

WELCOME TO THE...

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

WINI MIX



# NEWSLETTER SUMMER ONE 2025

'Sharing God's love with all those we meet'



## The Mini Mix – WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The first half of term was spent thinking about 'What Happened Next'? But before we could think about that, we needed to remember what happened first. I asked the children to imagine that I was an alien from outer space, and that the first thing that somebody said to me as I got out of my spaceship was 'Happy Easter' but I didn't understand what that meant. Then seeing what the young people could remember about the Easter story and teasing out the journey from Palm Sunday to Jesus' resurrection.

Having heard the good news that Jesus is alive, I asked the young people if I could get into my spaceship and go and visit him, and I pretended to be surprised when they told me I couldn't. 'Why not' I asked, because Jesus had ascended into heaven. This led me to ask the question 'What Happened Next?', telling the story of 'The Emmaus Road' and giving the children a glimpse into the next part of the story. Getting them excited to find out what happened after that and reminding them where to find the next part of the story in their bibles, and also where to find a bible if they don't have one at home.

The bible story was 'The Emmaus Road which can be found in the Lion Bible for Children. Songs included 'Whose Side Are You Leaning On (The Leaning Song) and Jesus Really Loves Me.



# The Mini Mix - PENTECOST

I asked the young people if they'd heard of Pentecost before and if so, could they tell me what it is? I reminded them that in our last assembly they had told me that Jesus had ascended into heaven. Then sharing with them what Jesus said to his disciples before he ascended, telling them that he would always be with them. Sharing the story of the arrival of the Holy Spirit and what effect it had on the disciples. Reminding the young people that the Holy Spirit was sent as special gift for everyone, and that they too can receive it if

they invite Father God into their lives. Then having great fun teaching the young people to sing 'We Are Marching in the Light of God' in African (Zulu) - Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos', Spanish - Caminamos en la luz de Dios and French - Nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu. This always proves to be very popular and gives the young people a real sense as to what happened to the disciples on the day of Pentecost.

The bible story was 'The Helper Arrives' which can be found in the Lion Storyteller Bible. Songs included 'Jesus Really Loves Me' and 'We Are Marching in the Light of God'.

# **Stalbridge Youth Club - Congregational Church**

This group of young people continue to enjoy meeting together, and as we move closer to the end of term, this group remains important as it offers opportunities for those moving to secondary school to continue to meet with their friends from other year groups outside of school.

During our April session we thought about how the disciples felt after Jesus had died – whilst there were rumours of Jesus' resurrection, they returned to their 'day jobs' and tried to carry on with normal life. However, Jesus had other ideas and ended up cooking them breakfast as he discussed his plan for their futures. Jesus' ascension was the theme for May, and in June we practiced our best African, Spanish and French as we learnt to sing 'We Are Marching in the Light of God'



We still need more helpers! If you'd like to help, want to chat about what is involved, or come along to a session to see what it's all about then please get in contact ©

# **Preaching and Speaking Engagements**

Thankfully I only had a handful of preaching appointments during the summer term. These included 27<sup>th</sup> April at Broad Oak Chapel, the 11<sup>th</sup> May at Stalbridge Congregational Church. I had to cancel my planned visit to Stalbridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, but I'm due there again on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July which will no doubt have passed by the time you read this newsletter.

**Future dates:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug – 11am at Holy Trinity, Yeovil. 24<sup>th</sup> Aug – 3pm at Broad Oak Chapel. 31<sup>st</sup> Aug – 10am at Stalbridge Congregational. 7<sup>th</sup> Sept – 10:30am at Motcombe Methodist Church. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept – 10am Breakfast Church at Stalbridge Congregational. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept – 3pm at Broad Oak Chapel. 5<sup>th</sup> Oct – 10am at Stalbridge Congregational. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct – 10:30am at Bible Christian Centre, Haselbury Plucknett. 26<sup>th</sup> Oct – 3pm at Broad Oak Chapel.

# **Messy Church - Holy Trinity Church, Yeovil**

Our Easter Messy Church on 16<sup>th</sup> April was popular as usual. Those who attended enjoyed a variety of crafts including double-sided shields. We thought about Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, and then the joy of Easter Sunday when Jesus appeared to Mary - the shields had an Easter garden scene on the reverse which were used by the children during our worship time.

