



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS



MATTHEW 3, LUKE 3

NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

2026

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

WELCOME TO THE...

IMAGINATION



MINI MIX



THINGS, PLACES, PEOPLE...

The Mini Mix – The Baptism of Jesus

During this half term I have been encouraging the young people to use their imaginations. We started by thinking about their favourite memory from Christmas and using words to describe how it made them feel. Then after singing 'The Leaning Song' we talked about how the gospel writers told the story of Jesus' life, from birth, right through to His death and resurrection; but that there was very little in the bible about Jesus as a young person or a

young adult, other than the story of Him being lost in the temple at the age of 12. I asked the children to imagine what Jesus might have been like as he was growing up. Where did He go, what did He do and who did He spend His time with? I then shared the story of Jesus' baptism and asked the children to imagine what it would have been like for John the Baptist when he saw the heavens open and he heard God's voice. Finally, I told them that lots of the words they had used at the start of our assembly, would be the words Father God would use to describe how He feels when we have the courage to ask Him to be part of our lives. He just wants the opportunity to walk with us and be part of our lives, and when we ask Him to do that, then words like Happy, Excited, Overjoyed, Grateful and Loved are just a few ways to describe how He feels. We then finished with a prayer and by singing the 'Thank You' song. The bible story was 'The Baptism of Jesus' which can be found in 'The Lion Bible for Children'. Songs included 'The Leaning Song' and 'Thank You'

Help - Regular Giving

We make no charge for any of the work we do, relying completely on God's provision. If you think the work we do is important and you want to see it grow, then please consider becoming a regular giver. For more information, please send an email to daniel@dem.org.uk or visit the website where you can find our constitution which outlines how the funds will be used.



Highlights from Last Term

As expected, leading up to the Christmas break was an extremely busy time. But I made a conscious effort to try and 'be in the moment' with each appointment in my diary. This led to a very enjoyable half term, and some very special moments including...

THE MARVELLOUS PICNIC
HE FED 5000 PEOPLE



A New Song – Available on YouTube

At the end of November, I was invited to Holy Trinity Church School in Yeovil to lead a song writing workshop for their spirituality day. This workshop was run 3 times across the day with about 20 young people in each session from across the school year groups. We worked together to create the lyrics to a brand-new song which you can now hear on YouTube! The children really enjoyed exploring how different people in the story of feeding the 5,000 would have felt, and we had lots of great ideas. I received some really lovely Thank You letters; I've included a few quotes below:

'I learnt some stuff from the bible that I didn't know'

'It made me really happy and it was one of the coolest things we've done in Year 6'

'You really make me happy when I see you, and I love your Mini Mix Worship'

'I play the guitar and I try to make songs about bible stories at home'

Carol Singing

Much carol singing was done during December including... Connect Club at Yeovil Methodist Church (YMC) – Chelston Ave on 5th. Good Fellowship Club at YMC on 11th. Potters House Residential Home on 13th. Carol Service at Broad Oak Chapel on 14th. Campfire Carols at Holy Trinity Church, Yeovil on 22nd. Chestnut Lodge Residential Home on 23rd. If you have a group that would appreciate a visit this coming December then please do get in contact ☺

Shoe Box Gifts

We had the pleasure of blessing the Samaritans Purse shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child during services at Cheap Street on the 2nd November and Yeovil Methodist Church on the 9th November. Over 232,844 shoeboxes were sent from the UK in 2025 and a total of 12.2 million were sent worldwide – AMAZING!

Christingle

The Christingle service remains as popular as ever. We celebrated Christingle at Stalbridge Congregational Church on 7th Dec, and I led a special Christingle service at Cheap St United Church, Sherborne on 9th Dec where we were joined by the local Rainbow, Brownie and Guide groups. This was a really special service as we were surrounded by the Christmas Tree Festival display. I also had the pleasure of leading a whole school Christingle service at All Saint's Church in Bishops Caundle on 16th Dec as well as leading the Christingle service at Yeovil Methodist Church on Christmas Eve. Everyone who attended enjoyed taking some time away from the busyness of the Christmas preparations to remember that Jesus is the light of the world, and 'The Christingle Jingle' continued to be a big hit!



