

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT FOR APCM APRIL 2016

- Currently there are 4 leaders organising the Sunday School- Jo Adams, Helen Hall, Anne Straight and Nicola Joyce. We now have quite a few parent helpers who attend regularly. Another parent organises the rota for support. In July we are going to have to say goodbye to Helen Hall who has done sterling service in the Sunday School for many years.
- The 4 Sunday school leaders work together very well as a team. We have a shared vision for the teaching and learning that takes place within the Sunday School. It might be good to formalise this in a mission statement co-ordinated with the PCC and wider church congregation.
- This year we have tried to move away from paper and pencil tasks which might seem more school-like and try to make activities as fun as possible. We want to make the children find coming to Sunday School irresistible!
- The Sunday School numbers have continued to grow. We now have about 50 children on our register- although all children do not attend every week. We see this growth in numbers and the healthy attendance rates as an answer to prayer.
- We continue to trust that God will also ensure that we have enough leaders to run the Sunday School effectively and we ask for everyone's prayers on this matter.
- It was noted during discussion at a PCC meeting that children and parents who attend Sunday School, attend St Mary's specifically for that purpose. This is a change from previous years when children who attended Sunday School were from families who made up part of the general church congregation. This means that the Sunday School is reaching those who might not normally come to church services otherwise.
- We want to continue the tradition started last year of marking children's graduation from Sunday School with gifts from the church and also by helping them to think how they can become more active members of the congregation by becoming servers, helping with the elements, welcoming at the door etc.
- We also recognise the inevitability that as children get older they have other commitments and may no longer come regularly to church. We also acknowledge that whilst we are providing good opportunities for primary aged children to learn more of God's word and develop their faith, we cannot cater for teenage children as well as other churches do locally. We are therefore committed to making sure 'graduating' Sunday School children and their families are signposted to other churches and to making connections with other churches to help this to happen. It would be good to see our Sunday School children building on their faith foundations, even if it can't be at St Mary's.