The life of Paul was our theme for our May session. All our crafts were themed around different aspects of Paul's ministry including his time in Jail with Silas and his shipwreck – the children enjoyed making junk modelling boats! We are currently planning our August session which will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August at 10:30am – we will be enjoying lots of crafts based around 'The House on the rock', so expect some sand, water and the timeless song!

Messy Church is especially aimed at families with young children, but all are welcome and it would be lovely to see you – It's church, but not as you know it! Based on the principles of creativity, hospitality and celebration.

# **Messy Church - Stalbridge Congregational Church**

Messy Church at Stalbridge runs monthly on a Wednesday after school and is aimed at families with primary age children and their younger siblings – A fun session with crafts, food, and a worship time.

April carried on the theme of Breakfast on the Beach (one of my favorite bible stories!)

In May we returned to the Old Testament and thanked God for His wonderful creation. The whole group (parents included!) enjoyed taking part in a drama during our worship time.

Our June session was led by Sandra and John, so this was a great opportunity for me to spend time with the families, enjoying the crafts, activities and time of worship.

The next session is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September where I look forward to hearing how the children have enjoyed their first few days back at school.

### **Memorable Moments**

I was delighted to be invited to lead two SIAMS (Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) collective worships recently. Firstly in St Mary's CE Primary School, Bradford Abbas and also in Ashlands CE Primary School, Crewkerne. SIAMS is a great opportunity for schools to demonstrate how well the young people engage in collective worship and also in understanding Christian values. The Mini Mix is a perfect way for the inspectors to see the young people responding to the gospel message.

# **Purple Harmony Choir - ZAC**

I had the pleasure of joining Purple Harmony for the day to learn and perform a Christian musical. This is something I have done on several occasions in the past, and the most recent of these was held at Yeovil Methodist Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July when we learnt and performed 'ZAC' by Roger Jones. A great time was had by all involved, singing praises to God and sharing the Good News. A big thank you to Kate Killick for organising yet another fun family day and for sharing half of the proceeds raised with our ministry ©



# A Challenging Time...

I am thankful to God that my ministry continues to go from strength to strength, however, several aspects of life have made this term a particularly challenging time, filled with contrasting emotions.

Since the end of March, I have spent all of my spare time helping my Son Robert and his fiancée Eleanor renovate their new house in preparation for moving in after their wedding. Much woodwork, sanding, decorating and kitchen renovating has taken place and I hope to have passed on a few of these skills along the way. During this time, we were also finalising the wedding plans, with all the usual excitement, not to mention a little stress and several pounds spent! As many of you will know, My Mum Kathryn, has been living with Multi-Systems Atrophy (MSA) for several years, and her health had been slowly deteriorating. We'd made plans for mum to attend the wedding with her carers to support

her, but unfortunately this wasn't to be as Mum passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of 1<sup>st</sup> June. Mum was one of my greatest supporters and is actually the reason why my ministry exists! Obviously, her strong faith was a great example to me from a young age, and unbeknown to me at the time, Mum actually organised my very first school assembly almost 20 years ago. She was teaching at Trent Young's school and offered my services to the headteacher!

Trying to come to terms with Mum's death just two weeks before Robert and Eleanor's wedding was very difficult, but God remained gracious to us all.

Robert and Eleanor were married at Holy Trinity Church, Yeovil on 14<sup>th</sup> June, and their reception was held at Thornford Village Hall. It was a truly special day, filled with wonderful memories.

We held Mum's thanksgiving service on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at YMC, Chelston Ave and were so blessed by a wonderful time of fellowship as we gave thanks for her life. So many people shared thoughts and treasured memories, and the singing was marvelous – all hymns were chosen by Mum, of course!



As you will understand, the last four months have been very difficult, and I apologise if I have not responded as promptly to phone calls and emails as usual, and that this newsletter has arrived much later than planned. I am very thankful for all the kind messages and prayerful support I have received, and thank you once again for your continued support.

# **Summer Two Newsletter**

Our next newsletter will be a celebration of all that has been achieved in the past 12 months and looking forward to the opportunities in the 12 months ahead ©

### Pass It On

Please forward this newsletter on to your local primary school, church or other interested parties.

The more people that know about the work that we do, the better ©

# **Receiving Future Newsletters**

Please email me if you would like to receive future newsletters electronically. I will continue to post printed copies to my regular supporters if I don't have your email address. Please also share this newsletter with your local church, school, friends or family and do let me know if you need any printed copies.