YouTube continues to be a popular resource for schools and Sunday school groups. The most viewed videos are typically the short bible stories and songs. All of the previous VYM videos are still available by searching for [Daniel England Ministries](#) I'm still hoping to reach the target of 1000 subscribers, so if you haven't already done so, please 'Subscribe'. It doesn't cost anything but helps raise the profile of the channel.

236,000 Views – 6,800 Watch Hours – 678 Subscribers

Birchfield Community School Governance



I had the pleasure of accompanying a large group of children to the Pantomime at Westland's Entertainment Venue on 15th December. A great time was had by all – Oh no it wasn't – Oh yes it was! It was also lovely to be invited to St Michaels Church for our Carol Concert on the 23rd December which was so well supported that there was standing room only. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, I do have one space available on the Governing Board so please let me know if this something you may wish to explore.

Preaching and Speaking Engagements

Amanda and I continue to enjoy leading worship and updating people with the latest news from the ministry. Our preaching diary remains busy, and we're thankful for the invitations and warm welcomes we've received.

Future Dates

- 1st February – Marnhull Methodist Church
- 8th February – Yeovil Methodist Church – Chelston Ave, Yeovil.
- 15th February – Stalbridge Congregational Church
- 1st March – Bible Christian Centre, Haselbury Plucknett
- 8th March – Stalbridge Congregational Church (Breakfast Church)

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

Newsletters - Pass It On

All of the previous newsletters are available to view on the website but please email me if you would like to receive it electronically. Please share this newsletter with your local church, school, friends or family ☺

Stalbridge Youth Club - Congregational Church

Youth Club had to be cancelled in January due to the flooding but should resume again next month. The plan is to continue as we are until the Easter holidays and then change to a more focused Youth Fellowship for Year 6+ young people starting after Easter. This will hopefully allow us to better serve the young people within our fellowship.

Messy Church - Holy Trinity Church, Yeovil

Christmas Messy Church was a success as always, with lots of families joining us to celebrate the joy of the birth of Jesus through crafts, songs and celebration. We made some great 'angel cakes' enjoyed 'fork painting' to create baby Jesus in a manger. It is great seeing families work together on the various crafts and especially enjoying the worship time together. We look forward to our next session on **Wednesday 18th February at 10am.**

Messy Church - Stalbridge Congregational Church

Our last session before Christmas was a busy time preparing for our Christmas tree festival and Community Nativity. Both were a huge success and it was great to see the young people taking part in both events. We have begun this year already with our first session on 21st January on the theme of Jesus' baptism. We made handprint doves and floating flowers, which everyone enjoyed. Messy Church at Stalbridge continues monthly with our next session on **Wednesday 11th February from 3pm.**

New Opportunities



We are now visiting 29 schools each half term with number 30 due to start after half term ☺ God has given me a vision of reaching 40 schools this coming year, and we are well on the way with 5 new schools since October. If you'd like me to visit your local primary school then please help me by making an introduction, or pointing me in the right direction.



Academic Year 2025 / 2026

All Saints CE VC Primary School, Bishops Caundle (125) All Saints Church School, Montacute (203)
Ashlands CE Primary School, Crewkerne (170) Barwick and Stoford Community Primary School (65)
Birchfield Community School, Yeovil (417) Buckland Newton CE Primary School (109)
Charlton Horethorne CE Primary School (42) Haselbury Plucknett CE First School (63)
Hinton St George CE Primary School (87) Holy Trinity Church School, Yeovil (413)
Horsington Church School (93) Lovington C of E Primary School (29)
Norton-Sub-Hamdon CE Primary School (80) Pimperne CE Primary School (188)
Shaftesbury Abbey CE Primary School (191) Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School (339)
Sherborne Primary School (319) Shillingstone CE Primary School (103)
Stalbridge CE Primary School (190) St Andrews CE Primary School, Weymouth (237)
St Andrews CE Primary School, Yetminster (107) St Bartholomew's CE First School, Crewkerne (173)
St George's C of E School, Bourton (119) St Gregory's c of E Primary School, Marnhull (57)
St Mary's CE Primary School, Bradford Abbas (89) St Nicholas CE VC Primary School, Henstridge (94)
Thornford CE Primary School (99) Trent Young's CE School (145) West Chinnock CE Primary School (41)

29 Schools – 179 Assemblies – 4,387 Young People

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