

Blackbourne Team Ministry - The work of Team Rector: Rev Dr Karen Burton. Her engagement with Church Schools and the engagement of her teams with their local communities

13 villages, 11 churches, 8 parishes, 5 schools Church-Community-School Links. What do we do?

Ixworth CofE Primary

Team Rector has taken on the role of Chair of Governors

Support and guidance for the school in developing their Christian vision

Community links: The Headteacher opened and concluded the annual parish meeting with a talk centred around the school's Christian vision.

Children decorate the church and help the community reflect eg candles for National Reflection Day and poppies for Remembrance.

Children lead worship fully when holding their services in church and church supports re buying school CW resources

Monthly Messy Church - Re-establishing post-lockdown.

Strategic involvement and support for schools:

Barnham VC - Vice Chair of Governors, SMSC Mentor

Ixworth CofE - Chair of Local Governing Board

Honington VC - Vice Chair of Governors

"I am their Vicar, no matter where they live." Rev Karen has led Christenings, Weddings, Funerals even outside of the parishes of the five schools.

Diocesan Board of Education:

Recently joined the DBE - Widening the sphere of influence

Across All Schools

Schools are seen as 'Worshipping Communities.' Churches may be small in number on Sundays but every week day there is worship taking place in schools that involves many children.

Rev Karen views her role as Chaplain **and** Rector, prioritising schools because children are viewed as the 'FUTURE OF THE CHURCH and THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE'

Each PCC is provided with a school update at their meetings: How each school is living out its Christian vision. Parishes supported schools with IT equipment during the pandemic to support home learning for the disadvantaged.

Collective Worship: Weekly YouTube videos throughout lockdown recorded from the study at the Rectory. Unexpected outreach: Virtual CW reached many parents during lockdown.

Bardwell CofE Primary

Weekly Collective Worship in the church - potential for tea /coffee for parents. Messy Church regularly takes place with children of the school. Children led the Ash Wednesday service in church for the Benefice.

Re-modelling of the church to better suit all-age work. School to design a space in the church that is 'theirs.'

'Pet Services' in the churchyard.

Church is used as a resource for learning: RE, Art and Science. Children surveyed wildlife as part of 'Love Your Burial Ground Week.'

Setting up a 'church in the playground' - doubles as the school's prayer /reflection areas (ongoing project.)

Rev Dr Karen Burton

Barnham CEVC Primary

'Pop-Up Prayers.' Small prayerful activity to follow collective worship in school led by church during morning break.

'Bring Your Coffee to the Churchyard.' A covid-based approach replaced the established coffee morning in school during lockdown. Children from the school sing and interact with the pensioners who attend.

'Bangers and Banners' - Messy Church by a different name and 'Baking for NHS workers' - Cakes delivered to homes of NHS workers.

Contact Rev Dr Karen Burton revkarenburton@outlook.com if you would like to know more about what we do and how we developed this work. Check out our website: www.blackbourneteamministry.org

Honington CEVC Primary

'Seeds, Leaves & Fruits' theme. Children write positive thoughts and comments on outlines of fruit. They write their troubles and worries on leaf outlines - encourages the idea of 'letting go of their worries.' Seeds: Represents hope for the future.

Team Rector photographs this and places on social media encouraging links with the church as it raises awareness of what is happening in school.

'Jam Jar Harvest Festival.' (Links with Fakenham Magna) - Linking a 'Festival Church' with a 'Festival Congregation!' Families are approached via the school with a personalised invitation in a jam jar, the jam jar is then filled for the service.

'Knit and Natter' group. Make an angel for each house in the village inviting families to the Christmas services.

Small parish church - plans to develop 'After School Church' for families in school.

Leading community pray space e.g. ribbons tied on school gates - prayer for Ukraine.

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