

Children and Families Report

Highlights of the past year

Watching over 600 teenagers dancing to LZ7's

Being able to hear a pin drop in the parent zone listening to Linz gospel message

Watching children and staff hear testimony of God working in people's lives across 5 secondary schools

Hearing the news that CU at Rushden is thriving being led by some of our teenagers.

Sparkler's mum felt so connected to our group that even after her child started school she wanted to keep coming to help.

Praying in June for a volunteer for sparklers and being blessed with 2 amazing ladies

Hearing our children and youth share their testimony of hearing God in the lives.

Sharing the Easter message with 300 children at St Mary's Church and taking the whole of Whitefriars primary to Jerusalem.

Praying alongside Helen at St Mary's that God would use and bless the Easter and Christmas experiences - Christmas was doubled to 600 children and this easter 1221!

Week by week having the privilege to journey with a group of teenagers as they explore and discover who Jesus is.

Sitting weekly with a single 16 year old, whom a year was on the verge of being expelled from another school, this Easter she is sitting her GCSEs, and we are praying together that Jesus is with her as she sits her exams.

Meeting new Families in the park and sharing about Sparklers.

Watch the sense of family and community grow among our sparkler's families.

Being blessed to work with Highfield Road Baptist Church in our new venue for Sparklers....it's warm and there are no gaps under the doors!!

Storage at Highfield Baptist Church!

"It's your move", yr 6 workshop with Denfield and Whitefriars

Yr 6 Golden Reunion at PRBC

Fun, laughter and noise at Action for Happiness well being club with children across Whitefriars

Easter Lessons with yr 6 who had the freedom to ask anything and didn't hold back, having the privilege to open up to them who God is and His big Story.

In one of Whitefriars Primary's saddest moments, having the privilege to pray with children and staff.

The lightbulb moments when God reveals himself to a child in a new way, a new connection or new understanding.

This list is not endless and still doesn't include the weekly moments in assemblies, moral maze, school lessons, sparklers, church services and children's ministry, service rotas that come together even against all the odds.

To look back and reflect on how God has moved in the small every day and the BIG moments is a joy.

There is no denying it has been a tough and at times exhausting year but there is so much to be Thankful for. Last April the encounter of Jesus calming the storm turned up countless times in the space of 10 days, this year it has felt like stormy weather but I hope like Peter we have managed to have faith to get out of the boat and trust that Jesus has it in control. Even when the way forward seems like a big storm, nothing is clear, its rocky, sometimes scary but if you look closely there will always be God steadfast in the midst asking to Trust and follow him

There are a few big Thank you 's needed

My amazing Children and Youth Ministry teams, you are all incredible our Sunday ministry would not happen without you all.

My wonderful Sparklers Team Lisa and Niamh (my mum who didn't want to leave), since September there has been so many weeks that were in danger of being cancelled if it wasn't for you both.

Everyone who serves to bring Sunday morning worship together 52 weeks of the year.

To Melyvn who served our church for over 30 years in more ways than we can even imagine and was a wonderful friend and mentor.

Finally, to Luke who swooped in like a super hero in our hour of need and has set up all our media software for Sunday worship....even I can use it!!

Thank you!!

Looking forward to the next 12 months is so exciting

With no physical community building of our own, children and families ministry in all areas of school, outreach and church will look very different over the coming year. Please pray with me as this new circumstance continues to open up new opportunities to use other spaces and work alongside our church family across the town in fresh and innovative ways.

Emma Croxon
Children and families Minister