

2022 Children's Work St Michael's

This year has seen several new initiatives in regard to Children's work. A small group of interested people was formed to facilitate the ongoing work with children and young people. After a time of concentrated prayer and planning a new Family Praise service was established and began on the First Sunday of February. The service is an informal time for the whole family to worship together and includes hymns/ songs, a bible reading, a time of 'Food for the Soul' a craft activity and prayers. The service is now running on the First Sunday of the month beginning at 11am for about 40 minutes. However we have encouraged people to arrive by around 10.45 so that we can share coffee time with the congregation from the main service. Over the year we have had an average attendance of 8/12 children and around 20/25 adults.

The success of Family praise encouraged us to run Easter and Christmas Workshops for primary aged children, accompanied by their parent or carer. Each workshop finished with a short act of worship. These workshops were well attended with between 12/18 children and 20 plus adults.

Carol has been going into Hazeldown School to take assemblies and build links and it is hoped this link will continue to strengthen as the next year progresses.

St Michael's also organised and ran a stall on the Den for the Platinum Jubilee, promoting our children's work and offering various activities to celebrate the Jubilee. These activities included being a monarch and sitting on a throne to have a photo taken, making a huge union flag, painting glass jewels and making crowns. The stall was busy all day and was visited by children of all ages, including teenagers.

On Christmas Eve we celebrated our Christingle/ Crib service which was very well attended with around 175 adults and 80 children.

We have ideas for furthering this work next year including starting a toddler group and a junior Choir.

Lesley Heffer