

G2G Generation Generation



The Generations Game!

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders." Psalm 78:4

Amusing 1970s cultural reference. Google it!



Fledgelings

Our ever popular toddler group now operates in both Harwell & Chilton. It includes "See & Know" - a pre-school specific Bible teaching curriculum. Most weeks 40 children and 30 grown-ups attend. Staffed by a team of 8 volunteers.

"Fledgelings is a highlight of my daughter's and my week".

"As a parent it makes such a valuable difference having the volunteers – a fantastic support network".



Y.F.

Young & Free. Youth Fellowship. Yummy Food. Yo, Friends. Young Fitties. Take your pick! Meeting Sunday evenings in Harwell, across 2 sessions. You'll regularly find 20+ teens enjoying games, food and exploring questions of life & faith. Lead by a team of 5 volunteers.

"We are most encouraged by the growth in YF this year, the important issues that have been discussed and seeing the young people themselves grow".

"A safe environment to explore faith and ask questions".

Holiday Club

The annual summer Holiday Club goes from strength to strength. Over subscribed and full to capacity with 100 children from across Chilton & Harwell. They are entertained, exercised, occupied and introduced to Jesus. A team of 67 volunteers donate in excess of 1,100 hours.

"It was wonderful seeing the children having so much fun, making friends, and I also enjoyed being part of the team of adults".

"Our daughter has LOVED every minute of this week and wants to do another week! Really inspiring to see. Thank you for all your hard work".



Prayer Spaces

Both our village primary schools welcomed Prayer Spaces in for a full week of reflection, mindfulness & prayer. Every child (i.e. ITRO 350) had almost an hour to offer prayers for forgiveness, peace, self-worth & their needs. Over 20 volunteers gave almost 140 hours of their time.

“Amazing how children joined in ... really felt God’s presence”

“I really enjoyed prayer space – it was the highlight of the day! They made me think about how good my life is. I now feel calm and relaxed, and happy about my life and I am not worried about anything! ☺ Thank you!”



Living Advent Calendar Easter Story Trail

Across Harwell and Chilton we held these great community building events. Introducing children and their families to the real, Biblical stories whilst discovering more about the village and our church family. Around 60 different homes volunteered and 70 children & families took part.

“Really enjoyed getting to know more about those we visited, having a daily focus on the Christmas story and walking around the village”

“Loved having so many children & parents visit my home. The children really did know the nativity story”.



& Pathfinders

Our Sunday morning groups at St Matthew’s attract families across the benefice. They continue to disciple our children & young people. At Kids Church we’re evolving into our “mini holiday club every week” ideal! Most weeks you’ll find 20+ children being lead by the team of 10 volunteers.

“The children were really enjoying themselves and engaged with all of aspects of the program”.

“Thankful for the weekly support and coaching of young faith”.

Schools Ministry

We are very fortunate to have such good working partnerships with our primary schools: half-termly assemblies, **Y-Club**, Classroom support, reading partners, church visits. Almost every child in our villages will see & hear about God's love in action throughout the year. There are dozens of people involved - we can't keep track of their time!

"My eldest boy - who is very bad at telling me anything about his school day - often tells me about your assemblies".

"You have such a nice manner with the children. It is really lovely for some of our younger boys especially to see a positive role model."



Family Services

Through our special seasonal services & **Scouts** parade services we get to welcome many guests and give them a positive, welcoming experience of our worship. We demonstrate that it's possible to have fun, laughter & excitement without compromising the life-giving message.

"Great family services. I think they speak to the parents as well!"

"The crib service was magnificent ... a lovely way of making all the children feel involved"

I hope this overview gives you some sense of the length & breadth of our Children & Families Work. But it only gives you a snapshot! There's not been space to tell you in depth about the Scouts, Y-Club, family fun days, Alpha male, the orchestra, the family spaces in our churches, baptisms ... **And most crucially it doesn't give full credit to the 110 people who have given of their time & talents throughout this year to make it all happen. THANK YOU so much to each & every one of you.** You are particularly responsible for welcoming Jesus into our midst: *"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me."*

It's tempting to see all this activity and think "Mission Accomplished"! But whilst there are still lives unreached and opportunities missed, there is work to be done. I'm seeking ways of integrating our work more closely with the schools; of developing our links with the scouts; of bolstering the work through an intern(s) scheme; of exploring new styles of worship service which will help parents pass on the baton of faith.

G2G - Generation to Generation. Give to Grow. Glory to God. OHMS

Peter