



News from the Hood(s)



Spring 2011



Ben dressed as a villager (with thick coat underneath – it was cold!!!)

Over the winter months!

School Nativity walk. – The entire Primary School dressed up for the Nativity and then walked a route around the village, performing their scenes and singing the carols. The people really enjoyed seeing the children, joining in with them and the parents. Several people joined the crowd as we made our way to the Inn and stable complete with real Sheep and a Donkey. One parent commented that it brought the reality of the Nativity home when she saw everyone sitting in the Stable with the animals and hearing the Christmas Story.

Hello to you all,

As I write this as in days of glorious April sunshine, I reflect on all we have to thank God for during the cooler days over the winter.

Schools work

God has really answered our prayers for more opportunities in the local Middle Schools.

Tony has been asked to take Assemblies in Stanton and Ixworth Middle Schools, and is linking up with the BCY (Bury Christian Youth) team to run a lunch-time club at Beyton Middle School.

The new head at Stanton(Blackbourne) Middle School has asked me to arrange for the group TASTE to come back to the school for the week beginning 13th June. This is after several students and staff have plagued and requested for the drama and music team, who perform and talk about their faith, to come back. Many of the children from Blackbourne come along to the weekly pre-teens youth club at High Street Chapel in Hopton and have been to the SPLAT clubs while they were at Primary school. Please pray for the continuing work in their lives.

Open The Book is proving to be as popular as ever. The regular fortnightly Assemblies are eagerly received by teachers and children. This is a wonderful way of telling the Bible stories and giving the children space to reflect on the lessons learnt from the story each time.



SPLAT's

Since September we have been privileged to reach over 70 children each week with the truth about Jesus in the SPLAT (Special People Learning About Truth) afterschool clubs. The last term saw us running them in Hopton, Barningham, and Ixworth. Next term we are in Hopton and Barnham, and Norton.

No doubt the fun and games are a big draw for some, yet it is a real encouragement to see and hear the children grow in their knowledge and understanding about God and the impact He can have on their lives. Their questions are often asked when least expected like 'How do I know that God is real? I can't see, smell, or hear Him!'

Please pray that as we take the message into the schools that the children will learn more about Jesus, and that we will have the answers to their questions

Emma, has been a wonderful help with us at each of the SPLAT clubs. Please pray that as the end of her gap year approaches we can help her to develop further and continue the fantastic job she has been doing.

If you are considering running an afterschool club please contact us, we would love to share ideas to help you get started!

Family news:

Kate has settled in well at Blackbourne Middle school and is doing well in her studies as well as learning the guitar, clarinet and gym in the school clubs.

Alice is in her final term at Primary School and will be starting at Blackbourne in September. She is doing well by all accounts and has a wonderful gift of making us all laugh

Ben is now enjoying school life now after an initial blip. He loves to come home to tell us of the new words and sounds he has learnt at school. He especially enjoys swimming lessons and PE!!

Ruth is a fantastic support to Tony in the afterschool SPLAT clubs and continues to run the Volleyball and Earlybirds clubs at Church. And keep the home running smoothly!



Alice as Elizabeth in the school Nativity walk

Holiday Clubs

The planning for this year's Holiday Club is under way.

This year we will be sailing the High Seas on an expedition to explore the 'Mighty Love of God' by looking at examples from the book of Acts. The Holiday Club at Hopton is set to run in the first week of the school holidays and the club at Woolpit 2 weeks later. Please pray for the planning and preparation and for the children who will attend that they will experience the Mighty Love of God for themselves amongst all the fun and games.

Planning is also underway for Family Camp at Sizewell in August. This year we will be sharing the responsibility of running the camp. Ruth will be heading up the catering and Tony will taking the youth sessions. There are still a few tent spaces so if you want to come, or know someone who does, please let us know.

High Street Kids (HSK's at HSC)

High Street Kids preteens youth club has continued to be popular with the 9-13's age group. The mix of fun games and short epilogues each Wednesday evening is a fantastic way of reaching this difficult age group. Many of the youngsters have come up through the SPLAT clubs and it is a real opportunity to help these youngsters to discover Jesus for themselves. Please pray for us as we seek to make the Gospel real and relevant to the group who come week after week.

Family Games Night and Encounter.

As a way of reaching the families of the youngsters in the HSK's clubs and the children in the SPLAT after schools clubs, we have begun to run a series of family games nights where the whole family can enjoy the sort of madcap games we play at SPLAT and HSK's.

It has been wonderful to see several families come along together for the first time to church, to enjoy playing the games together and we then have the opportunity to talk to the parents over a drink and snacks during the evening. After all the Kingdom of God is described as a party, let's have some fun as we introduce people to Jesus.

As a result of these conversations some of the families have come along to the Encounter All-Age services that Tony runs with Emma and Graeme at High Street Chapel.

Please pray for these families and the conversations we have with them.

Volleyball and Earlybirds.

Ruth continues to run both of these two clubs at High Street Chapel.

The Volleyball club is an offshoot from the Earlybirds club and it has meant that we have maintained contact with the parents. In fact Ruth is going along with one of the mums to the new Alpha course that has just started.

We do provide a regular monthly prayer diary with all of the activities, if you would like to receive this please contact us via the Counties Office in Westbury, or on the details below.

Thank you all for your prayers, eternally grateful for all the support we receive.

God Bless

Tony, Ruth, Kate, Alice & Ben

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