



# Youth Pastor Report

November 2017

First of all – let me apologise for not getting a written report done sooner. It has been so busy that to sit down and write down all that I have done and am doing has been so hard. However, no excuse I will try better in the future. As I have said it has been busy and since September it has just got even busier – which I find very exciting.

- **Schools work**

Since September I have been running a Drama After School Club in **West Hill Primary School** with the Key Stage 2 children. I have had 6 regular attendees. We have been looking at various Drama skills with the regular theme being Joseph and his brothers. Later this month, when the Drama club comes to an end, I will be starting a Christmas club at the school. At **Tipton St John Primary**, I have been helping Ruth with her 'What's in the Book' bible club on a Friday afternoon. We have some lovely children attending who are really engaging in the stories and crafts. At both schools I am also doing regular assemblies – at least once a month. During Harvest I helped Tipton St John's Year 6 children deliver flowers to elderly residents around the village.

It has been very exciting this term at **Ottery St Mary Primary School**. I have started to support the Pastoral Team through mentoring and coaching. I have also been on some training days with the school for various things including 'Timid to Tiger'. This is a course aimed at Parents with children suffering quite severe anxiety issues. In the past it has been delivered by CAMHS but because of the strain on the department they have opened it up to education facilities. The Pastoral Manager approached me to see if I would co-present it with her. Our first Training Course for Parents will begin in the new year on a Tuesday morning. The other thing I am doing at the school is setting up a Friendship Project with some Year 5/6 children. This will be about them recognising when young people having no-one to play with, going up to them and either pairing them with someone or playing with them themselves. I have already had a couple meetings with the 15 children that wanted to do it. We have given the project a name – 'Happy Helping Hands' and they have decided they will be called Friendship Ambassadors. We have also done some training. We will be launching the project in the playground on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. I have been going into the school three lunchtimes a week to do my mentoring and being there for the wider Key Stage 2 pupils.

My work at **Kings School** has also been very exciting. The work I did with the Year 6's in the Primary schools and the work in Kings School itself has really laid the foundation for some very effective detached work at lunchtimes. I am trying to go in three lunchtimes a week just to walk around the school engaging with the young people. I have made some great relationships and there are certain groups that really look forward to me coming in. There are also some individuals that I have formed good relationships with. They are very open in talking about issues in their life and are keen for me to give advice. Every time I go in I must engage with at least 45 young people. I have spoken to the Deputy head also about doing some mentoring. This is something we are still finalising. The Christian Union has moved to a Monday lunchtime – which unfortunately is a day I am working in Copplestone so I am unable to attend. However, I am keeping in touch with Michael and if things change – he will let me know.

Feniton and Payhembury Schools have been quiet this term, but I am pretty busy at the moment to be honest, so I am not too worried.

- **In the Churches**

Since September, just like the schools, it has got a whole lot busier which has been brilliant.

At the **United Reformed Church**, I am continuing to help with FiSH which is once a month on a Saturday. We are doing Christianity Explored with the young people. They are a lovely group of young people and I am beginning to form some good relationships with them. Following on for the Monday Fundays in the Summer we did another one during October half term. This again was very well attended. We looked at the miracle of the fishes. During this morning we had Rosemary from Newton Poppleford Church come and see what we did. One of the things I am really pleased about is the relationship I am building with the church and its members.

At **Ottery St Mary Parish Church** things have been great too. I am continuing to help at Messy Church on the second Monday of the month and we have also started a new Youth group called Energize on the fourth Sunday of the month at The Station. This youth group is aimed at young people from Year 7 onwards. In October we looked at the issue of Halloween. In our November meeting we will be looking at Advent. I also had the privilege of being invited to attend their Away Day with them. During this day we looked at the subject of 'Generation Y'. It was a wonderful day, very interesting. At the end of the day I shared a 15-minute summary of my take on it and what I heard. Later this month I am taking part in their All Sorts Service. Again, relationship building has been key, and I am so pleased to have built some great relationships there.

At **West Hill Parish Church**, I have been helping at their Messy Church once a month. I have attended a couple planning meetings and stood in for Mac while he has been having treatment. It has been lovely doing it as a lot of the children I know from the school. I have also spoken at their Café Church too.

At **Newton Poppleford Parish Church** I continue to help at 'Chill Out', their youth group. I have become more involved with it leading the various activities and offering advice to Rosemary, the Youth Leader. A lot of the young people that attend there I see at Kings School and it has helped me build some good relationships with them.

In **Feniton and Payhembury**, following Revd Cate's retirement, I have taken on one of her youth groups – BBC1. This is a group for Year 9's. I do this fortnightly in the home of the Rob and Becky Gammon in Payhembury. They are a lovely group and a lot of fun. I have built a good relationship with them and I also see them a lot in school. I am hoping to develop this group and do some more social stuff including going to Soul Exeter. I am also now attending **Payhembury Parish Church** Café Church once a month to sit with their young people and facilitate them in their discussions. The first one for me was in October and I had an excellent group.

- **And the Rest.....**



In October we saw the culmination of a lot of hard work in the 'King's and Queen's Hill Climb Race and Family Fun Day' The event was a considerable success and for me personally it was a success as I formed some great relationships with key individuals and groups in Ottery including The Rotary Club, the various councillors, the Mayor, The Carnival committee etc. During the Funday TheO6 had their own stand where I promoted the children's and youth work in the various churches. Also, I did some activities with the young people that passed. Part of my role within the committee was organising a 'Design a shirt'

competition in Ottery St Mary Primary and Kings School. This was an enormous success.

I continue to be a trustee of the BMX Park but I am limited in both skill and time to what I can do with them.

Since September I have been on one of the Care for the Family courses – ‘Working with Parents’ in Cardiff. In January I will be completing it with a two day course ‘Facilitating groups’. Once done it will be my intention to get a ‘Drug Proof Your Kid’s’ course running – probably in April after the Timid to Tiger one has finished.



In October I also attended a ‘Wholeness and Well Being’ Day Conference in Exeter. This was a conference looking at Mental Health issues in young people. This was one of the best conferences I have attended ever. The information, content and speakers were so relevant. I came away, my head full of information and ideas flowing. I am looking at doing some youth sessions around Facebook and Social Media, possibly at The Station.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I know it is long but there is so much going on. Even now I am thinking I have forgotten something and I know I haven’t touched on developing a Mentoring Project within TheO6 BUT that will have to wait for another time. Please continue to prayer for the Project and myself. Prayer is absolutely essential. Which reminds me.....I would like to set up a regular group to pray for the Youth and the various activities of TheO6 project. Would people be interested? Just let me know.

Every Blessing

Graham.

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