

Personal Reflection

As I look back over the last 3 months I can't help but feel proud of the achievements we have already made. The youth group, the mother and toddler group, the Early Intervention group and junior church have all successfully been achieved with very few hiccups. I could not have achieved this without the support of our volunteers, who are all invited to a Thank You meal in a couple of weeks recognise the importance of their support and appreciate their time dedicated to our teams.

I have also been able to start Mentoring a young person who I can relate to and thus provide support and encouragement through struggles and successes.

Whilst I recognise that not everything will go to plan, and indeed some things haven't, it is still important to remember our visions and revise them every now and then.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of my job, including running assemblies by myself, which was to say the least terrifying, but turned out successfully (I think).

I have always said that my personal vision is to help those in need and I feel this job allows me to do just that. I feel very encouraged for all we have done so far and thoroughly look forward to what 2017 will bring.

Finally, I think it's worth mentioning that my weekly programme would not be what it is without the help and support I receive from Bridgnorth Youth and Schools Project and The Bridge Youth Centre. Although I am very independent and answer only to Simon as my line manager, I do also meet on a weekly basis with the BYSP team who have helped me to facilitate the bonfire night, mentoring, young volunteering and will join with me in the vision to take young people away to West Midlands Spree.

In the same way I also give a lot to them, and at present I'm running Sparring sessions in The Bridge for older teenagers as well as assisting in planning for larger events, which will benefit St Mary's Church and the whole area.

Emma Lambert



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September – December Report 2016

Little Stars Mother and Toddler Group

Since September Little Stars is currently averaging 19-24 children a week, ranging from ages 0-4. The parents responded positively to the programme, commenting on how much they liked the range of activities and toys provided each week. We have also been able to provide activities that some children would not otherwise do at home such play dough, glitter and themed crafts like hungry caterpillar. We have received positive feedback with one childminder stating how nice it was to be based within a church and another commenting how much effort the team puts in, thanks to our array of volunteers.

I have also been able to support 3 parents by meeting with them for coffee or receiving phone calls in times of need. We were lucky enough to be in the Bridgnorth Journal during our Christmas Party, which will be great publicity for the New Year.

Our vision is to develop our programme to offer a diverse range of activities, develop relationships with parents/carers and make sure we are providing a diverse environment. We are looking at getting a changing table elevated especially for our wheelchair user and to provide a more hygienic environment.



Early Intervention

Early Intervention has been offered to the local primary schools of Bridgnorth, with St. Leonard's and St. Mary's school welcoming this opportunity. Altogether I support 5 children ranging from Reception to Year 3 with varying needs. We invested in "Talkabout for Children"; a programme that supports social and emotional development and I have already received positive feedback from teachers and the head teacher; one teacher commented on how a pupil has started using a range of emotions to describe her feelings thanks to my one to one work with her.

My hope is to expand to another primary school next term and expand internally by having more pupils to support.

St. James' Youth Club

We have had a very positive response to our youth group these past 3 months. We've had 25 young people, some who previously attended and some who are new. The programme of activities was successful for both young people and parents and the use of the Facebook page has grown, which is encouraging. 12 young people from the club came to an event we helped to run for bonfire night, and all gave positive feedback. We also had a few other main events based at the club; St. James' Strictly Come Dancing, St. James' Bake Off and our Christmas Party, which everyone enjoyed.

We are also encouraged to have 3 Young Volunteers helping every week. The young volunteers attended training through Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project and are beginning to take some responsibility.

The Young People's vision for next term is to have more food crafts and to play more games. Running around is currently their favourite thing to do. We will also be planning another trip.

Finally, I will be hoping to start a group where the young people from the youth club can explore faith (Called Stir). This will be a lead up to our Spree trip in July 2017.



St. Mary's Church

Over the last term we have been running a Junior Church programme 3 times a month. Although the young people's attendance is sporadic and low, we have had positive feedback about the tools used for teaching. The schoolswork.co.uk discussion cards have been successful in creating conversations, and the material, which is evangelistic, has been positive with both young people and leader. We are now using XStream from Scripture Union to delve deeper into faith and provide a basis for young people to explore, ask questions and learn in their own way.

Our vision for next term is to plan, implement and review a holiday club, incorporating St. Mary's, Quatford and St. Leonard's area. I will also be running confirmation classes, which will expand into a Stir group and will be doing assemblies in the local primary schools.