

## GALAXIES REPORT –AGM 2019

'Galaxies' is the children's ministry at St. Marks. We meet three Sundays 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 connected to the story we will be teaching later. We are thankful to Catherine Etienne for finding memory verses with music so that the children can sing along and 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 "O little town of Bethlehem" during the **Carol Service** and enthusiastically took part in the craft activity making Christingles. On **Easter** Sunday the children enjoyed the annual Easter Egg hunt in the church garden. This year Catherine and Robin produced our first "**Galaxies bulletin**" so that parents can understand better what we are doing, and hopefully increase their participation in what has to be a co-operative project – the education of their children in God's ways.

We saw some teachers move away so I want to thank the team for their flexibility and especially Maggie for managing the (very dynamic) rota and often standing in the gaps. We welcome Kirsty, Margaret, Robin and Hélène to the team

**The team at present** is:

**X-Streams Teachers:** - Paul Simmons, Sarah Hartley

**X-Stream Helpers:** - Maggie Simmons, Delphine Turnil, Kirsty Castex, Robin Vogelsang

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

**Sparklers Helpers:-** Hiroko Schoch, Margaret Hancock, Hélène Wilkinson, Lucile Blangy

In November we organised a day **training workshop** with other English speaking churches in Paris, which was a very stimulating occasion for exchange of ideas (against the backdrop of the early gilet jaunes demonstrations).

We continue to sponsor a boy (Kenji) from the Philippines through SEL for whom Sarah Thorley handles the correspondence.

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