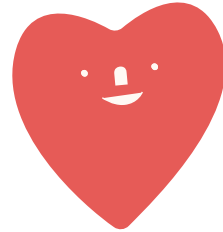




CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT CHRIST CHURCH

INFO BOOKLET 2026/27

**THANKS FOR READING ABOUT THE
CHILDREN'S WORK AT CHRIST CHURCH!**



The Bigger Picture

Little Fishes

Morning Out

Jam Packed Mornings

Code of Conduct

Forge afterschool club

Children's Church

Behaviour Guidelines

Consent forms

KIDS CHURCH BIBLE VERSE

**I CAME TO GIVE LIFE
—LIFE IN ALL ITS
FULLNESS.**

THE BIGGER PICTURE

THE CHRIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

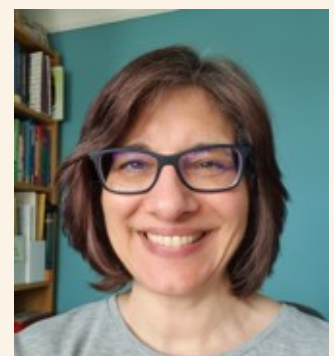
OUR VISION IS TO BE A CHURCH THAT LIVES TO LOVE GOD. OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS :-
"WE ARE A PEOPLE BEING TRANSFORMED BY THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD; SEEKING TO BLESS OUR COMMUNITY, AND LONGING FOR ALL TO EXPERIENCE THE HOPE WE HAVE IN JESUS."



We are a family of faith, who meet together for teaching, worship, prayer and for encouragement. We desire to be outward looking and to serve our local community through both our care for others and our sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ. We seek to be a Church that is firmly based on the teaching of the Bible, to which we look for our final authority in matters of belief, doctrine, behaviour and ethics.



THE TEAM AT CHRIST CHURCH





**WEDNESDAYS
IN TERM
TIME 13:30
-15:30**



Little Fishes Refresh

- Thought for the day
- Singing time
- Toys and space for little movers
- Cafe drinks
- Prayer postbox

ARRIVE THROUGH THE DENMARK STREET ENTRANCE (THE MAIN CHURCH DOORS) FOR THIS GROUP.

THIS IS A FREE GROUP FOR NEW FAMILIES TO REFRESH. IT'S FOR PARENTS-TO-BE, THOSE WITH TOTS (2YEARS) AND BABIES INBETWEEN.

THIS IS A DROP IN STYLE - YOU CAN COME ANY TIME BETWEEN 13:30- 15:30 AND YOU CAN BRING A SLEEPING BABY. WE HAVE TOYS FOR ACTIVE BABIES, BUT THIS IS A SPACE FOR PARENTS TO REFRESH AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.



MORNING OUT!

FRIDAYS 9:30-11:00



ARRIVE AT THE DUDLEY STREET ENTRANCE FOR THIS STAY AND PLAY GROUP.

YOU CAN COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM IN ADVANCE OR COMPLETE A PAPER ONE AT THE WELCOME DESK.

£2 PER FAMILY , FIRST TIME FREE!

SOME OF THE MONEY YOU GIVE GOES TO A SPONSORED CHILD THROUGH COMPASSION UK AND CARE FOR THE FAMILY. THE GROUP INCLUDES FREE PLAY, STORIES AND SINGING! FOR BABIES AND TOTS UP TO AGED 5 (PRESCHOOL).

AT STORY TIME WE SIT AND LISTEN TOGETHER.

AT TIDY UP TIME WE CAREFULLY PUT TOYS IN THE BOXES.



WE SING AND DANCE IN A BIG CIRCLE BEFORE WE GO HOME.





JAM PACKED MORNINGS



A TIME FOR FAMILIES TO GATHER
DURING THE OCTOBER AND
FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOR CRAFT,
GAMES AND BIBLE STORIES.

WE SING AND HAVE A MAKE YOUR
OWN SANDWICH LUNCH BEFORE
HEADING HOME.

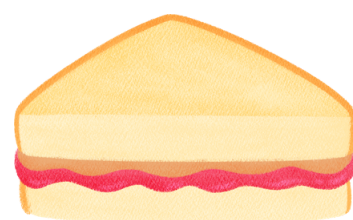
IT IS GREAT FOR FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN AGED 0-10.

