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**Kid’s Stuff**

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**Dear Parents/Carers**

We are thrilled that you and your family have come along to All Saints Weston and we welcome you. We hope that you enjoy our Services and Children’s work and that you find that amongst us you can have your time sharing the stuff of your life with the story of God. If your children attend Crèche, Sunday Saints or the Youth group, there is a form that needs to be completed and signed by you, so please do ask for one, it is important as your child may have allergies that we need to be aware of.

**Safeguarding your Children**

It is important for you to know that your children when in Crèche, Sunday Saints or Youth group are well looked after; our volunteers are DBS checked and will have had instruction in best practice when looking after children. They will have been on a Safeguarding course run by the Diocese or be with someone who has attended.

**Sunday Activities**

We all start in service and then the children with their leaders leave during the 2nd hymn.



**Crèche**

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday (at 9.45) apart from special services such as Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day we provide a **Crèche** in the Church Hall for children aged 0-Year 1. We have a variety of toys, ride-ons and colouring. We explore Bible stories with the children and offer activities to link in with the story.



**Sunday Saints**

Sunday Saints takes place every 1st and 3rd Sunday (at 9.45) for children in Year 1 and over.

We use a variety of resources to explore the bible with the children which range from Urban Saints ‘Energise’ to Godly Play and Friends & Heroes.

**Energise**, is based on upbeat Christian songs that are catchy - some of them have actions and signs to them – and kids seem to love playing the air guitar to. During this worship we share the church lectionary, talk about different approaches to prayer and participate in team games!

**Godly Play** is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian spiritual nurturing that facilitates spiritual conversation and encourages ‘wondering’ questions. The Godly Play approach makes a conscious effort to value all contributions, even those that are apparently silly or incoherent. It is a way of preparing children to join in the worship and life of their congregation as they develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols and rites. The aim is to help children explore what ‘they’ think and feel and not to arrive at the conclusion that an adult has pre-planned.

**Friends and Heroes**, an award-winning adventure story set in Egypt in AD69; Macky the central character is a friend of Jesus. He and his friends get into many difficult situations in their stand against the Romans and retell Bible stories to help them understand what to do next. To add to the confusion Macky meets a Roman girl, Portia and becomes her friend. After watching the DVD, we have interesting activities to work on together!

**Returning to Church after your Child’s activity**

Children that are in Crèche or Sunday Saints will be brought into service by their leaders. They tend to remain with their Crèche or Sunday Saints Leaders. The Leaders will take them up for a blessing unless you wish to go up with your children. If so, then join them when they are ready to go up to the altar. It is important that we are always aware of where the children are, so that when they are with our Leaders they are in our care. If you wish to have your child with you in Service at this time, please do let one of the Leaders know, so that we know they are in your care.

After the Service has finished we all enjoy drinks and biscuits together - please be careful, as there will be people with hot drinks! It is fine for the children to explore the church but please respect the altar area.

**Children in Service**

Children are always welcome in Service but do let them try Crèche or Sunday Saints. They will have a great time with children their own age and come to know God together in fun and interesting ways. This may make for a more relaxed and enjoyable service for you too! You are welcome to stay with your children until you feel they are settled and know the Leaders and we are aware this may take some weeks in some instances!

Some children or parents prefer to stay together in Service, if so we would appreciate it if it is possible (and we all know it is not always possible!) to respect certain parts of the service, in particular the Readings, Sermon and Prayers of Intercession; your understanding at these times of quiet time and reflection is important for all. You may wish to use the Children’s Quiet Resource Corner at the back of church, this may help to keep your little one quiet and happy and occupied. Please accompany your children in this space as it is very close to the magically opening doors!



**Youth Group**

The youth group is for those in Year 7 and above and meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. We meet at 5.30-7pm, generally in the church hall, though on occasion we meet with other youth groups in the area. It is a space for meeting friends, playing games, reflection and learning; for sharing both experiences and food!

**Ssh Free Service**

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On the 2nd Sunday of the month we have a Ssh Free service at 11.30am.  This is a short child friendly service followed by a glass of something fizzy for the grown-ups and of course more sensible drinks for the children!

**4th and 5th Sundays**

These Sunday’s are All Age services.

**Children’s Chapel**

The Children’s Chapel is a special prayer space. Every part of this church is open, but this is a special place where children can use a selection of interactive prayer stations and speak in their hearts to God.

**Choir Crucifer and Acolytes**

A crucifer is appointed to carry the Church’s Processional Cross, during processions at the beginning and end of Service. An acolyte is responsible for bearing lights during the procession. If your child would be interested in becoming involved in this team, please speak to our children’s leader, who will be happy to answer any questions you have.

**Junior Choir**

If your child is interested in singing please do ask Susan Ross our children’s leader about opportunities to get involved. Currently children aged 6+ meet for an hour on a Saturday once a month to rehearse for the monthly Ssh Free service. Children also perform at certain Sunday services and the choir is always enjoyed and appreciated by the congregation. Our aim is to encourage the children’s love of singing and create a positive and rewarding musical experience for them.

**Other Children’s stuff during the week!!**

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**Fun Saints**

 We offer a parent/carer toddler group on a Monday morning, 10.00 – 12.00pm, during term time. There are a wide variety of different toys, including ride-ons; a dressing up area; a mini kitchen; work-bench, a soft mat area with a mini slide and rocker, playdough, jigsaws and craft table; a book corner with bright cushions to relax on. There is a charge of £2.00 per child. Come and join us in the church hall for a chat, cuppa and a treat in a safe, fun environment for babies and toddlers. We provide baby changing facilities and a safe outside play area if the weather is good.

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**SmAll Saints** 

Our weekly term time service for parent/carers and their pre-school children is on Thursdays**.** It is at 10 -12 and starts in Church with a short informal service. We sing songs, share stories and pray, we generally have a craft activity and play musical instruments. Afterwards we gather together in the church hall for hot and cold drinks and a treat for the adults and children, we enjoy social time together and the kids have lots of toys to play with.

**Messy Saints •**•****

Messy Church is a Fresh Expression form of Church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality*.* Messy Church is a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age. We enjoy Bible stories through varied activities and provide opportunities for conversation and observation. In Messy Church we enjoy a welcome, craft time, celebration/worship and a meal together. Check out our website for dates!

**1st Holy Communion & Confirmation**

We are very proud that our Church has seen that it is important for baptized young people to receive Holy Communion before Confirmation. If you are between 8 and 11, you can attend a course to explore this for yourselves. We are using ‘Children and Holy Communion, a creative preparation programme’ by Diana Murrie and Steve Pearce. This is a 4-week course with a week’s break in the middle.

We also hold classes for those who are age 12 and wish to be confirmed.

For more information on both Holy Communion and Confirmation please speak Susan Ross our Children and Families Leader.

We hope that you have found this leaflet informative and helpful. If you feel that there is something missing, please do let us know.

If you are interested in being involved in any of the Children’s work please speak to me, we would appreciate any help and support in developing our Children’s Work.

**Susan Ross (**cypf@allsaintsweston.com**)**

Kids’ Stuff

Children’s Young People & Families Co-ordinator & Pastoral Assistant

Jesus said *‘‘****let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs****’’*.

Matthew 19:14 (Anglicized NRSV)

[The Mothers Union booklet is very helpful in introducing children to Church and its Services. The booklets are available in the Children’s Quite Resource area, please do help yourself.]

To be a blessing to our community, by weaving the stuff of life with the story of God.