



Showing God's love in everything we do

Here's an update for January looking back at what has been going on in the parish thanks to the grace of God; as well as the time, prayer, money, and other resources that are generously given by our congregations.

Messy Church

Each month families gather from Four Marks, Medstead and surrounding villages as Messy church,

Did you know Messy Church is for everyone- regardless of age.

It is a completely informal style of church built around creativity, celebration and hospitality.

Messy Church will have a different theme each month but will always include a range of activities - crafts, food, games, discussion, singing and stories.

This term, as we continue to dig deeper into Who God is we are turning to Johns Gospel and the different I am statements of Jesus. For January we thought about what Jesus meant when he said I am the bread of life.



Evenings of Prayer



Thank you to all who attended our Evening of Prayer on 14th January. Our next Evening of Prayer is in the church hall at COGS on Tuesday 11th March, at 7.30pm. It would be great to have you join us

Schools

Howard and Virginia continue to visit Four Marks and Medstead primary schools weekly on Tuesdays in term time for collective worship.

COGS Tiny Tots

COGS Tiny tots, for ages 0-12 months, returned to The Good Shepherd for the new year on Monday 6th January, we welcomed 2 new families this month.

COGS Tots

Toddler group is always lots of fun with crafts, games, toys, tents, tunnels and ride on trucks. 27 littleones and 26 parents/carers joined us on 14th January at The Good Shepherd. This month's theme was: Gods knows all about me, and loves me.



Medstead Toddler Group

Jane is continuing to visit Medstead toddler group on Thursday Mornings in Medstead village hall, building relationships with both the team and the families that visit, chatting with parents, helping with playtime and getting to know the children.

Pre-Schools

Jane continues to visit our three local preschools, Heydays, Butterflies and Medstead, for story time each week in term time.

Kids Church

The Kids Church continues to meet in the church hall every Sunday. This term in the kids' church focuses on the life of Jesus. The kids have been learning about Jesus's childhood, baptism, temptations and his disciples during the month of January.

Older Children and Youth

The Youth continued to meet in the upper room in the church on the second and fourth Sunday each month.

The Monday Youth Club continues to meet weekly from 4:15pm to 6:15pm. It is a wonderful environment for young people to engage with one another individually and in groups through games, crafts and other fun activities. They also have the opportunity to hear from the Bible and have discussions and interactions during the Bible talk.

Tea & Chat/Tea & Bowls/Coffee & Questions

Tea and Chat

In January we examined the theme of medical matters. A lively discussion on our memories of doctors, hospitals, etc. when we were young, was followed by reminiscing about household remedies for various ailments. (Has anyone heard of black jack as an unpleasant but very effective cure for constipation!) Working in groups, we labelled a skeleton with the names of the different bones and then enjoyed a quiz based on medical trivia. The afternoon ended with a lovely afternoon tea.

Coffee and Questions

After examining various occasions in the Bible when Jesus took himself off to a quiet place to pray, or got up very early in the morning in order to spend time in prayer, we discussed whether or not we too should spend quiet time alone with God. We then worked in groups to complete a large diagram of various questions about what our quiet time with God might involve.

Our next Tea & Chat and Tea & Bowls on Wednesday 19th March and our next Coffee & Questions is Wednesday 26th February.

Community Cupboard

Community cupboard with COGS café continues to meet every Thursday at the Good Shepherd from 3.30pm. We meet with 20-25 households each week to help save food from landfill but also build an intergenerational community space with our community cafe. We are still looking for one more person to join our friendly team, if you could help fill this space 3-5pm once a month, please speak to Jane. a DBS application and safeguarding training are required to volunteer in this role.

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