

[item 8f]

Children's and Young People's activities - APCM report 2022

Messy Church 2021/22

As we eased ourselves from lockdown the team tried hard to see the best way forward for Messy Church to happen.

Easter 2021. The team met on Zoom due to Covid restrictions still in place. It was decided to retell the Easter Story as 'pass the parcel'. This took place on Holy Saturday afternoon (3 April) in church. This was attended by 3 families. Alan Cook and Darren Chalmers provided the music. Since this we met Face to Face in a meeting at the church hall to discuss the way forward. We invited the Rowbarton Church Methodist minister Rev'd Deborah Kirk and some Methodist children's leaders.

It was decided as a group that if we worked together, we could staff and support each other for future Messy Churches. We could possibly use Rowbarton MC's hall and alternate venues. Sadly, we missed the booking dates we wanted, and we have not got a future MC off the ground. We are aiming to fix another date for this Summer and re start our 6-weekly meetings.

Mission in North Taunton (MINT) 2021/22

We met on Zoom in January 2021 and decided to make Easter Cracked a video recording. Each part of the story was filmed by a different person, the clips then collated, and the finished video sent out to schools. We then offered a live question and answer session with different Ministers. All schools gave us positive feedback.

We met in September 2021 for a F2F meeting at Wellsprings Chapel to discuss the possibility of a Nativity on the Green 2021. Unanimous decision that this would go ahead. The evening was a success. Approximately 150 people attended, with the community pleased we were back. It was good to see families that do not normally go to church. We will go ahead for December 2022. The date is Tuesday 20th December on St Andrew's Green, 17.45 start. We are hoping for more activities for children this year.

Easter Cracked 2022. It was decided we would go ahead this year, but sadly with no donkey. This was due to very high price to hire for 2 days. However, it was a success. Over 120 children took part, from 6 Primary schools in North Taunton over 2 mornings. Positive feedback from schools and from helpers. Our thanks to the Taunton Academy for releasing one of their yr 11 drama students, Harry Whelan, to play Jesus on one of the days. Also to the many helpers and volunteers from our churches that contribute to MINT's success.

Decision for next year will be for same number of children over 3 mornings. This will give the children a better experience. Dates are set for 3 mornings for Easter Cracked 2023: 22nd, 23rd, 24th March.

The Railway Children 2021/22

At present 1 pre-school child is attending church regularly. We do have hope and ideas for the future to serve children in different and exciting ways at St Andrew's. This may not be in the same guise as in the past.

*Sue Lodge
May 2022*