



### **Youth and Children's work vision meetings: Feed back**

Dear Friends,

Over the past couple of months there have been 3 meetings to discuss youth and children's work. This letter pulls together some of the ideas that have come out of that forum.

There was a strong recognition that a lot of good work is going on. It was recognised that there was some children's work in each village. There were thanks for the individuals that are committed to this and the many hours they are already putting into leading such activities. The ideas that follow in no way diminish the respect and thanks that go to these individuals. These ideas are about how we might further enhance the provision we have.

Behind the following ideas lies a belief that each village should be a place where children and young people grow in faith. That the norm for each village will be faith started in the cradle to be followed by faith at every stage in life and reflected in the life of our churches. From our current position it will be a challenge, but one that with God's grace and provision, I do believe is achievable.

So what ideas came forth?

1. That provision is made for the 11 years plus (secondary age). That this might have a mid week and Sunday based part. Andy Eastham, linked with FACT, would look at how the FACT facilities and staffing might help with this.
2. That some provision for a mid week informal meeting of the KS2 (7 to 11). It is likely that this would be provided by the families involved.
3. That the provision of the Tollesbury After School Club on a more frequent basis (aiming at weekly) be looked at.
4. That we consider how we might more fully support the youth work on the Thursday evening in Tollesbury.
5. That work hard to strengthen the link between attendance at EBC and ongoing membership of the Church family.
6. That we strive to put on regular Sunday children's work, that does not clash, in 3 of the 4 parishes: Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Tolleshunt Major, Tollesbury. It was recognised that this would affect the current pattern of services. The suggested pattern was:
  - Week 1 Children's groups in Tolleshunt Major
  - Week 2 Children's groups in Tolleshunt D'Arcy
  - Week 3 Family service at Tollesbury- linked with the EBC
  - Week 4 Children's groups in Tollesbury

It was recognised that this would change the nature of the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month in D'Arcy. Several possibilities exist:

- It continues as a Family Worship together,
- It becomes a more adult focused worship together as is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month in Major,
- It changes to be a monthly 'Communion service' (this would mean Tolleshunt D'Arcy regularly having a Communion once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. this would mean we need to consider any changes linked with Tolleshunt Major)

7. The groups strongly felt that they would like to start some Sunday based children's work in Tollesbury at the beginning of September.

I hope I have caught the flavour of what has been discussed? If I have missed anything please let me know. Tolleshunt D'Arcy have a PCC meeting this evening at which I will raise the above points.

Blessings to you



Revd Geoff Bayliss  
Rector