IT'S FREE!

IN THE HALLS AT CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD, DUDLEY
STREET ENTRANCE

FAMILIES CAN COMPLETE AN ONLINE EVENT FORM IN
ADVANCE OR ON THE DOOR.

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATTENDING MIDWEEK GROUPS AND CCB FAMILY EVENTS

We want to ensure that every group member feels relaxed, supported, safe and secure, and that they have fun while we are here and we do not condone behaviour that puts others at risk. When you register each week you are agreeing to follow a few simple ground rules that ensure everyone has an enjoyable time.

- Your child's safety and the way they relate to and play with other children, are your responsibility. Please intervene with your child if others are at risk of being hurt!

- If another parent expresses concern about something your child has done, listen graciously. Explore each other's point of view even if you don't agree or feel you have been misunderstood.

- Appreciate the team members, volunteers and staff, who are here to organise and facilitate the group, but who are also part of the group family.

- Take care of and encourage your children to look after the room, the equipment and each other, and take care with drinks and belongings.





SNACKS
MOVIE CLIPS
GAMES
BIBLE STORIES
LIFE SKILLS
ACTIVITIES
WELLBEING IDEAS
FOR KIDS

FRIDAYS IN TERM TIME

15:30-16:45

AGES 9-11(YEAR 5+6)

A PLACE TO CHILL AND HAVE FUN

CONTACT US FOR A PAPER CONSENT FORM
OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE FORM



CHILDREN CAN COME TO THE CLUB AND WALK HOME ALONE WITH PARENTAL PERMISSION. WE OFTEN HAVE CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THEM TO TAKE HOME AND ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN TO HAVE OPEN DISCUSSIONS AND TO LEARN NEW SKILLS.

ON SUNDAYS WE RUN CHILDREN'S CHURCH

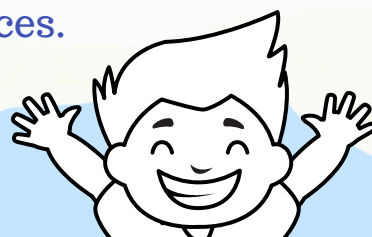


At Christ Church we have three discipleship groups that are created for children to wholeheartedly worship God with others who see the world through a similar lens. The children's church is a place of togetherness and community with others who believe in Jesus. The following pages are relevant to those who are part of the church community.

We are giving all children the opportunity to build their faith and experience his love, grace and mercy. We are enabling them to strengthen their faith through prayer and giving them the chance to respond to stories and wisdom from the Bible. Children's church is not the same as school, we follow a different format and have a different purpose to an educational setting. Our children's church uses games, craft, toys and play to communicate themes and a message from the Bible. We see a child's spirituality as part of their whole being and the children's church as part of the bigger picture that makes up a child's world. This might mean that our children's church also supports a child's personal, social and emotional development.

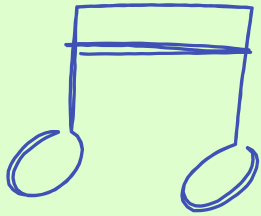


Allowing children to discover the wonder of God through the Bible is our focus. We encourage families to teach the Bible at home and we will supply faith at home resources for this, but we are not there to fill children's brains with facts and figures. In our children's church we walk with children on their journey of faith and our prayer is that they will be enabled to be their authentic selves: have fun; be loud or quiet; playful or deeply thoughtful. Our intention is that they feel accepted and welcome in their group wherever they are in their knowledge of the Bible and Christian practices.





CHILDREN'S CHURCH GROUPS



Imagine

This is a collective worship environment for pre-schoolers (new-born babies - age 4) to engage with God through Diddy Disciples worship. All of the grown ups in the room are part of the Diddy Disciples worship if they stay. This happens downstairs in the main hall.



Wonder

For children in Reception - Year 3 (ages 4-8)
This group meets in rooms 2+3 which is downstairs nearest to the church sanctuary.



Marvel

For children in Years 4-6 (ages 8-11).
This group meets in room 5 which is upstairs next to the prayer room.

