

Children's Ministries Report 2019-2020

Resource sharing

- A website has been created and updated to provide ideas in an easy to find format (www.anglicanchildren.com). I've also created a number of small resources in add to the website.
- Facebook groups for Children's ministry and parents have been updated regularly with communication about events, resources and ideas (Canterbury Anglican Children's Ministries NZ)(Children and Families Faith at home).
- Semi regular emails have been sent out to churches and individuals including information on upcoming events, training opportunities, resources, ideas and encouragement. If you haven't been receiving these, and would like too, please be in touch.
- Thanks to our new portable system there has been an increase of the number of people engaging in children's ministry resources from the Anglican Resource Centre.
- An Anglican magazine for children is being developed and will include activities, prayers and bible stories.
- 5 Young Leader's Guild sessions have occurred (3 cancelled due to Covid) with numbers in attendance between 10-30. Topics covered have included story telling techniques, prayer ideas with kids, how to run crafts and games, positive character attributes and safety policies.
- I have met with many vicars and children's workers for support, encouragement and idea sharing. I have also been able to visit several churches and children's programmes.
- I have led several training/planning sessions with children's workers from different churches and programmes, attended national get-togethers and attended two Archdeaconry meetings.

Positives

- There has been higher levels of engagement and participation from a wider range of parishes than last year.
- Some of our churches children's ministries are growing, and there are a number of new ideas and initiatives being tried out.
- A number of creative ideas have emerged from lockdown.
- I have had had feedback from some churches that the young people that are attending the Young Leader's Guild have been growing in confidence and skill levels.

Difficulties

- Many churches struggle to find the money to pay staff for children's work
- Churches that do have funding for a children's worker often that there is a shortage of people available to do the job (I am hoping that the Young Leader's Guild training will help fill this gap in the future).

Next steps

- Encourage parishes to send young people to the Young Leader's Guild to be trained and mentored.
- Encourage parishes to pay someone (even if only for a few hours a week) for children's ministry.
- Encourage and implement prayer for our children and families.
- Encourage churches with no children/one or two, to make simple changes to be family and child friendly (colourful, modern toddlers area, changing table, signage), to find a teenager to bring children into the church and to reflect on the accessibility of their current services to modern families.
- Encourage parishes to pray and reflect on their relationships with their local community/local school etc.