

## **TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, WIMBLEDON**

### **Children and Youth Work report – 2019**

The Children and Youth Work Team is happy to report on another fun and satisfying year working with children and young people at Trinity. Although the number of volunteers able to lead some of our groups has reduced, we have still been able to provide activities, fellowship and faith development both on Sunday mornings and across the week for all aged children and young people.

#### **Sunday Provision**

I am very grateful to the team of 10 people who volunteer to care each Sunday for our youngest children in the Creche.

Sarah Elliot continues to show inspired leadership of Junior Church, supported by Claire Wood and Sam Elliot; a team of occasional but regular volunteers, including Janet Young, Elizabeth Scharinger, Lydia Khurshid, Cathy Dundee and Susan Collins helps to provide cover and 'a day off' for the main leaders. Junior Church continues to bring together several children and young people, averaging between 8 and 10 (aged 0-13 years) each week for worship and activities on Sunday mornings across the year, as well as participating in, and leading, All-Age Worship, including Harvest and Mothering Sunday. We also led the Children's Favourite Hymn Service. We continue to use Roots as our main teaching resources, but the purchase of new equipment, including a projector, has enhanced our provision.

**Confirmation:** We were delighted to confirm and welcome into membership 3 young people, as well as welcoming into membership 2 more. Dominic, Claire and Sarah led a series of confirmation sessions on a Sunday before the morning service; it was a joy to share in this significant step in the faith journey of these young people.

#### **Non-Sunday Provision**

We continue to provide opportunities for our children and young people to meet at times other than Sunday mornings and to involve their friends in Trinity's life.

Trinity Toddlers meets every Friday in term time, led by Janet Young, Miriam Grant and Susan Collins, along with other volunteers who help provide tea and coffee. It continues to meet a need in the community, with very good numbers each week, necessitating the operation of a waiting list. Sessions include a story, playdough or a craft activity and a singing session led by Miriam on her viola, as well as fellowship time over tea and coffee.

Pilots continues to meet fortnightly during term time, enjoying a mix of games, craft and Bible stories for primary age children, both from the congregation and their friends. Sam Elliot continues to lead, supported by a rota of volunteers.

Friday Fellowship has had a most successful year, with weekly attendance regularly 10+ which makes for lively and fun evenings, with much laughter and good fellowship. Taking suggestions from the young people, leaders continue to organise a range of activities including board games evenings, quiz evenings, Olympics and the ever-popular baking nights. Once again the young people baked goodies for a Trinity Bake Sale in aid of the Freedom from Torture charity. We marked the start of the summer break with a very enjoyable BBQ, organised by Pam and Guy Rostron, with leaders, young people and their parents thoroughly enjoying the time together.

Film Club, led by Pam Rostron, continued to meet until the summer break; it will take a break for the next academic year as A Levels loom. Pam and Guy, supported by one of the parents, will continue to run Film Nights as part of the Friday Fellowship activity rota, for which we are very grateful.

Messy Church continues to go from strength to strength, thanks to the creativity and hard work of Susan Collins ably supported by several members of the Children and Youth Work Team and others. November's Messy Church joined very successfully with the Junior Church annual Fireworks party which was enjoyed by many.

We finished the year with our Nativity Play; this year with a re-telling of the Christmas story in a simple, yet very effective way, using tableaux created by the children along with readings from the

children and young people. It was particularly good to have a real range of ages take part, from 4-year-old shepherds to 15-year-old Bible readers. Thanks to Sarah for such a lovely service.

The main focus for the work of the Children and Youth Work Team was the review of our strategy for the work we do; linked to the application for the renewal of the Child Friendly Church Award; a review of the criteria associated with the award revealed the need to refresh and update our objectives. A Youth Work Strategy meeting was held in March and was attended by a good range of people, from the Children and Youth Work Team, the Elders and parents. It was facilitated by Sam Elliot and included a presentation by Hannah Jones on her year as URC Youth Moderator and what she learnt about how churches are working with children and young people across the country. The meeting was very productive; areas of focus were identified; subsequently shared with the Elders Council and formed the action plan submitted to the Southern Synod as part of the application to renew the Child Friendly Church Award. We await formal confirmation of the Award.

My thanks to all who give their time and energy to children's and youth work at Trinity. We would always welcome more volunteers to share in this key area of the life and work of the church.

Claire Wood  
April 2020