

North Samford Benefice, Sproughton CofE, Tattingsstone VC, Bentley VC & Copdock Schools Partnership

Rationale and Priorities:
WORKING WITH PEOPLE / BUILDING TEAMS

A focus on community cohesion
Incumbent's relationship with families based around trust and commitment
Various members of the church community are involved in outreach work in different ways according to their individual gifts
Lay Elders are trained appropriately
The Benefice schools are prayed for regularly
A retired parishioner reads stories online to the children
Sproughton children experience bell ringing and candle lighting. They speak with the verger about their role.
Foundation Governor takes on a welfare-focused support role in school
Altar cloth made with children of Sproughton and Copdock schools.

ECO Schools & Wildlife
ECO Awards held by two churches helped by the ECO-committees in school
Wildlife: Where to observe - On the school site or in a churchyard?

Family@Church
(from an idea by Revd Carl Melville.)
Quality refreshments on offer!
A particular success at Tattingsstone where there have been requests from five children to be Confirmed.
"Commitment shouldn't be measured by Sunday morning attendance..."

Messy Church
Twice a year. 90 participants (50 children plus their parents /carers)
Toddlers
Monday mornings. 25 toddlers. Retired parishioners involved in clearing /washing-up

Christmas and Harvest
Children involved in planning and leading the church Christmas services
Toddlers have made gifts to distribute to older members of the communities, eg. Christmas decorated stones, mini harvest baskets, pictures and cards
Bi-annual Christingle and workshop to make Christingles. Children clear on the elements of the Christingle
Posada featuring knitted figurines, once presented in school the Verger takes knitted donkey home then children take it in turns to do so. Diary kept up-to-date
Three Kings perspex stained glass windows painted by pupils with members of the community. Backlit every Christmas in Sproughton church. School banner designed by the pupils and created by a member of Sproughton church. Banner, diary and photos mark the occasion

Choir
Involves school choir and Music Teacher.
Choir involved in church weddings, village fete and pastoral teas for the elderly

Annual Experience Days
(Based around the 'Jumping Fish' materials)
Focus days which enable children to engage in the events and celebrations of major Christian festivals. Children travel around stations set up in the church building and respond through multi-sensory activities

Open The Book
Four OTB teams, one per school.
Three deliver assemblies every other week, one delivers assemblies 4-5 times per term.
Children involved in drama

Gifts
Gifts for Leavers:
Friendship Bands
'Holding' Crosses
'Moving On' books
Gifts for Toddlers:
Pouch containing a cross

Contact Rev'd Annette Shannon at revannettes@aol.co.uk if you would like to know more about our work