

BiG KIDS

Newsletter

February 2024

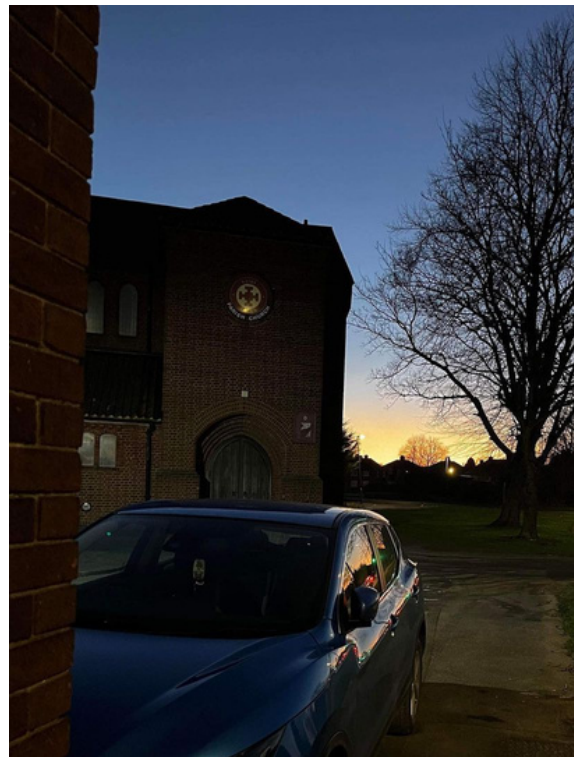


WELCOME!

Is it just us or was January about 100 days long?

We've certainly filled it up – as you can imagine! We're looking forward to lighter mornings and longer daytimes in the coming weeks.

We have some exciting things coming up in 2024, so read on the find out more...



BiG KIDS



@bigkidsboro



School

So far in 2024, we've had two assemblies in Sacred Heart and Newham Bridge, alongside our usual school club commitments. We had great fun exploring the stories of David and Goliath and Feeding of 5000 in classic BiG KIDS style - with games, mess and laughs. The kids love it - though we do have to apologise to the staff who have to calm them down after we leave!



The bulk of our schools work in January has been centred on our Cereal Project. Each Wednesday and Thursday, we're over in St Gerard's, Hemington and St Mary's, Grangetown - hearing how the kids want to improve their local area. But more about that next month...

We've also made some fantastic progress with Linthorpe Primary School over the past few months, joining the dots with St Barnabas Church! Y5 came to Church to discover more about Religious artworks - particularly the Stained Glass. We had some amazing questions and explained some of the Bible stories that the windows depict.





Church

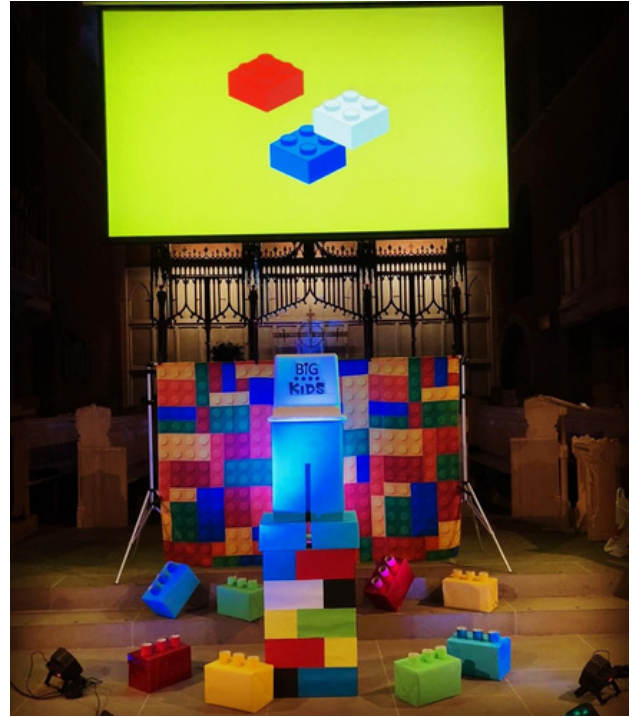
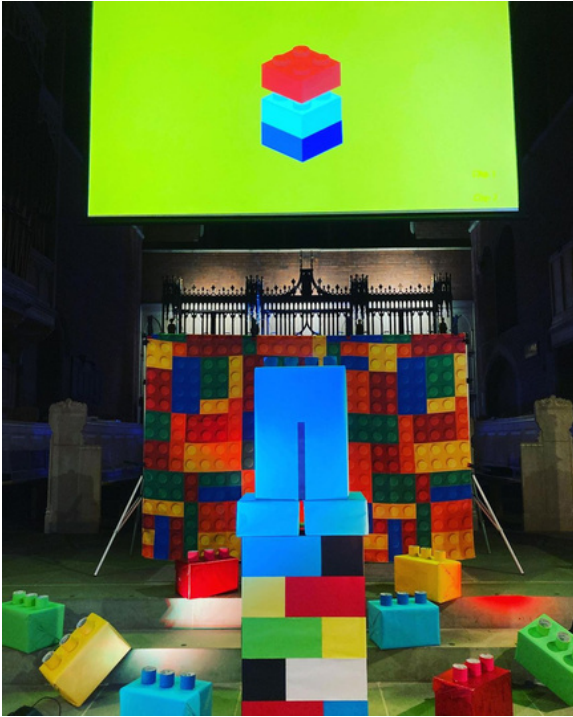
We kicked off the Church year with a “Three Kings Party” at St Peter’s in Redcar. Alongside games, crafts and a procession to follow the star - Sam told us about the Greatest Christmas Gift ever. Yes, that’s right... Buzz Lightyear! But perhaps there’s somebody else who comes in peace, on a rescue mission, to take us to infinity and beyond...