Gather Engage respond send 

CCB kids sessions follow a structure recommended by the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England in Transforming Worship: Living the New Creation A Report. Simply it is gather, engage, respond, send.



Gather

We kick start the time together by acknowledging others in the group, celebrating community and turning our attention to our reason for gathering!

This might look like:

- Doing a breathing exercise to centre ourselves and bring our focus and attention to God.
- Playing a name game
- Sharing short stories about what has happened this week
- Lighting a candle with an opening prayer



Engage

Engage means exploring a Bible story or passage.

The purpose of the storytelling is not to entertain the children but to awaken their imaginations so they can understand the sequence of events in the story or Bible passage. They can then wonder about it and think about what it means to them.

This might look like:

- A story treasure hunt, a draw-the-story game or looking at a retelling of a Bible story in a children's storybook.
- It might be a video or a bible reading from the ICV Bibles.
- It could also include Godly Play Storytelling, Out of the box storytelling, or a retelling of a story from Dwell (faith alive resources).



respond

The takeaway, the interaction, the fun!

At Christ Church we consider play to be a hugely beneficial method of embedding key messages from the story and for children, build a church community. The response time is the ideal chance to integrate play into children's church.

why play?

— ”

“The times we feel most alive, those that make up our best memories, are moments of play.” - Stuart Brown - founder of the National Institute of Play

” —



Play gives children the opportunity for free expression – something we want to cultivate in children's church, to remove unnecessary limits on children's spirituality. Play comes after the story, because play is not the warmup act. It is in moments of play that children will respond deeply to what they have heard in the early parts of the session - experiencing awe and wonder, encountering freedom and testing new opportunities.

During the response, choices are available, and the activity choice is led by the child. We encourage the children's church leaders to include choices in their response time. Choice empowers children and helps them grow!

playfulness

curiosity

acceptance

empathy

send

The session closes by sending the children to join their families for Holy Communion or out into the rest of their week.

Faith is not just for Sundays but the sending out may be followed by faith at home or faith in school!

This might look like:

- One member of the group praying for others
- A reading of an encouraging Bible Verse
- A short song about shining light in the world
- Writing a message to take with you this week

Notebook:

When the group is finished the helpers and leaders will bring the children back into the main service. The children are asked to find their families and sit with them, and if they can't find a parent/carer to come back to wait with a helper or leader.



Jesus put children at the centre of the disciples.

Our aim is to point children to Jesus through children's church and by supporting faith at home.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

The leaders and helpers are asked to ensure that every child is included in children's church. This does not mean treating them all the same, but treating them as individuals with equal concern. It means listening carefully to both sides in a discussion or scenario. We are committed to creating an environment where people of every race and culture have the opportunity to thrive and grow. We want to be a community that accepts all children unconditionally as God's love is also unconditional to us as adults!



FAQS FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS?

Leaders and helpers will take their group to the nearest assembly point depending on where they are meeting in the building. The group leader will check that all children are present outside and then bring them back into their group. Parents and carers are asked to avoid trying to meet their children in the building during a fire alarm.

NUMBER ON ESCAPE PLAN	AREA	ASSEMBLY POINT
	Main Church	North/North-West Lawn
	Kitchen, Meeting Rooms 2, 4 and 5	Vicarage Car Park
	Hub, Office, Meeting Rooms 3 and 2 & 3 when combined	Main Halls Entrance
	Hall, Meeting Room 1 and 6	Main Car Park

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD IS INJURED IN CHILDREN'S CHURCH?

There is a first aid kit in church and a first aider may be in the group to help your child. If the situation is urgent the children's team will act quickly and you will be informed at the earliest possible moment.



DO CHILDREN NEED TO BRING ANYTHING TO THE GROUP?

BABIES AND TODDLERS:

Please make sure babies and tots are settled before leaving. Some of our volunteers have limited experience working with babies and toddlers and they are not trained in early years education or child development. Please make sure babies have had a nappy change as team members are not asked to change nappies. It also helps us if you have a chat with the team helpers about where you will be sitting, so they can quickly find you if they need.

