

CATERHAM TEAM MINISTRY
THE CHURCHES OF ST. PAUL & ST. AGATHA, WOLDINGHAM

FOOTSTEPS

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2016

The 'Footsteps' group has continued to meet regularly at St Paul's:

- on the third Sunday of each month, during the 10am Eucharist. It remains popular with the families of young children in Woldingham and attendance is generally between 15 and 30 children on each occasion. The majority of the children are aged 7 or younger, but we do have some older children and this year we have provided more for them in terms of what we study and in terms of activities.
- on the first Friday of each month, 'officially' from 3.45, but in fact most arrive from 3pm. We finish at about 4.30. This group is lead by Rev. Dr Catherine Dowland-Pillinger. The format has developed to meet the needs of those attending. The children do craft activities linked to the topic of the day, then they have a story with power point, and a discussion about the topic. Then they do some more craft or other activities, linked to the story.

Last year, we introduced an 11.30 service on the third Sunday of each month. This has proved popular and we are sometimes joined by families who do not come to other Footsteps sessions. The largest congregation we have had at an 11.30 service has been c. 50, but we regularly have c. 25 – 30 and the format seems to work well.

We have almost completed our compilation of a song book for Footsteps, as adults and children alike enjoy the opportunity to sing together. We have purchased some orders of service for the children and are considering designing our own as well.

We have been lucky enough to have use of a noticeboard purchased by the Church using grant monies and we have also been able to buy some more resources for the teaching at Footsteps. We have focused on resources that are designed for groups that cover a large age range in one room and these have been very successful – particularly in meeting the needs of the older children.

At every Footsteps session, the children are accompanied throughout by a parent or other adult who is responsible for their care.

There is some overlap between those attending on Fridays and Sundays, but the Friday meetings do attract some different attendees.

The now annual Nativity Play had a large cast. A lot of the Footsteps children also took part in the Harvest Festival and Mothering Sunday services.

Adopting the format we followed in the last two years, we are having an extra Footsteps workshop on Good Friday, which will end with a short all-ages service.

This year, the Footsteps group took part in the monthly Good Causes project, fundraising for The Children's Society.

Zsuzsanna Chappell has continued her time consuming role of selling items on eBay in order to fund raise for Footsteps. We are incredibly grateful to Zsuzsanna, as the cost of the consumables that we need for Footsteps is not insignificant and the money that Zsuzsanna has raised has gone a long way to help. Zsuzsanna has also taken on more leading of the Footsteps group sessions.

With the revival of the Brownies group (and some overlap there between the leaders and the Footsteps parents), we have strengthened our links with those groups and they have joined us for some of the Footsteps sessions.

Victoria Francis
25th March 2016