

Cocktail Sticks, Candles and Christmas

Children's work over Christmas 2016 in Liskeard...



We held a Christingle service in the church, kindly led by the fabulous Ron Bennett. It was wonderful to see so many faces captivated by the Christmas story, so clearly explained by Ron. The children loved lighting their Christingles and singing some carols. This was followed by a Christmas party in the hall, and a visit from Father Christmas to finish. Some of the adults involved in ABC went to Tapenades for a Christmas meal. A fun evening, fabulous company, and absolutely delicious food!

St Martin's relationship with the local primary schools continued solidly last term, with the brilliant Open the Book team, who visit St Martin's, Dobwalls and Hillfort schools weekly, Friday club at St Martin's, occasional assemblies and of course the Christingle service. This brings together both of Liskeard's primary schools to practice for the service and make Christingles on the Friday morning, and then again on the Sunday afternoon for a special service.

As this was my first year organising the Christingle service, I have to say I was quite nervous; children, candles, cocktail sticks, sharp knives and matches to name just a few things on my risk assessment – what could go wrong? However, I was blessed by the number of our church family who did so much, not just to support me, but to ensure that the whole experience was a positive one for both schools; children, staff and parents alike. I would like to think that the Glory of God shone through to all those attended. It was certainly a team effort and I thank everyone who helped to make Christingle 2016 a success!

Christmas Eve saw another first for me, sat in the front of the church with a ukulele and a microphone! As some might know, I am not keen on being anywhere near a microphone, however Pete Morgan can be very persuasive, and so I found myself helping Pete to lead the Crib Service.

Children of all ages followed the star around the church looking for all the various characters that needed to be placed in the nativity scene. Carols were sung, mulled cider was sipped (by the adults) and chocolates were consumed. Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, angels, wise men etc were all found and returned to their rightful place in and around the stable and no children were misplaced whilst doing so. My microphone accidentally got moved just enough to be of no use (I can't think how that happened), and I even managed to sing whilst playing some of the correct chords at the appropriate time on my ukulele, albeit briefly. More practice required I think!



Children's work at St Martins is an exciting area to be involved in, if anyone feels they have something to contribute please contact me, I would love to hear from you and any ideas you might have.

Jane Asquith