OLDER CHILDREN

For children aged 4+, parents/carers may want to give them a water bottle as we rarely have time for drinks and snacks in our group. Children are welcome to bring a calming sensory toy with them. They do not need to bring anything else for the time they are in children's church. If they have their own Bible they are encouraged to bring it!

WHAT WE ASK FROM PARENTS AND CARERS OF THOSE IN OUR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

01

Talk about faith at home in your day to day ordinary life. If big questions come up at home, we can give you resources to support conversations about faith.

02

Find out what your children like about church and encourage them to come along to their group. Pray with them and share something of your faith with them when they ask.

03

Parents/carers are responsible for their children at all times at church. Please look after your children at tea and coffee time and when we are altogether in the main sanctuary. Stay on church premises while your child is in children's church.

04

Register your children into their group before the service, or if you are late, let the group leader know to note your child's name on the paper register. When the children go to their groups, walk with them through the hub and check they have gone into the correct group.

05

Parents and carers are responsible for keeping the information about their children accurate on churchsuite. This includes keeping allergy and medical information up to date. If you have trouble doing this online, please ask the Children's Minister or the office to help.

BEHAVIOUR

In groups where parents are not present (on Sundays and at our afterschool club) we do not give heavy expectations of what children should and shouldn't be doing but we will intervene if a child is at risk of harming themselves or others.

On Sundays we intend to always give children the option to go back into the main service and sit with their parent/carer if they are not happy in the group.

OUR LEADERS WILL FOLLOW THESE POINTS IF THEY NEED TO INTERVENE IN DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR:



NEVER IGNORE BULLYING OR DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS ANOTHER CHILD.



IF A CHILD HAS BEEN HURT INTERVENE AND DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT HAS BEEN SAID - YOU WON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE.



TALK IN A KIND WAY, BUT BE CLEAR. POINT OUT THAT WHAT WAS SAID OR DONE WAS HURTFUL AND CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.



DON'T SUGGEST THAT THE CHILD WILL BE PUNISHED.



HELP THE CHILD UNDERSTAND WHY THEIR BEHAVIOUR WAS INAPPROPRIATE.



DON'T LEAVE THE CHILD FEELING LIKE THEY ARE DISLIKED OR WONDERING IF THEY ARE STILL ACCEPTED AS PART OF THE GROUP.



REASSURE THE CHILD WHO HAS BEEN HURT AND HELP THEM MAINTAIN THEIR SELF ESTEEM.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE?

1) IF YOU ARE A CHURCH MEMBER, CHECK YOUR CHURCHSUITE LOGIN DETAILS TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN'S INFORMATION UP TO DATE.

2) SIGN UP TO THE CCB NEWS EMAILS—THERE'S LOTS GOING ON!

3) JOIN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FACEBOOK GROUP FOR PHOTO SHARING AND EVENT REMINDERS.

CONTACT

Christ Church Bedford
140 Dudley Street

For more information contact:



children@ccbedford.org



07554537757



ccbedford.org





CHILDREN'S EVENT CONSENT FORM

Name (parent/carer) *

First Name

Last Name

Group or event name (Eg. Morning Out, Light Party, Little Fishes) *

Children(s) names *

Phone *



Email *



Address *

Line 1 *

Line 2

Line 3

Additional Emergency phone number *



Additional needs, allergies or medical notes *

On some occasions will your children attend this group with another adult? Please detail who this will be in notes section.* *

-



Do you give photo consent for yourself and your child for photos on our closed FB group and internally at Christ Church? We will not take photos without prior arrangement and warning. *

-



CONSENT FORM FOR CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Child's First & Last Name *

First Name

Last Name

Parent/Carer Name

Parent email *

Child's address

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

City

County

Postcode

-

✓

Parent/carers phone number

Name of emergency contact

First Name

Last Name

Emergency contact number *



School Year

School attended

Allergies or Medical *

Child's Date of Birth *

(e.g 02-03-2026)

Day

Month

Year

Photo/Video Consent

☐ Internal Presentation

☐ External Presentation

Additional Needs *

I give permission for my child to attend this event/group and agree to collect them at the end of the session .
In the unlikely event of an emergency when I cannot be found or contacted I give permission for my child to recieve first aid, medical or dental treatment including anesthetic.

☐ I accept your Privacy Notice *