

Cockfield Benefice including Cockfield CEVCP School

Church-School Links, What do we offer?

Rationale and Priorities:
POSITIVITY & ENTHUSIASM
COMMUNICATION ↔ RELATIONSHIPS

Cockfield CEVCP School

Cockfield is a small rural village church primary school of 73 pupils
The relationship between church /school has developed in recent years
Incumbent leads collective worship in school once each week. She also sings and plays guitar. This is popular with the children
Incumbent has been Chair of Governors. While this was 'a lot of work and complex' it enabled the Incumbent:

- to develop a relationship between school and church
- to have a strong input into the school's ethos
- to be very involved in the recruitment of the Headteacher
- to be regularly involved in the important conversations in school, especially important post OFSTED and SIAMS for supporting the Head to set priorities moving forward
- to serve on Curriculum committee. This enables 'constant discussion' with HT about ethos and RE being integral to what the school does
- to build relationships with parents of the school

HT and Incumbent meet with school council re collective worship. Pupils involvement in cw has improved

'Communication is key'

Specific to village communities
Most effective /successful ways via:

- Facebook
- flyer in children's school bookbag

Specific Activities

- Open The Book— Monthly since 2011
Very popular with pupils and staff
- Reception class—Baptise a doll
- 'Lord's Prayer Day' & 'Easter Experience'
- 'Messy Church' (led by team of volunteers. Regular attendance 15-17 children)
- Holiday Club

Cockfield Church

Holiday Club (1 week every summer during the school holiday)
Facebook: A daily presence within the community during lockdown
Working in conjunction with the Curate of the partnering church has enabled:
The building of a team of people concerned with worship
The development of a family service model
Implementing quality musical accompaniment
The 'individual character' of each church in the Benefice is used to best effect, eg Felsham is smaller so it is more suitable for more informal services and for 'Messy Church'

'Messy Church'

Not seen as a 'step into church' but instead that this is 'their' (ie the children's and their families') own church

Enables conversations to happen between the volunteers and families who bring children to 'Messy Church'

Contact Rev'd Sharon Potter at
revsharon@btinternet.com if you would like to know more about our work

Future Developments

- 'Chill-Out Zone' for young teenagers
- Aspiration for confirmation at 'Messy Church'