

## St Marks' Youth Ministry Report for the year 2018

The Youth of St Mark's are a group of brilliant young people at an exciting phase of their lives.

They are also quite a diverse group each with their questions, doubts, strengths and challenges. The numbers of youth on a Sunday varies quite a bit with some very regular and others less so. We split into a College age group and a Lycée age group when we have enough youth and enough leaders.

The variability of numbers is a challenge, typically, we have around 5 to 7 youth, but it has been as many as 18 and as few as 1. This makes planning difficult and makes it hard to build friendships.

A highlight of the year was Easter Sunday 2018 when six of the youth (Emilie, Joanna, Julia, Zac, Ezra and Rassem) were baptised by immersion.

On Sunday mornings during the spring studied Luke together. We also had a couple of sleepovers and a joint event with Holy Trinity in Maisons Laffitte. There were some specific sessions for the Youth at the Church Weekend away.

During the summer of 2018 number of the youth attended the Something Else youth events as part of Lifestream Europe. We will be taking a group to Soul Survivor in the UK in August 2019.

In September we had an afternoon of paddle boarding at St Quentin which was an excellent time together. There was also a day of mince pie making together. The variable and relatively low numbers of youth has made it difficult to organise sleepovers or other social events.

During the Autumn we studied 1 Thessalonians in parallel with the adults (although we took more time).

The current pattern of Youth activities is 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays Bible study for all youth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday activity based session for the College age youth, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday all age service with Youth Band.

It is worth noting that as well as there being a ministry to the youth there is also ministry by the youth. The youth of St Mark's minister to the rest of the congregation by leading worship, helping with tea and coffee and doing the projector amongst other jobs.

A Youth Policy is available to set out how we do things with the young people, if you want a copy of this let me know. If you want to know more about what we do with the youth talk to me, talk to one of the other leaders or talk to the youth.

The current youth leaders are myself, Vivian Socket and Karen Kendall. These people also have other responsibilities inside and outside the church hence have limited availability. Please pray that we might have the right mix of leaders for the future. If you think that you might be being called to help with the Youth please talk to one of the youth leaders.

Please pray for the youth, they are at a critical time in their lives as they move between childhood and adulthood and from following the faith of their parents to making decisions of their own. Pray for a continuation of their walk towards maturity in their faith and a deepening of their discipleship. Pray also for the leaders, that we may find the right ways to support and lead the youth, engaging effectively with all the youth and helping them to move on in their walk with the Lord. Pray also that the youth may be a good influence on each other, ministering to one another and bringing out the best in each other.

Alan Kendall