

Notes from Children & Young People Vision Group Meeting

Thursday 20th January 2022, 8pm

1. Role Descriptions:

Jeanette asked all to sign the role descriptions that she had given to each member of the vision group. She asked that they be returned to her so she could complete her records and that she would then pass them on to Beverly for her signature.

There was a query about the Safeguarding requirements on some of the role descriptions (Toddler Group Coordinator, Toddler Group Leader, Children's Church Leader). Julie said that she and Carolyn would look into this and Julie said that she would let anyone know if any training was needed.

2. Baptism Family Liaison:

Carolyn explained her role which comes under the Pastoral Team as well as this vision group. She will follow up for 3 years families who have their children baptised at All Saints in order to maintain contact with them. She will visit each family after 6 months and, at each baptism anniversary for 3 years, she will give a small booklet appropriate to the age of the child. She is already in good contact with 2 families who had children baptised in September.

3. Toddler Group:

Since starting up again in September there has been a steady increase in numbers attending. The Facebook group has worked well with more people signing up and new posters have been made to put up. So far, in January there have been 20 adults with children on the first week and 15 on the second. Some are now coming regularly, but each week we see new faces. Some are local and others come from further afield. A regular response has been, "Wow! What a lovely light and airy space." On the whole, we are attracting parents and carers of children 0-2, although there are one or two 3 year olds each week.

The space works well with tea/coffee being served in the reading room where the children also have a story. Then, at the end, the toys are tidied away and everyone gathers for a short time of singing familiar songs and nursery rhymes.

Liz asked about storage and Vanessa was able to explain that the large and heavy equipment is now stored in a corner of the chapel, whilst the boxes of toys are stored in what used to be the chair store cupboard. The chair situation is the biggest challenge, although some of the parents now stay on at the end to help put the chairs back ready for Sunday.

Julie raised the question about whether the risk assessment was up to date and included parents helping. Vanessa said that she would look into it.

We thanked Vanessa for all that she is doing.

4. Children's Church:

Julie explained that it was decided to be cautious at the beginning of January because of COVID numbers still being high and so this coming Sunday(23rd) will be the first time CC will meet this term. It has been decided that each term would start with a CC breakfast and we have looked into how we can do this safely at the moment. Therefore, this time, we will provide a bacon sandwich that can be handed directly to each child and a carton of juice.

As we are short of volunteers, Julie has been in contact with families with teenagers asking if they would like to come along and help as young leaders. Both Ellie and Cary's have agreed to do this. Also, Alice Kenyon has agreed to become a leader. Julie said that she would also advertise for helpers.

Alison was pleased that CC would be participating in the Great British Bird Watch and, as this has to be done over 1hour she said that she would start it off before the children come down so that we can cover the full time. She also wondered if we would be available doing creation care and said she was happy to help.

5. Youth Group:

Julie flagged up the trouble that she had had getting a risk assessment for the youth event arranged for the Bishop's visit to Guildford.

Each of the leaders was asked about their vision for youth group.

Joanna said that her experience of youth group at All Saints had been very positive. She remembered eating together with a large group of youngsters, playing games and having a talk. There was a real sense of community. She sees youth group as a place to see friends and think about aspects of faith.

Alison shared her experience of youth group at St Johns where they had a meal, played games and did a bible study. She felt that our young people had benefited enormously from preparing and leading the youth services and she felt that they need a place where they are able to talk about their faith and ask questions. Therefore creating a space for comments, thoughts and questioning is vital.

She said she was happy to lead an open time for this. There was also the suggestion that Godly Play might be a way of achieving this.

Liz felt that having a place to 'hang out' with music and a relaxed atmosphere was key. She suggested that, for some, having a discussion in a big group can be intimidating so it might be helpful to talk to a neighbour or break into smaller groups of perhaps 3.

After a brief discussion it was decided to hold the next youth group on Sunday February 6th. Jeanette will get in touch with Beverly and Eve to see if the Yoga group would be prepared to use the church that evening rather than the hall as, after discussion, it was felt that the hall is the best place to hold youth group.

Jeanette then explained that she had joined the Guildford Youth Workers network and that they are planning a Youth Alpha for secondary aged youngsters starting on February 24th. She is hoping that this can be promoted at church and will talk to Beverly about it.

6. Any Other Business:

Jeanette asked which day and what time was best for vision group meetings.

After discussion it was decided that they should be held on a Thursday evening at 7.30.

Therefore, I suggest that our next vision group meeting is:

Thursday April 28th at 7.30