



Good News Stories - Children's Ministry

This summer we launched our first Churches Together holiday club at **St Mary's Eastwood** and with the help of Bob Goody from Scripture Union and Rob Taylor from the diocese we had a great week learning about Jesus and how to work as a team. Through running our first event we have been able to build up confidence as a team across the Eastwood churches and are ready to get planning for the next Churches Together children's event. A lovely comment was relayed to me that through the event a lady from one of the Baptist Churches was delighted to say her grandchildren are now attending church with her regularly. We had 14 children attend ...next time we are aiming to double that! God bless. Jackie Smith

St Mark's Bestwood Village Fun Factory meets weekly after school. What makes us special is our emphasis on nurture, using play to build relationships. We are actively inclusive, seeking out families that may need a bit of tlc due to bereavement, additional needs, or the many other pressures families wrestle with. We are building a mutually supportive community among children and adults, with a basis in faith- some activities and songs each week are faith themed. We believe as our connections deepen, we will have the opportunity to minister among our families that are not yet part of church. We gather to greet everyone with a welcome song, then burn off some energy with active games. After that we move freely between several activities one of which is always food based, cooking something to eat together later. We also offer messy or sensory play. We gather again for more songs, and thank God for the food we are about to share.

It is very early days for this project, and we are currently challenged by the number of families that would like to join us and a need for more adult helpers! God gathered us in this endeavour though, so I'm sure he will provide!

We at **St John's of St John's with St Mary's churches in Mansfield**, have started a monthly Youth Film Club for 10 – 16 year olds, initially with our own church family youngsters. This is lay-led as we have been in vacancy for well over two years. It is clearly needed for this age group and looks to be growing nice and steadily.

To watch the young people settle down with all important 'chill out' time and then to come together to discuss a few bible study bullet points relating to the film, is quite inspiring. The Tuck Shop goes down well too! Of course none of this could happen without a very dedicated team of supporters.

St Luke's, Gamston and Bridgford. In the past year we have run a Parenting Children Course and a Parenting Teenagers Course at our local CofE Primary School. Having recruited a great team of leaders by selling this as a "short experiment" we were thrilled to find that it worked. Both courses drew in non-Christians with whom we had previously had no contact. We focused on building relationships during the courses, delivering honest talks and providing quality refreshments. Since the courses ended we have maintained contact with attendees with reunions and follow-up events. Some have since attended church and three have started Alpha. The school entrusted keys to us for the courses and the trust earned has opened the door to explore beginning a New Worshipping Community within the school in September 2019.