

Children and Young People Vision Group 9th January 2018

Present: Pippa Ford (Chair), Julie Lodge, Simon Moulden, Carolyn Nicholls, Andy Wells, Linda Wells,

Apologies: Cally Burch, Rosemary Woodcock

Reflection

Joshua 1: 3

Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you. NLT

I'm giving you every square inch of the land you set your foot on. MSG

Joshua 1: 9

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged.

For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. NLT

Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take. MSG

We reflected on those things we fear? Both personally, and then regarding children's work.

Often everything you want is on the other side of fear. Courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to push through to the other side with God's equipping and power.

BRAVE SONG – SADDLEBACK CHURCH <https://youtu.be/bUD8f2jwZDU> Life with God, knowing his love, moves us from a monochrome life affected by fear into a vibrant life of full colour.

We want to seek God's heart for the children and youth of this parish, a sense that there is new energy as God's Spirit is breathing through it.

Casting vision for this work

What are our dreams for the youth and children's work here?

A desire to join the dots more between all the different areas, to have good linking.

Engaging as a church community with those on the other side of the parish – perhaps an outdoor event – no charge to come and be blessed – different fun activities, maybe puppets, short service perhaps. Even having a pet show there. Messy Church would be ideal but no obvious venue.

With school work – doing things with them with no expectation of getting anything back, just to bless them.

QE – perhaps a team going in for a Saturday afternoon to do some fun music/acting etc

February 2018 – perhaps doing the panto at County or at QE instead of at church.

Having a young person as part of this group – Pippa to talk through with BW.

POINTS FOR MEETING:

FURTHER NEW FLYER: Altogether Worship and Youth led and QUEST PM added. Andy commented hard for families to know which to connect with, this is best done through conversation with each individual family to help them find the best fit for them.

Toddlers: Going well – Noeleen and the team are prayer walking around the parish. This will need a risk assessment. Had a small service at Christmas and new families are joining.

PRAYER POINT: for team to grow and to expect to see God at work amongst Toddlers.

Children's Church: Andy and Linda taking up the reigns. Nativity was a triumph of great teamwork and huge thanks to everyone. Fluidity between groups is working well, including creche disbanding and 0-3 coming under CC in the hall. Focus of Altogether Worship is primary age children.

PRAYER POINT: For Andy and Linda as they take things forward and for more joining of the dots between different children's areas in church and community

Messy Church: Well into its second year and has a good bank of volunteers. Messy church going into Onslow school on 27th March for the first time.

PRAYER POINT: For the way ahead to become clear for Messy church here, in schools and Draycourt – volunteer resources are stretched. For the logistics at Onslow and for good conversations with those who come.

Youth: We have now had five youth led services, and Emily Burch won Bishop of Dorking's Young Preacher of the Year. The youth are really leading the way with a testimony slot and now also offering prayer for people as part of the service. Youth are really growing in their leadership and some previous members of youth club are coming too. Much less exclusive feel now. The prayer by the adults after the service for children and youth has been key in this service developing so well, God really is at work. We hope that Bishop Jo might come in May to see how the service is developing.

PRAYER POINT: For team to have courage to invite their friends and previous youth club members more and to keep growing in faith and giftings.

Puppets: Lesley and Rosemary went on a puppet training course last term and they have great enthusiasm for this ministry. It would ideally fit well within Altogether Worship and the way forwards is to use some of the younger children rather than the youth to resource it. This will help them to have an area that is theirs and will help them to grow and develop. Pippa to explore with Debbie at Christchurch Woking re some training/input. This would be best done in holiday times when no CC.

PRAYER POINT: For us to follow God's timing and guidance on the best way to use puppet ministry here and for good connections with Christchurch.

Schools Work: Good connections have been growing at Onslow and we are now doing a prayer space from the 19th Feb for a week and taking Messy Church in for a day too. Pippa is coordinating our work with both schools at the moment but eventually we will be looking for God to raise up someone as a schools' coordinator. This term we will look to strengthen links with Montessori further and will investigate the situation with County too.

PRAYER POINT: That our links would strengthen further and that further opportunities to work with both schools, QE and Onslow and the Montessori would open up.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: 24th April 2018 7.30pm at Vicarage