

Annual Report for Youth Work

Youth work at St Mary's has been really exciting over the last 12 months. We've seen new volunteers, new meeting spaces, and we have seen more and more young people attending different groups and projects.

We must pass on another big thank-you to Richard Herrington. In July 2016, he stepped down from 15 years of leadership at CIA (Our Sunday morning bible study). In September 2016, Becky Hawkins joined the team and has been a huge blessing to us! Currently in CIA we are studying Old Testament people, in-conjunction with The Year Of The Bible. Also, a continued thank you to Alistair IT and Neil McLaren who also lead in the CIA team.

At TGIF, we have been enjoying plenty of fun and games each week. Each week we have been enjoying different theme's like Japanese night, which included Sumo Wrestling and Origami, plus circus skills where we learnt to juggle and spin plates. Trips to AirHop and Superbowl have also been a great success. A big thank you to our adult volunteers and crew member (year 10+) for all their help.

Café Connect has seen some great topics covered in the past year. We've explored the Refugee Crisis, Same-sex marriage, Science and Christianity. We have had some great discussions on our personal thoughts on these topics and how we might respond as Christians. In Sep 2016, Billy Crook stepped up to lead the worship band at café connect and is continuing to do a fantastic job. It has been a joy to work alongside and encourage him in his development as a worship leader. I must also thank Juliette Prentice for bringing a range of fantastic creative prayer activities to each café.

As a parish, St Mary's took part in taking some of our young people to May Camp and Soul Survivor. The trip was a great chance to take a few days out of busy Horsham to spend time with each-other as a parish group. Both trips consisted of 4/5 days of meetings, workshops, games and sports.

Lastly, at Christmas Lauren Bidlake launched a shoe box appeal: Operation Christmas Child in conjunction with Samaritans Purse. As a church, we sent over 150 boxes of Christmas presents to South Africa. A big thank-you to Julian, Louise, and Lauren Bidlake & The Church Office for all their work on this project.

Matt Lee