



Cross-Links

Newsletter

May 2017

Lay Minister (Team Leader): **Nigel Collins** Youth Work Leader: **Becky Meredith**

Welcome to the return of our monthly Newsletter

We are approaching the 20th Anniversary of Cross-Links being opened as a venue and project and we have naturally been reflecting on the difference we have made during the past 20 years to the huge number of people who have come along to our activities over this time. The children who grew up as members of our daily after school club are now young adults and many of them have children of their own who come to activities. Without doubt we've made a difference and we think we still do!

This leads us to consider what activities we need to provide in the local community now – which aren't necessarily the ones we used to do...

Children of Primary school age now have a variety of after school clubs at their school so we no longer need to provide activities specifically for this age group.

With the lack of local Youth Clubs, our youth work is in much demand and Becky provides support and advice to young people as well as club sessions which would have previously been provided by the Youth Service – so there is a continued need for this work.

The Children's Centres (CC) provide an excellent range of activities for families of pre-school children, but are stretched to near capacity and have constraints as to how they deliver their groups and support (as they are a statutory body). This means that our Parent & Toddler group (which is 16 years old this year) is still in demand and provides a complimentary service to that of the Children's Centres; the group is also attended by CC staff on a monthly basis who provide an activity as well as

information. There is a continued need for this work.

Our work in the wider community has varied over the years and we have tried to respond to local needs. Currently there are some adults from the wider community who welcome the opportunity to pop in for a coffee and chat, make use of the internet etc. So we will be re-instating a weekly 'coffee and chat' session which is mostly aimed at adults and is not intended as an after school club for children. Having said that we want to offer a welcome and a safe environment to anyone who wishes to pop in during these times.

As Church we will continue to host a Messy Church during term time for anyone who wishes to come along. This will take a slightly different format from the past, so we will begin with 'story' and then respond to the story with craft activities, close with a prayer and simple afternoon tea.

There will be an interim period as we introduce these changes which will take full effect from after the half term (ie from the week starting Monday 5th June).

So, from Monday 12th May until the week of 5th June we will only be running the evening Youth Clubs, Parent & Toddlers and Messy Church

CROSS-LINKS WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

(from 5th June)

<p>Parent & Toddlers Tuesdays 10am-12noon Buckland Community Centre <i>Primarily for pre-school children and their families</i></p>	<p>Coffee & Chat Wednesdays & Thursdays 3.30-5pm Cross-Links <i>Primarily for local adults looking for a warm and friendly welcome</i></p>
<p>Youth Clubs Wednesdays & Thursdays 7-9pm Cross-Links (Wed) Buckland Community Centre (Thu) <i>Primarily for 11-19 year olds (secondary school age and older)</i></p>	<p>Messy Church Fridays (term time) 3.15-5.30pm St Nicholas Church <i>Primarily for families and anyone wanting to find out more about being a follower of Jesus</i></p>
<p>Support & Advice 'Get-it' Sexual health – available at Coffee & Chat, Youth clubs and by appointment Study support, help with college work – available by appointment (contact Becky) Job search, help with application forms, CVs etc – available by appointment (contact Becky)</p>	<p>Roles & Responsibility Nigel Collins – overall responsibility, safeguarding officer, families and toddler group, community development, church leader Becky Meredith – leader in charge of youth work/clubs, coffee & chat</p>

THANK YOU to our amazing volunteers and sessional staff without whom we couldn't make such a difference to so many people: **Amy, Anne, Ben, Clare, Courtney, Hayley, Katy, Kerrie, Nathan, Nicole, Olly, Rachel, River, Tia, Tina and Tommy** (in alphabetical order).

Congratulations to Becky who has recently started working at the Linwood Youth Hub as an Early Help Worker; her role at Cross-Links increases to 3 days a week from 1st May

Nigel reduces his hours at Cross-Links to 3 days a week from June as he takes on a 2 day a week job working for the Diocese of Canterbury. Normal Cross-Links days will be Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

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