

Youth and Children's Newsletter- Sept 2017

I can't believe it's been nearly 5 months since I last sat down to write a newsletter, the summer months really have flown by. For me September signals the start of the year much more than January does and as we look back over the summer and look ahead to the coming terms may we know that we don't do so alone. May we know that the Goodness and mercy of the Lord will follow us wherever we go.

Looking back

I want to go back to the start of June when we had the whole of year 4 from Amherst School come to the Church one afternoon to learn about the Baptist tradition and about the life of the Church today. The children asked so many insightful questions and we managed to fit around 30 of them into the baptismal pool!



Towards the end of August we took 20 young people to the Soul Survivor festival. What an amazing week it was, friendships were formed and deepened, epic water fights took place but most importantly our young people encountered God in a beautiful way. By the grace of God the love I have for the young people continues to grow month by month and it was a genuine pleasure to spend the week with them (despite the ridiculously small amount of sleep!)

We have also just returned from a brilliant weekend away at Ashburnham place, a real family time away. Highlights include playing Truth or Dare with the teenagers late one evening! Seeing the children and young

people encounter God through their led activities and the beauty of creation around us was fantastic.



Un Baja

We had our first youth group session last week, the Vogelberg family kindly hosted us at their house as we gathered for a BBQ and games. We are really looking forward to the term ahead, we have loads planned including special guest speakers and various trips out.



We are blessed to have such a vibrant youth group at BGBC, if everyone turned up we would have just over 50 young people! We continue to pray that this group will provide a safe place for the young people to be themselves, for them to discover faith and grow in it.

Schools work

We continue to have a presence in our local schools, leading assemblies at 4 local schools and running weekly clubs at 3 of them. Schools work is such a good way to reach out to children and young people, many who have no connection to a Church. After home, school is where the young people spend most of their time, give most of their energy and encounter many of their struggles. Please do hold our young people in prayer in this new term.

Coming up

This term we have a number of trips and events planned. We are taking a group to the RE-BOOT conference, this is a youth apologetics conference designed to help young people wrestle with the big questions they have about faith. We also have planned a trip to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland in December and an Ice skating trip.

In October I'm starting a new course at CYM in Bristol, I'll travel up there once a month for a study day. The course is roughly a year and at the end I should gain a diploma in youth and children's work.

Starting this term is a new group for young people in years 11-13. We aim to meet once or twice a month on a Friday evening. The older young people are really hungry to dig deeper into their faith, to support each other and this group has started from that desire they have.

Prayer points

- For our Students who are going back or going for the first time in the coming weeks to University, College, internships.
- For all the children and young people as they settle back into the routine of school and for the parents too.
- Giving thanks for all the amazing things that have happened over the past few months.
- For myself as I start my new course
- We pray that through all the activities and groups that run at BGBC and in the local community that the children and young people would be transformed by the love of God. We pray that they may be salt and light in every situation they find themselves in.
- We give thanks for all the amazing volunteers who give up their time to serve the children and young people of this Church.

Myself and Liz would love to encourage you to flick through the church directory and find young people and children to pray for. Maybe you could even tell that young person that you are praying for them.



Short thought

While at Soul Survivor we heard a great talk by Mirriam Swaffield who is a fantastic speaker. Her topic for the morning was 'Church.' She shared a story of how one of her friends would always come home from church complaining or moaning about something, either the worship wasn't very good, the sermon was too long, there was always something to criticize. Mirriam shared how she would get really upset by this as her friend told her she shouldn't take it personally. After about a year of this, one Sunday Mirriam turned to her friend who was about to start moaning about something again and said "The reason I take it personally is because I am part of the Church."

I don't know about you but I can really relate to that. Let's be honest we all love a good moan sometimes but I think in this story it was the consistency of the moaning that was troubling. "Be the change you want to see" is a quote I love. Mirriam went on to say that constantly moaning and criticising is just too easy, if you want to see the Church changed then it needs to start with you because you are the Church.

Josh