

GALAXIES REPORT –AGM 2018

'Galaxies' is the children's ministry at St. Marks. We meet three times a month for children aged between 3-11 years. The third Sunday of the month is an all-age service when the children stay in the main meeting. We aim to teach the children lessons from Bible Stories that can be applied to their lives through a variety of activities. For example, listening and role play of the stories, craft, games or DVD's. We encourage the children to pray and grow their faith in the Lord Jesus. The children learn in a safe, fun environment with a great team of enthusiastic teachers and helpers.

There are two **classes**: **X-Streams** 7-11 year olds and **Sparklers** 3-6/7 year olds. Each class is led by a teacher and a helper.

Each week after registration we practice our memory verses as well as sing songs or play a game that is connected to the story we will be teaching later. We are thankful to Catherine Etienne for finding bi-monthly memory verses with music so that the children can sing along and do actions to help them remember. You can encourage the children to learn the memory verse which is printed on the notice sheet.

The lessons are prepared each week by the teachers using online **Lightlive** material from **Scripture Union**. Although attendance and numbers are irregular, on special holiday celebrations there is usually a good attendance. For instance in December the children sang "Long time ago in Bethlehem" during the **Carol Service** and enthusiastically took part in the craft activity making lanterns. On **Easter** Sunday the children enjoyed the annual Easter Egg hunt in the church garden.

We saw some teachers move away or move on to youth and others taken out by sickness, so I want to thank the team of teachers and helpers for their flexibility as well as Maggie for managing the (very dynamic) rota. We welcome Ben Game to the team.

The team at present (there is always **room for more!**) is:

X-Streams Teachers: - Paul Simmons, Sarah Hartley

X-Stream Helpers: - Maggie Simmons, Matt Collis, Ben Game

Sparklers Teachers: - Sandria Warner, Muriel Kom, Catherine Etienne

Sparklers Helpers:- Hiroko Schoch, Delphine Turnil, Lucile Blangy

We continue to sponsor a boy from the Philippines through SEL (Kenji) and he sends back thank you letters which the children enjoy listening to.

Finally **thank you** to all who give ongoing encouragement for the team. Please continue to **pray** for this precious work to the children of St. Marks.

Paul Simmons

Galaxies Leader