

Spring 2008



Overview

Believe it, or not, but I have been here 17 months already! Time flies when you're having fun! I have enjoyed becoming a part of the church family here and I've been greatly encouraged at what God is doing in and through his church in Milton and especially through the children's and youth work. As you can see from the right hand column my week is full of activity in the community and I have relished the opportunity to develop new and existing provisions. I have also been greatly encouraged by the PCC's decision to extend my contract for another year, which will enable me to develop the work further. In order to keep you all updated on the work, upcoming events and to encourage prayer, this newsletter will be a regular feature, with one being circulated every 3 months.

Vision

My vision has been greatly influenced by Ephesians 4 this past year and in particular vs. 1-16. In my role I seek to encourage, support and develop both adults, who volunteer their time by helping and leading, and the children and young people who attend, in order: "...to prepare (them) for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (4:12-13). It is my hope and desire that through this ministry we may see more children and young people come to a personal knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ.

Events coming up!

Children – Sunday 16th March – Praise Party for our children in Junior Church (ages 3-11) and their friends. This will take place in the hall alongside the morning service and will include a fun and interactive puppet talk on the true meaning of Easter, action songs, crafts and party bags!

Youth – 14-16th March – Houghton House Party for young people in yrs 7-9. A weekend residential in partnership with St. Andrew's Church, Histon. As well as social events, Jim Overton from YFC will be speaking and it guarantees to be stimulating and great fun. If you have not booked yet then contact Chris Farmer ASAP as places are going fast!

What's on?

Junior Church – Children's work

Event

Age

Junior Church

3-11

Meets each Sunday morning at Church (excluding 2nd Sunday of each month) for a time of fun, fellowship and teaching.

Milton Primary School – Children's work

Assemblies

Every Tuesday morning the Rector and I share the Milton primary school assemblies between us. This covers the whole school (both KS1 & 2) and is well received by all the children and teachers.

Christian Lunch Club (CLC)

Every Tuesday lunch I run a lunch club for year 6 pupils with Bexy Williams (the children's worker from C3). This allows follow up from the assembly that morning and a chance to look at topical and faith based issues.

Get Real – Youth Work

Event

School Age

Sunday AM

Yr 7-9

Meets each Sunday morning at Church (excluding 2nd Sunday of each month) for a time of fun, fellowship and teaching.

Sunday PM

Yr 10-13

Meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday between 6:30-8:30pm at Church for a time of worship, fellowship and teaching.

Chill Out

Yr 7-9

Meets every Friday from 7-9pm @ Church/ Youth Centre (except during school holidays) for a time of fun and fellowship.

Substance

Yr 10-13

Meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9pm @ member's houses for a time of fun, fellowship and teaching.

Prayer Points

Children's Work

Junior Church (JC) is on the verge of great change within the next few weeks and months. Sadly we are saying goodbye to Jo Hitchins and Sandra Prater from our church family who have been greatly involved in the ministry and leading of JC. This leaves a considerable gap in our work, especially with our All Stars group (ages 5-8). As well as this we presently seem to have a low number of children in the All Stars and Trailblazer (ages 8-11) groups. But thankfully we do seem to have a high attendance in the Sparklers (ages 3-5) and the Get Real AM (ages 11-14) groups. A number of the big events that take place within JC throughout the autumn term such as Light Party, Remembrance Sunday and the Nativity service are all currently being reviewed and revamped, so expect a few changes in these areas!

Therefore, we would appreciate your prayers in the following areas:

- That each child would know that they are loved by God and begin/continue to develop a personal knowledge and active faith in Jesus.
- Through prayerful consideration of whether you could be involved in the children's ministry: we are currently looking for adults to help lead the 5-8 year old group on Sunday mornings, approx 3 times each term (9 times a year). You would be leading a group of approx 5 children at present alongside another adult, the theme and teaching resources are supplied each week. If you would like to know more please speak to Chris Farmer, who can provide further details and /or arrange for you to observe the group one Sunday without obligation.
- For the current situation, as listed above, that Chris would be able to lead this ministry effectively as he reviews the work and seeks to revamp big events
- For new leaders and helpers to come forward.
- That all leaders and helpers would share unity of vision, be fully equipped and flexible to meet the current needs.

Outreach

- For the Praise Party on March 16th. That our children would invite their friends and that we would see a large number of new children and parents attend this. That the Easter story would plant a seed in their hearts and would encourage parents to bring their children back to JC after the Easter break.
- For more children! To see JC grow in number and see more children come to know Jesus.
- For the continued involvement with the primary school.

Jesus said,

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:4)

Youth Work

Get Real (GR) has developed significantly since my appointment. As you will see overleaf there are now four regular groups each week, two for each age group. The year 7-9 club, 'Chill Out', was started last September as a means to work with the large number of young people we have, particularly girls in year 7 (ages 11-12). One of the visions of this group was outreach, and so I encouraged each of our young people to bring a friend. We went from 7 on the first night to 26 on the register in a few months, over 10 of which are young people who have not attended our church. As well as this I have taken on the year 10-13 club, 'Substance', which meets every Tuesday and this has also grown in strength as I have tried to foster an environment of belonging. A number of adults have also come forward to support this work and this has brought a new lease of life to this work.

Therefore, we would appreciate your prayers in the following areas:

- Praise for the development of this ministry so far.
- That each young person would know that they are loved by God and begin/continue to develop a personal knowledge and active faith in Jesus.
- That God would equip me and those helping me to do God's will in these areas.
- That I would find a core team for the Friday group that isn't reliant on parents.
- That God would enable us to disciple the young people in our care and take them deeper in their understanding of Christ.
- That God would equip me to minister both to parents and young people and support them in the issues they face.
- That all leaders and helpers would share unity of vision, be fully equipped and flexible to meet the current needs.

Future Events

- For the forthcoming youth programmes, that we would know what events to plan/advertise.
- For guidance on enabling a residential for the yr10-13 group, for the right time, venue and team.
- For the possibility of Youth for Christ (YFC) providing a course on relationships for all our young people, for the administration and advertisement of this and that it would be a blessing to parents and young people alike.
- For continued partnership with other churches and organisations.

Paul said to Timothy,

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)