

Family, Children and Youth Work - Update 2 - 14 Jan 21



Katie Harrison

Katie Harrison works 2 days a week focusing on families and younger children in Bishop's Waltham.

Kate Smyth works 3 days a week focusing on families and older children in Bishop's Waltham and with the families and children in Upham.



Kate Smyth

St Peters and Bishop's Waltham Update

The 'Bishop's Waltham Nativity Trail' around the town and the 'Nativity Walk Through' in the church was a success with a number of families from the community commenting on how much they enjoyed both activities. It was lovely to see the prayer tree at the last station filled up with prayers from churchgoers and community members alike. Katie has also managed to make contact with a few more families to invite them along to future events through the prize drawer.

Kate ran a nativity trail at the Junior school before Christmas which was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Katie produced a series of video assemblies on advent which were enjoyed by the Infant school. She has recently produced an Epiphany video assembly too for the school. Kate has also been in contact with the head at Swanmore primary school and is looking to do some work with him too so watch this space!

With the current lockdown, obviously Kate and Katie have both had to put some of their plans on hold for the time being. However, we are busier than ever keeping in touch with families 1:1; providing all our usual activities in a different way; and offering some new Covid friendly activities to support families in this time.

Sunday Club is back online and Katie is posting videos and activities to engage the children during our current lockdown. Before Christmas the group had really taken off. It usually runs in St Peter's Church Hall during term time on Sundays 10.15am - 11.45am for games, play, stories, crafts and more. It's aimed at children 2.5 - 10 years old. Children can be dropped off whilst parents attend the 'Way groups' or they can just go into town for a coffee, or merely enjoy some child-free quieter time! We have already reached our 15 child capacity under the current coronavirus restrictions, but Katie is excited to open up the group to more children, once things return to more of a normal pattern in the spring. The long term idea is to be able to involve the children more in the services (singing songs / doing little skits etc) and to engage these parents by inviting them to these services and offering coffee on collection.



Kate has been working with Robin Anderson to continue running Group With No Name (GWNN) for children aged 11 -16. This is currently running over zoom, but usually runs weekly during term time in St Peter's Church Hall from 6pm - 7.15pm for lots of fun, crazy games, movie nights and trips out.



Teenie Tinies has also gone online for the moment. We are offering bi-weekly zoom coffee chats for the Mums with a few songs and stories for the toddlers. It's been nice to see some of the Mum's and their children. Katie is also following up 1:1 with some of the Mum's to offer more support where it is needed.

Kate and Katie have been working closely with the fantastic Messy Church team (Betty Sprenger, Ian Cooper and Liz Webb). We have also welcomed Naomi Macintosh onto the planning team and Caroline Palmer is also supporting us for the events. We are now making up craft packs for children, to pick up from the church, prior to our live streamed events which we are still running on the 3rd Monday or every month. We have made up 32 packs for the next event and we are confident that most of these will be used by children in our community.



For this lockdown period, Katie is producing weekly scavenger hunts for families to enjoy on their own walks. There will be a prize draw at the end of the 8 weeks of scavenger hunts, for those who have completed at least 6 out of 8 of them. On each hunt there is an encouraging bible verse for families to ponder and hopefully to find hope in.

Katie and Kate are organising a family quiz night on Saturday 6th February via zoom, which we hope will just be a fun time for families to come together to have a much needed social time.

Kate is also getting involved in the online Alpha course which is starting at the end of January with a view to holding a Youth Alpha course.

There are also plans for a photography competition and countryside trails around the village in due course. And both Kate and Katie are hoping to put out more 'bitesize' thoughts / activities for families during this time on social media.

Blessed Mary & Upham Update

The Nativity trail that Kate set up in Upham was a great success and she has made contact with a few more families from doing this. The Crib service went well, and it was a great time to reach out to the community. People particularly enjoyed the photo booth with the nativity characters and the real donkey who made an appearance!

Plans for the new toddler group in Upham 'Butterflies' have had to be postponed. However, Kate is still busy resourcing equipment for it and writing role profiles and risk assessments etc. She still needs volunteers to work alongside her to run the group.



Kate has been working closely with Revd Jane Beloe and the team in Upham. She is excited about working with the children, and coming alongside the families, who attend the 2 family services a month at Blessed Mary and putting in place some activities on the other Sundays when she cannot attend. She has great plans for the 'upper room' and making the church a more family friendly place.

Kate is planning a family friendly trail around Upham which will be up for the duration of February. Plans for the holiday club have been postponed, but she is spending this time forward planning other groups and events which she is hoping to run. Plans are still afoot for possibly setting up a new Messy Church and youth group.

Thank you for reading this. If you feel you are ever in the position to volunteer your time helping us to run any of these groups or activities, then please do contact us! Unfortunately, we are limited in what we can do at the moment, partly due to a lack of volunteers. Our contact details are:

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Kate and Katie - Your Children, Family & Youth Workers