

September saw youth church go back to meeting in age-appropriate groups. In Kidzone we have spent time each week thinking about some of the parables that Jesus told – stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

Also in September we celebrated Harvest by joining with the youth from the Grid for our harvest service. We spent our time together playing some fun games and challenges based around harvest as well as



singing the 'Harvest Samba'. We also spent some time thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves, particularly those in other parts of the world where there isn't enough food to go around. We thought about some of the reasons for why that might be and looked at the story of Joseph for an example of how God can sometimes use people to provide for others. We finished by writing or drawing prayers on post-it



notes which we then stuck to a large world map. The children brought in food items which were then donated to Crediton Food Bank.

As we got nearer to Christmas, the children worked hard each week learning songs and lines for the Christmas play which was held on Sunday 12th December. Kidzone finished off the term with their Christmas party at church which was filled fun games, lots of laughs and plenty of food!



When the Grid started to meet back in September, we began by thinking about what we thought the group should be like and what we can each bring to the group. The youth spent time looking over different values and then each picked out their top 5 values they thought we should uphold as a group. It was really interesting to see which values the young people felt were important. After looking through everyone's choices, the values that came up the most frequently were Respect, Truth, Fun, Teamwork and Trust which are all anchored in Faith. We've been spending time each week unpacking more of what the bible teaches us about each of these values.



In October, the Grid had the opportunity to lead the morning service for the adults in which we focused our attention on the Fruit of the Spirit. There were so many aspects of the service that were both encouraging and challenging. Seeing the way the young people served be it through welcoming people at the door, leading the congregation in sung worship or sharing something relevant about the different aspects of the fruit was amazing. If you didn't get chance to see the service, you can catch up via the Copplestone Methodist YouTube channel – look for the service on Sunday 17th October.



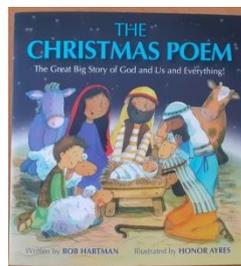
As well as joining Kidzone to perform the Christmas play, the Grid finished off the term with their Christmas party which was a great mix of food, fun games and the obligatory Christmas themed quiz!

Copplestone School

I've been continuing to mentor some of the children in Key Stage 2, meeting with small groups on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. I always go prepared with a theme in mind of something we can chat about that may help the groups with school or just generally, such as using fun games to help talk through emotions. However my main aim is always to listen as much as possible offering guidance where it's needed.

This term I've also been able to start a lunchtime football club for the children in KS2. It's already proving to be popular so we've split those involved into two smaller groups one for Y3&4 and one for Y5&6 which will alternate every 3 weeks. By doing this, the aim is that the children will be able to take more away from each session as well as fitting in with FA recommendations.

At the beginning of December, the children from Copplestone Pre-school came to visit the church and hear the Christmas story. It was a really great time together as we watched an age-appropriate Bible Society video of the Christmas story, made a simple Christmas craft and finished with some colouring. At the end, every child took home a copy of the book 'The Christmas Poem' which accompanied the video we'd watched earlier.



Pop-up Light Party

On the 31st October, some of the members of the church created a pop-up light party which was hosted outside on Sunnymead. As well as offering free hot chocolate to anyone who was passing, we also gave out goodie bags to children and there were some fun little games to take part in too.



As it was All Hallows Eve, we created a memory tree where people could write the names of any loved ones they wished to remember on a paper leaf and hang it on the tree.



In all, we gave out around 100 hot chocolates, 77 goodie bags and 16 leaves hung on the memory tree. Thank you to all who were involved, including a good number of the youth from church who did a fantastic job giving out goodie bags and inviting people over. If you popped in to see us on your way past, thank you for stopping by and we hope to see you again next year!

'Gridzone' Christmas Play, Straw and Order

This year our Christmas play was a joint effort from the children and young people in Kidzone and the Grid or 'Gridzone' as we refer to them when they're together. On Sunday 12th December, the children gave both



morning and evening performances of Straw and Order which tells the story of the very first Christmas through the eyes of a Judge presiding over a property dispute between the cows and the donkeys. It turns out the property in question was the stable where Jesus was born! All the children and young people who took part were fantastic. A big thank you to Hannah and all the other leaders who worked really hard getting the play organised and also to Becky for building a great back-drop.

12 days of Christmas Trail

Throughout the Christmas holidays, we had a Christmas family trail set up around the village which used the 12 days of Christmas song to discover the nativity story. We added an extra bit to each verse of the 12 Days of Christmas that gave a clue which, together with a map pointed people to the next stop on the trail. Each stop had a bible reference which people could use to look up the next part of the story (which also helped to solve the clues). From the feedback we've had, the trail seemed to be well received by those that took part.



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