

# children AND YOUTH

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone at St Thomas' for being welcoming to me and my wife as we moved to this new church, new area and new chapter in our life. A lot has changed throughout the year I have been with you.

Unfortunately, whilst there has been a lot of changes, this year has continued to be a challenging time with many restrictions and uncertainties. Despite these difficult circumstances we have been able to do many great things. The first big hurdle was to build positive relationships with families in the area that were used to being with Barbara for so many years. I started by walking around the local area and knocking on the doors of families that were involved with the children's and youth work in the past. I am very glad to say that many families have opened their hearts and homes to me and made me feel very welcome and this continues to grow....

## club WEDNESDAY

The goal has always been the same. We want to share the good news of Jesus to the children in the area. We currently run a club on Wednesday at 4pm for ages 7-11.

We started with 10 children and this has grown to 30 since then. It is a great time of silly group games, chatting and sharing the love of God. I always wanted to maintain a strong link to the church so our talks are based on the Sunday message and we follow the song that we do on a Sunday.

Now I am looking for you, yes you the church, to come and join in and share your story about what Jesus has done for you.



## The Bible Study

Great news! We saw children come to faith in the club this year so we gave out bibles for children to take home and read. We had a very positive response from this and many of the kids wanted a time where they could read with leaders, ask questions and explore what it means to have a faith in Jesus.

So thats what we have been doing.

Rosie and I have started a bible study on Sundays at 4pm. This is a relaxed time of chatting, reading, asking questions and praying together. It has been incredible and whilst there is only a small group of us at the moment, we pray that families will be more open to this time and children will be excited to join in and explore Gods word.

# churches

WORKING TOGETHER

My aim from the beginning when I came into this role was to work together with other churches to support the children and youth in Blackpool. The pandemic made this a challenge of course but it has been great to work with the churches in Blackpool so far and I look forward to the future collaborations.

We started the Summer by working with St Johns and Gatehouse church for a beach trip. This was a great time of meeting other young people in Blackpool and sharing the love of God through our stories. There were also crazy games on the beach of course! I have also been working closely with Gatehouse church to support the youth work that has started up this year. We give out hot chocolates on the streets, talk to the young people and provide a safe space to have fun and share the gospel on Thursday evenings. We have also been able to take a small group of young people to a worship evening in Chorley and we are looking forward to taking a group of young people from Gatehouse and St Thomas' to a Christian festival this Summer.

It is so exciting to see churches work together to support the young people. Let's continue to work together to transform Blackpool and bring glory to God!



## *Looking* to the *FUTURE*

There are so many amazing young people in Blackpool and there is so many opportunities to build relationships with the community but like all work, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. So I need you! Come and join in and support what is happening across Blackpool with the children and youth.

We have a lot of young children at our club and some of them will be moving onto secondary school soon. The next phase is to help those that are transitioning to secondary school and build up a youth club and opportunities for those young people to become leaders in the future.

We will also be working closely with other churches in the future for clubs and special events.

Please contact me about the children and youth work:

**[Children.stthomaschurch@gmail.com](mailto:Children.stthomaschurch@gmail.com)**