other
dads

Tea, coffee,
bacon baps and
toast

Toys for the
children to
play with

**FIRST SATURDAY
IN EVERY MONTH**

2019 Dates

Jan 5th Feb 2nd

Mar 2nd Apr 6th

**May 4th Jun 1st
etc.**

Find us on  **WLTDOformby**

GAMES EVENING

ILLUMIN



5th January
2nd February
2nd March
30th March
4th May
8th June

6:30pm – 8:00pm

**Refreshments • Pool • Table Football • Table Tennis •
And more!**

All young people in year 5 or above who are members of Explorers or
Footsteps are welcome to join us!

FOOTSTEPS 2019

Bible-based, family fun and games
at

Formby Methodist Church

12th January

9th March

11th May

29th June

15th August

28th September

30th November

Summer
Special

Email: footsteps_fmc@yahoo.co.uk