

## FEBRUARY 2014

February has once again been a very busy month. We began with our sleepover and rededication service.

On Saturday 1st February we had an activity afternoon for the explorers; the theme for the weekend was "Jesus is my friend". The explorers heard the story of Jesus welcoming the children when the disciples had tried to send them away. The explorers then had a variety of crafts to make, including a crown of friends, a love heart badge saying "Jesus loves me" and a Jesus is my friend bug, a picture maze leading to Jesus and learnt a new song about Jesus being our friend to the tune of Londons Bridge is falling down.

After they had finished their crafts the explorers had hotdogs and buns for supper before being collected by their parents.

The juniors, seniors and brigaders also came on Saturday afternoon. They began in the Church listening to some stories about Jesus special friends, the disciples. They then split into groups and made displays on the stories they had heard, Jesus calling the fishermen, Jesus washing the disciples feet and Peter and John healing the beggar man. See what they made at the back of the Church. They also then made crowns of friends, heart badges, friendship bracelets, and Jesus is my friend bugs.

After all the stories and crafts were done they sat down to there supper before setting up their beds and getting changed to sit and watch a film in Church. Once the film was finished the girls went to bed and I'd love to say straight to sleep but that took a long time to come.

At 7.30 in the morning the girls were up and eating breakfast (although young leaders took a bit more persuading to get up). Pots were soon washed and tidied away, rooms were swept and put back to normal, chairs were set up in the prayer chapel or the overflow of congregation. The girls were all dressed in their uniform and playing upstairs when the congregation began to arrive.

It was lovely to see so many people in Church, we even had to open the doors to the school room and set up more chairs in there. The service was led by our

minister, Yemi and followed the theme of the weekend "Jesus is my friend". During the service it was lovely to see both Brenda and Leah commissioned as officers in our company. They work really hard each week and we were really pleased that they have taken the next step and become officers. Service awards were handed out to all the girls which took a while as we have a large number in company now and I received my 20 years officer service award. Yemi was really good with the girls and had them in laughter and singing as well as getting across a message. When asked the following Tuesday if they had enjoyed the service all had said yes and were eager for me to invite Yemi to come to company. We were really pleased he has accepted our invitation and we look forward to seeing him on the 18th March.

Currently the explorers are split into three groups;

### **Explorers (Leah's group)**

I currently have 6 young explorers in my group and they are all enjoying the crafts, activities and learning about CELEBRATIONS for their latest badge. They have all completed individual flags, drawing pictures of Weddings, Christmas, Birthdays, Easter and celebrating a birth on them which will all be joined together and be made into bunting. Last week they were making photo frames on card and drawing, cutting and sticking out pictures of a certain celebration they have experienced with space to place a memorable photo in the middle to hang up at home. Each and every girl enjoys talking about memorable celebrations they have experienced and we join the theme in with stories, games and bible readings to make the evening fun, exciting and different each week.

### **Explorers (Hannah's group)**

My group is doing the "Go outdoors" badge, which has been very fun. But harder for them to go do activities outdoors because of the lovely British weather we have! We've been learning about what God made and how we use it in day to day life and what we would do if it wasn't there. Plus we've learnt about the purpose of the outdoor creatures. Lots of crafts have been made including a bird, airplanes, ladybirds and weather teller. We've made some

chocolate nests which was good fun. They tasted very nice but we made a real **Big** mess in the kitchen. The kids have enjoyed learning about the world and about how it related to the bible. We've played lots of games which are always good fun and I can be a big kid and join in! Each individual child has made lots of nice things for them to take home at the end of the badge and remember what God has done for them.

### **Explorers (Brenda's group)**

Splitting our large explorers group into 3 smaller groups was very good thinking on Julies part. I find I am able to spend more time with each one of my group, and that way answer questions that need answering. My group are working on "Our Selves" Badge. We are learning about Gods Love for us all, no matter how old, or how young, how tall or how small. It doesn't matter what we look like in Gods Eye he loves us all the same. We talked about the special talents that each of the girls had, dancing, singing, writing etc. We even found out that God loves each and every one of us even when we are naughty. Our badge work so far has consisted of - making magnetic initials of our names to stick to the fridge door, finding out who is the smallest of the group and who is the largest. This week we used a clear jam jar, some blotting paper and a Runner Bean, we put some water in the jar with the Runner Bean. That way each week we can look how the bean is changing. Once we have a shoot coming out of the bean we can transfer it to a small decorated pot with potting compost. The children are in the process of asking mums and dads if there is a possibility of having a small plot of garden that they can call their own. Recently we were looking at baby clothes kindly brought in for us to look at by another of the leaders Amanda who has a beautiful baby daughter Alice. This was to show how tiny Alice's clothes were at the side of our own. Most of the girls said they had still got some of their own baby clothes for which they use to put on their dolls. Things never change, I did the very same thing with my dolls. Will keep you in touch as to how the Runner Beans grow.

## **Juniors**

The juniors are working on a badge about friendship where they are learning about Daniel and Jonathan, they have learnt about this by cooking, games and acting as well as completing worksheets.

## **Seniors**

The seniors have been working through their 'Who Am I Badge'. They have been looking at image, personality and health. The girls made some excellent posters to tell people about how people in poverty do not have access to education or clean water. It made the girls realise how lucky they are. Their work can be seen in the side classroom notice board, take a look!

## **Brigaders**

The Brigaders have just started a new badge looking at baby care. Over the next few weeks they will be producing posters and leaflets giving information to prospective parents of the preparations needed before and after the arrival of a new baby. They will also look at childcare facilities in the local area, study the development of babies from birth to one year as well as learn about some basic practical child care requirements such as changing nappies, feeding, bathing and sterilising equipment. Finally they will look what makes a Christian home different from a non-Christian one and discuss the difference between christenings and naming ceremonies and how relevant these are to parents today.