

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH  
ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL 2004

The number of children on the infant, junior, senior and Ten Up registers currently totals about 45 with the average weekly attendance being about 35.

Sunday School is organised by 3 co-ordinators Sue Cox (infants), Gill Thompson (juniors), and Donya Young (seniors) and Alison Newman attends the meetings as the clergy representative. Mark Newman and Rosamond Eele are responsible for the Ten Up Group (14 years and over). This initiative with the older children, which meets twice a month, has now been running successfully for 2 years and is well attended although some will be moving away to university this year.

Co-ordinators meetings are held every 3 months followed by distribution of the minutes to all other leaders and helpers as a means of communicating with everybody. To achieve more personal contact with all those involved, termly meetings are held after the 10.30am service to discuss any issues or problems. The total number of Sunday School staff is now 17.

Course material for the infant, junior and senior groups is linked to the weekly Lectionary readings using 'The Seasons of the Spirit'. Mark Newman organises the teaching content for the Ten Up group. The infants and juniors continue to be very enthusiastic about their weekly sticker books for attendance at Sunday school and we are again grateful to Donya Young for her time spent researching and producing them.

We continue with our system of registration for all Sunday School children to ensure their safety and well being whilst in our care. We are in the process of forming a Code of Behaviour Policy for the protection of both children and adults.

The children have been eager throughout the year to take part in the morning worship. As well as prayers, readings and the band, other involvement has included singing the Hosannas and bringing in their Sunday School work to show the congregation. We continue to encourage parents to sit with their children at the front of the church during family services.

The infant and junior Sunday school children sang during the Mothering Sunday service while the band, which consists of juniors, seniors and YPG children, performed during the Harvest and Nativity services. Our thanks again go to Anne Grisbrook for her musical accompaniment and preparation of the younger children and to Donya Young and Richard Sammons for both organising and leading band practices.

At the request of the clergy the Nativity and Christingle were again split into two separate services this year. The Nativity service was a great success due to the exciting and innovative script written by Mike Cox and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated and the congregation. Our very grateful thanks are recorded to Mike and Sue for all their all their hard work in directing and producing the Nativity. This was probably the one and only time we would see the Vicar and Curate in leathers on a motorbike in church! The Christingle service, which was held on the first Sunday in December, concentrated on the work of the Children's Society and was also well supported. However, Sunday School leaders still prefer a single service to celebrate the Nativity and Christingle.

The Holiday Club was again a very successful project organised by Alison Newman with input from Sunday School staff as well as members of the clergy team and congregation. It

was again a good vehicle for outreach into the local community as nearly two thirds of the children that attended were non-BPC children.

The Sunday School ran the toy stall at the June Fair and the November Market. Sunday School children also contributed to the 1400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banners in Rochester Cathedral by making very colourful and glittery fish out of card.

Gill Thompson again organised the Sunday School family camping weekend. This took place on the first weekend in September at a site near Canterbury. It was hugely successful with 10 families and some of the YPG attending and enjoying a very dry, sunny and relaxing time. The weekend was open to all families in the congregation including day visitors. All enjoyed a communal barbeque on the Saturday evening and open-air morning worship before departure on the Sunday.

A full day First Aid Course was organised by Donya Young in the church rooms on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, which was attended by several Sunday school leaders and other members of the congregation. A photograph of all the qualified First Aiders can be currently found on the Sunday School notice board outside the Children's Chapel.

In the coming year we will be preparing another group of junior Sunday school children for Holy Communion. Lynn Hedges and Simon Trowell will prepare the children ready to receive their first Communion in April.

The coming year will also see the arrival of a brand new Sunday School Display Board to be positioned at the back of the church. In addition to displaying infant, junior, senior and TenUp work, it will also feature a regular Sunday School newsletter to keep the congregation informed of what the children are doing.

Finally we are immensely grateful to all leaders and helpers who give up their time for Sunday School and would also make a plea for extra help to anybody who can offer time and enthusiasm in this very rewarding area of Church family life.

Gill Thompson and Sunday School Co-ordinators  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2005