

Children's Work @ St Mary's & St Peter's



Prayer Space in School

Recently Canon Chris and myself attended the Salt the Oats event held at Smallwood C of E Primary. This was a networking event arranged by Chester Diocese, with the aim of helping churches and schools work together to look at ways of encouraging families into church, something that is close to all our hearts.

As a result of this sharing of ideas, the Prayer Space in School initiative has been reawakened in me! We looked at this as a church some time ago and of course the 'space' issue reared its ugly head, but the little grey cells have been working away and I remembered the 'Wishing Tree' in Delamere Forest. Children could fill in a 'wish' on a star shaped label and tie it onto a designated tree on one of the trails in the forest.

Of course the children love this activity, and many in school will have done this. We found a tree that would provide a quiet, contemplative area in the school grounds and then St. Mary's Church provided a small basket with laminated labels and sharpie pens for each classroom that the children can write their prayer requests on. I then collect these once a month, and take them to the church prayer meeting to be prayed, along with the prayers from the church Prayer Tree. I introduced this during one of my assemblies and class teachers could use it as an activity if they choose, or not, it doesn't really matter.

This took no effort from school to set up, as church did it all, and we run it all for them. We hope it will strengthen the links between the church and the school, and I think that the children will enjoy it.

Teresa Finney, Children's Worker