

Benefice Youth Club Report 2016

12th May 2016

Background:

The Benefice Youth Club runs every other Friday 19:00 - 20:30 during term time. It is open to all young people aged 9-14 from villages in the benefice, though in practice the majority of children come from Longworth and Hinton Waldrist, with a few from Southmoor. It aims to provide young people with a local place to share, have fun, make friends and discover new values.

The Youth Club is also supported by the churches of the Cherbury with Gainfield Benefice. We aim to encourage an acceptance of people of all backgrounds and develop values such as respect, friendship, fairness and courage.

In July 2015, Murielle Hutchings and Barry Shepherd stood down as leaders of the Youth Club after many years of dedication and hard work, and we are very grateful for all their help. Since September, Reverend Talisker and Jim Tracey-MacLeod have taken over the leadership, assisted by Richard Waterhouse and Catherine Duff, and various parents and others who help on a rota basis.

Some highlights from this year's youth club:

This year has been very lively at youth club. The majority of the older children have stayed, so we now have a group of Year 9s; whilst we have also gained some who are in Year 4. This widening age range, along with a significant increase in numbers attending (recent weeks have been between 24 and 29) has meant that we are now looking at how to restructure Youth Club so that the kids all get the best out of it.

We have continued with games and activities, including some themed nights and crafts activities. There is a tuck shop with an honesty box and this system works well. The evening begins and ends with chill-out time, and various games, including board games, table tennis and mini-pool; and in the middle we aim to do something together, whether it be a game all together, a quiz, or some other activity. They very much enjoy being able to plug in their phones to a sound system to play their own music as well, and the stage is often used for dancing!

We are now looking to buy some new games and equipment for the kids, to cater for the growing numbers and the increased upper age range.

This summer, we have a picnic and evening at Longworth Recreation Ground planned in June, and a BBQ with possible camping out for the older ones at the Rectory at the end of term.

The annual Car Wash is on 21st May, and we are all looking forward to that as one of the highlights of the year. All the proceeds will go to African Children's Fund as last year. Thank you to Murielle who has organized this again this year, despite having stepped down from leading the Youth Club from week to week.

Thanks to our sponsors:

Finally, we would like to say thank you to our sponsors and supporters, without whom the youth club would not exist: HALF who give us a grant, the Church which provides moral and financial support, the parents who help at each session, & the Village Hall.

Reverend Talisker