

'GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES, ROOTED IN CHRIST'

Children & Schools Worker – Background Information

The Circuit is situated in North East Cheshire, and comprises churches in Alderley Edge, Knutsford and in the villages of Mottram St Andrew, Mobberley, and Plumley.

Our Purpose:

The Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit exists to nurture and grow healthy Churches which are rooted in Christ, to reflect the love of God to all people so that we may all be transformed by knowing and following Jesus.

Our Vision:

We believe the Christian faith is fostered in communities of love where Christ is at the centre. We have a desire to work with God's Spirit to see our Churches grow, to foster new communities of faith, to enable passionate worship, intentional faith development, loving service, and caring mission.

Present Scope of Work:

The churches in Knutsford and Alderley Edge have a number of families and children that are part of the church congregation and community and in valuing every person we are keen to nurture and care for them all. Alderley Edge Methodist Church has a monthly group for children on a Sunday morning called '**Little Fishes**', while Knutsford Methodist Church (KMC) has a weekly Junior Church called '**KidZone**' for ages 3 to 12 years of age, with 2 groups meeting each week and a team of 6 leaders and 6 helpers. There is also a mid-week '**Rock Solid**' group for older children Years 6-9. KMC also runs '**Jolly Tots**' a weekly Parent / Carers and Toddler group for preschool children. It is very popular and currently has a waiting list. There is a very enthusiastic and capable team who lead it.

Schools and Community Work:

In the last few years KMC has fostered positive relationships with local schools through the work of Open the Book and the Children and Families Worker (CFW) supported by a team of volunteers. The present Children and Families worker is employed part-time and is retiring this summer.

The existing programme of work is as follows:

Open the Book – Open the Book presently delivers six assemblies per year in four Primary schools; Bexton, Egerton, Over Peover and Manor Park.

Harvest and Easter Experiences- All three state schools (Egerton, Manor Park and Bexton) walk their classes to KMC for the Harvest and Easter Experiences. The invitation to the Harvest experience is sent to the teachers of Year Four and the Easter Experience to the teachers of Year Five. However in the Locally agreed Syllabus there is a focus on Christmas and Easter at Year One so in the last year or two a Christmas Experience and Easter experience (in conjunction with the Open the Book Actors) has been delivered and been very successful. Following these events, we have been approached about assisting the teachers in the children's learning about Abraham.

Church Experience- Every two years the Beavers do their faith badge and two troops attend the church when they learn what 'Church' is all about. Using the same resources, the year two children from Bexton and Egerton have experienced mock weddings and baptisms at the church.

Special Church Services- The Guides and Scout movements both hold their Carol services at KMC. The services are planned with the support of our ministerial team and the CFW attends and assists. The CFW plans the Christingle in conjunction with the ministerial team. Sharing the leadership of this very special service which is often very well attended.

Bexton Nursery- The CFW currently attends the school's nursery provision fortnightly on a Monday afternoon to read a Bible story. In the past this has been weekly and there is the potential to do similar work in other schools.

Poppies Nursery- This year saw links between Poppies Nursey and the church be reestablished when they used the church and hall to deliver their Christmas Performance.

We are seeking to employ a Full time Children and Schools Worker to join the ministry team. Our hope is to strengthen and broaden the existing provision with children and contact with schools, finding ways to share God's love with children, young people and their families.

Revd. Alan Bradley
Superintendent Minister

15th January 2024