

## **PCC report Children & Families Work September 2009**

### **Church**

*Sunday Mornings:* The groups running on a Sunday morning at St Peter's from 10.45-11.45am are:

Stepping Stones (Annex 0-2s),  
Pebbles (Pink Room, 3-4s)  
Groundbreakers (Long Hall 5-9s)  
Thirst 10+

Following some issues last term, Clare and I have worked together to refine the groups. The children aged 10 and above now join Clare on a Sunday morning. In effect, Rocksolid (8-11s) now no longer exists and the children go straight from Groundbreakers to Thirst when they reach 10 or when we feel they are old enough to cope with a more informal teaching structure. We will review this change.

There are approximately 30 regular attendees (more than once a month).

**Volunteers:** Volunteers remain loyal to Stepping Stones. Abi Eady has now left her role as Pebbles group leader and Kat Smith replaces her. However, due to her age, Kat must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Currently, George is helping out and Sarah Smith has also offered but this may not be a long-term solution. There are also occasional weeks when Kat is unavailable and we may not be able to offer a Pebbles group on that week. A parents' rota was unsuccessful due to lack of support.

I have no regular helper for the 5-9s and am currently assisted by Karina (German student). There is an urgent need for volunteers for the Groundbreakers groups and I am committed to identifying those with the gift of leadership and teaching for the 5-9s.

All age services are planned for Harvest, Remembrance and Nativity.

### **Parish**

*Midweek:* Totzone continues to grow. Lunch is served in the café on Fridays to the mums and children (not open to the public) and continues to make a small profit.

The next *Messy Church* event is planned for November 3<sup>rd</sup> (All Saints).

*Time Out Tuesday:* a daytime group for parents is not currently running.

*Surestart Children's Centre:* I am working alongside a Family Support worker to promote the activity timetable for the Children's Centre. St Peter's Centre will now be used as a venue for some activities (the Children's Centre

operates out of the old library next to Iver infant school and has limited space). This will hopefully provide some much needed income.

*Iver Community Childcare:* I continue to support the work of Sarah Meere and her team in running the new nursery and after school provision at Iver Village Hall.

There are plans for the nursery to work with the infant/junior schools to secure additional funding for after school and holiday activities. Since we (IET) have been unsuccessful in recent years in securing funding to run this sort of activity it makes sense to work with other agencies to share resources, contacts and staff. Our increased chances of funding will mean a better service for local families.

*Schools work:* We continue to build very strong links with the infant school (new Head Ms Woodcock) and currently visit each week to take assembly. In addition myself and George will be making Harvest Beasties this week with the children and a Harvest Festival will be held at St Peter's on Friday afternoon to which the children and parents are invited.

*Cubs:* I have written to the cub leaders and invited them to join us for Harvest Festival and also they have promoted Back to Church Sunday for me.

### **Diocese**

I have not been able to attend any diocesan meetings since my last report and have not attended any further training courses. I do however need to attend a first aid course as soon as possible.

### **Funding**

Our funding applications to South Bucks District Council, The Bucks Foundation, and Awards for All were unsuccessful and we were unable to run a summer programme. However, last week I received a cheque for £2000 from Mars Charitable Donations which will be used towards similar next year. (see above).

Funding has been promised from the Danni Taylor trust fund which may cover start up costs for a midweek after school group for 5-7s. However, even with funding, at present I will be unable to run the club myself due to family circumstances and the fact that I will be working too many hours.

Commission continues to come in from Yellow Moon Catalogues and St Peter's on-line shop has to date earned £80.

Funding continues to be a source of great concern and I will be preparing a fuller presentation for your consideration and discussion at the next PCC meeting which will examine the viability of the C&F post and it's sustainability.