

Children & Young People

Leadership Team member



Katie Sabberton-Coe

Responsible for:

Leading and developing our ministry amongst the children and young people of our church and the wider community.

Highlights from 2015:

The particular targets from the Mission Action Plan for 2015 were as follows:

Target 1: To grow our work with Children and Young People either directly or by working with other bodies and to continue to run ChattaBox in August and on Good Friday

- Following the ending of Teddy Praise, we have been greatly encouraged by the success of Bumps & Babies which, in turn, is leading to growth in the Crèche and in Trailblazers. Trailblazer growth has been particularly strong in the 3-5 age group. We do, however, have a continuing need for more Trailblazer leaders and helpers.
- The Noah's Ark Toddler Group continues to thrive with a regular attendance of around 20 children and our work in local schools and through our Family Services continues to build up relationships.
- Our Youth work continues to grow and strengthen with regular activities including Woo (Sunday mornings), Youth Discipleship Group (YDG) meeting weekly and a new monthly "Friday Night Thing". In addition, Connor Heath helps regularly at Twyford Youth Centre and with the Piggott School Christian Union.
- ChattaBox in August was attended by 34 children with 17 young people helping the adults to run it, and ChattaBox on Good Friday also saw many children taking part.

Target 2: To support and value the leaders and members of our Children's and Young People's groups ensuring that they feel part of our worshipping community and that the leaders feel encouraged and equipped in their spiritual development.

- This target is really key to the future success of our Children's and Young People's work and although some progress has definitely been made there is still work to do. The issue has been in creating opportunities for those volunteering with the Children's Work that can be accessed by already very busy people. This has been a focus for our whole team meetings which now always

start with a bible study. Prayers have been introduced at 10.20am in St Mary's before Trailblazers for those leading activities and the work of the children and Young People is included in the monthly prayer diary and often in the intercessions.

Targets for 2016

- We have made huge progress on our Mission Action Plan targets in 2015 especially for Target 1. For 2016, I propose that we keep Target 2 but make it our first priority. In looking through the Mission Action Plan I feel our second target should combine the desire to 'Become a distinctive Christian presence in our community' and to 'Follow the example of Jesus in our response to the needs of the wider world' so I have taken outcome 21 from the MAP 'we support one another in our daily lives at work/school/in our community' and added to it.
- **Target 1:** To support and value the leaders and members of our Children's and Young People's groups ensuring that they feel part of our worshipping community and that the leaders feel encouraged and equipped in their spiritual development.
- **Target 2:** To support one another in our daily lives at work/school/in our community and wider world, and to follow the example of Jesus in our response to the needs of the wider world.