This month, we also returned to Middlesbrough Community Church to aid them in their delivery of Sunday activities. 42 kids attended, which is certainly a big group, but we always enjoy their energy and discovering how the truths of Jesus can be applied to their lives.



At St Barnabas, we've kicked off a new theme in EXPLORE - LEGO! Through these sessions, we're learning about Jesus' parables - how we can build on the firm foundations of His word. The kids are hearing the story, then learning to retell them in LEGO form! It's certainly proving to be popular, as we've welcomed 5 new kids into the group, which is such a blessing and a huge encouragement!





Community

We've been able to work with and support the Genesis Project in various ways, over the years.

2023 saw BiG KIDS take up the role of Children's and Families workers with Genesis and it's been amazing to see God joining the dots as we creatively serve him in the parish of St Oswald's and St Chad's.

This month, The Genesis Project were awarded the King's Award; MBE for Voluntary Organisations.

The Lord Lieutenant presented Rev Kath Dean with the award, and spoke passionately and warmly about the hard work of the many volunteers who serve the community each week. Kath shared on how lives have been changed and how those who originally came for help are now helping others around them - "This is all possible because of God, we couldn't do any of this in our own strength!"

As BiG KIDS we are excited to play a small part of supporting this vital work, and know, as Kath shared, everything we do is only possible because of Him who gives us strength.





Walk

Debs & Ste have both been continuing with their Growing Leaders & Stepping Up courses.

Here's what they have to say so far ...

Debs: "In our latest session, we looked at the difference between personality and character and what Christ-like qualities a leader should

have: love, integrity, servant heart,

compassion, truth, faith, forgiveness and

humility. In the follow up meetings with my

mentor, Janet, as well as lots of tea, coffee

and cake being consumed, we've have also

been working on my personal life statement,

discerning where God is leading me. As well as

the mentor role being a part of the Growing

Leaders course, there has been huge personal

benefit from meeting regularly with Janet -

she's great at asking BiG questions that give

me lots to reflect on."



Concentration
face! 😂

Ste : "Prior to Christmas we explored listening to God, listening to others and listening to ourselves.

This term we are continuing to delve into the Gospel stories of Jesus, whilst relating these into practical missional relational work today.

Using the concept of Asset Based Community Development, we've been exploring the parish of St Oswald's and St Chad's through mapping and on foot; identifying the community spaces, schools, shops and other provisions and listing the gifts and skills within the Genesis Project, Church Family and within the wider parish community.

Though statistics we've found 25% of the parish population is under 18, plus 6 schools to link with and serve. This provides many opportunities for BiG KIDS and others to partner with the parish; praying and exploring together about how best we can use the gifts and resources God's given us to reshape what is already being done to reach and teach local children and their families, plus exploring new ways to reach people we currently don't.





Prayer requests

We kindly ask that over the month of February you keep BiG KIDS in your prayers in the following ways.



For Boro Cereal, we pray that the project really captures the imagination of the kids we are working with and they feel supported by their parents.



For the new children we've met at EXPLORE. That they feel a part of the group and welcome - excited to learn more about God.



For the Genesis Project and the parish of St Oswald and St Chad's - as they adjust to the arrival of the new vicar and the exciting opportunities that brings.



For Debs and Ste in their training courses. That they would find value and insight for the time they are putting into their personal development.