

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN SUNDAY CLUB REPORT - APCM 2018/19

We have had a busy, action-packed and enjoyable year! We currently have 48 children aged between 1 and 13 on our roll, with 12 of our year 6+ group having been confirmed or due to be confirmed on Sunday 24 March. 18 months ago we created an 'open age club' and it has been fantastic to not only see those older children regularly attending, but also to be able to support them on their confirmation journey. The older children are a fantastic role model for the younger members of the club, and we are truly blessed by God to have such a wonderful group of inquisitive, keen children with parents who support us in our activities week on week.

Earlier in the year we were focusing on 'helping hands' and 'footprints' and how we could be a 'good shepherd' in our daily lives. With that in mind we decided on a number of events that we wanted to run for our parishioners, and to support SKET. We ran a harvest lunch in the church hall that was very well attended (over 70+ attendees) We kept the menu simple, focusing on harvest foods, with Sunday club parents all making soup, jacket potatoes and apple pies to serve. It was a lovely afternoon, which provided a chance for the entire parish to sit and have a meal together.

Without missing a 'beat' we started to focus on our nativity, as an all inclusive music led service, inviting all of the parishioners to get involved. The children rehearsed songs in their free time, with some singing solos, reading, acting (our 3 year old Mary and Joseph were a great hit amongst the parish) alongside the choir and music group. We arranged a mince pies, yule log, mulled wine event immediately following the nativity and again the hall was packed out! It was lovely to receive such wonderful feedback saying this was the 'best nativity ever' and so plans are afoot on how we can create a slightly different version for the upcoming year.

We actively support Leah, a teenager in Kenya, through SKET (Sevenoaks Kenya Educational Trust) and this year we were able to raise additional funds from our activities that could be used to support her wider community. We have a steady stream of filled pencil cases that SKET are distributing on our behalf in Leah's community.

It remains our aim and focus to learn about the love of Jesus Christ and to help each other to know Him better, and we want Sunday club to be a place where everyone can feel they belong and are able to share what's going on in their lives. We do that by having a simple aim to each session based on a Bible passage, trying a very wide variety of fun methods to understand and learn from it. We always pray together about what we've learned. Sometimes we succeed better than others! Sunday Club is always relaxed and we aim to be flexible and sensitive to what everyone has to contribute.

If anyone from church would like to come and join us to see what we get up to, they would be most welcome. Please do come!