

From The Vicar....

Dear Friends,

Junior Church

'Bring back those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer....' Thus goes the old song. But for a group of us, August will be a busy time indeed, as we do a mountain of paperwork to prepare for the beginning of 'Junior Church' in September. Letters to go out; registration and consents to be obtained; sessions to be planned and above all, children to be encouraged.

Junior Church is very much a working title – we may well come up with a more exciting name for the children. But just to explain it once more, the idea is that on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, children and parents can come to Church together for 10.30 a.m. service. The children would go over to the hall for an activity session after the first five minutes while parents stay in Church, and then we join up together again for the end of the service in Church. As an extension of this, we hope to develop an early service at 9.30 on the third Sunday, which would be a very short and informal Family Communion, lasting about thirty minutes.

We have a good group of enthusiastic leaders, and our Diocesan Children's Advisor has been to show us material to use which we know the children will just love.

I invite parents and children to be thinking about this as an exciting opportunity. We will be sending out information through various organisations and networks, but please do get in touch if you are interested. Above all, this is a chance for children (and parents too) to explore the Christian faith. And if you can think of a more exciting name than ***Junior Church***, please do let me know! And please pray for ***Junior Church*** – for the children who will come, for the leaders and helpers too, as we seek to respond to God's call to Mission.

My love and prayers,

Stephen