

APRIL 2014

Explorers (Leah's group)

We have started a new badge called 'other countries', I think this badge will be great for all the girls and I will really enjoy working on the crafts, games and stories with the girls as I enjoy to travel myself and very interested in other countries. Our first week of the badge was about the different houses throughout the world such as igloos, mud huts, shacks, flats, cottages, mansions, tree houses, terraced and de detached houses. We spoke about the differences about all the houses, where in the world they may be, what they thought about the houses and what was good and bad about each different house. The main focus this week was about the birth of The Lord taking place in the barn. The girls learnt that no matter what sort of house you are born in, grow up in or choose to live in your life, as long as you are loved, protected, kept warm, safe and have food and water it doesn't matter what house you live in. The craft for this week was to build any chosen house out of old card board boxes. Elouise made a tree house and Evie and Olivia both made igloos.

Explorers (Brendas group)

We have started a new badge "Special Places" talking about the joys of playing on the beach and how God how God made the seas for us to enjoy paddling, but also reminding us of the dangers of getting out of our depth if we go too far into the waves.

Explorers (Hannahs' group)

My explorer group is doing our community badge, we are looking at what we have in the community and what kind of things we actually use in our community. We are discussing what we would like near our house what would benefit us. The children are looking at houses and shops around them. We are also looking at what we would do in the community to help others and make it a better place.

Juniors (Beth's group)

The juniors have been working on love and friendship. These past couple of weeks we have been talking about friendship and love we share and have with God and also relating it to our lives. The girls have been doing mind maps and posters to symbolise this. They have been thinking about some ways in which we have good friendship with God and how it affects our own lives.

Juniors (Rebecca's group)

The juniors have just started a new badge about love, this focuses on Ruth from the Bible and throughout this badge we have been looking at the different types of love and have also been looking about who we love and in what way. Every week we do something fun, the girls have painted each other's nails as a sign of friendship and they are also learning the memory verse; "Wherever you go, I will go. Whatever you do I shall do. Your people will be my people and your God, will be my God."

Seniors (Kim)

The seniors have had a few weeks of fun playing games outside taking advantage of the sun. They have just started their first aid badge, John Marshall who came to teach the brigaders a while back has agreed to come back and lead the seniors through their first aid badge.

Brigaders (Amanda)

The brigaders have started a new badge about the environment and natural disasters. For this they have been creating a model volcano which will hopefully "explode" next week.

Duke of Edinburgh

Our D of E expedition sets off on Saturday 24th May. We hope the girls are successful and have a good and memorable expedition. The girls will be giving a presentation of their experiences on Tuesday 24th of June. Details to follow but all welcome.

Queens Award

The Queens award is the highest award that girls / young ladies are able to work towards. The aim of the award is “To encourage girls to a personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, inspiring them to a greater endeavour in service within the Christian Church, general community and The Girls Brigade.”

Young people can start their award from their 15th birthday and must have completed it by their 25th Birthday. There are several sections to complete to earn the award.

Eleanor and Rebecca Bennett have both asked to do their Queens Award and their application forms have now been submitted to headquarters.

It is over twenty five years since anyone from our company has taken part in the Queens Award.

I'm sure over the coming months we will learn more about the Queens Award as we follow them through their award.

Finance

As a company each year we have to submit an annual return to headquarters which determines how much we need to pay as our annual subscription to them to cover us for insurance etc. This year our funds do not cover the amount owing, we have paid a large chunk but still have a balance outstanding. With this in mind the officers have had a meeting to try and sort out our financial position. A number of things were agreed at the meeting:-

- 1) To increase subs for juniors, seniors and brigaders to £2 a week from September.
- 2) To make a bigger effort to sell refreshments, cakes etc after special events on a Tuesday evening, starting with the end of year service on July 15th.
- 3) To introduce a tuck shop on a company night.

4) To see if we can have a table at the monthly coffee morning to sell things we have made in company or excess crafts (as we often have to buy in packs we have some leftover).

5) To hold a sports evening, (July 1st) and invite people from the Church and Church groups to come along and have some fun. There will be a variety of fun games outside for the children (or anyone feeling fit enough to join in) as well as some table games inside for those with not so much energy. Ice creams, refreshments and cakes will also be on sale.

We are grateful for the support the Church has always given us, at the AGM it was agreed that we could hold a retiring collection for Girls Brigade funds (15th June 2014). Envelopes will be made available for people to put money into. Envelopes will also be made available on the Tuesdays either side for parents etc to contribute.