



Year to March 2016

Earlybirds - Report for Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting

Alison, Gill, Emma, Helen and Alicia were joined by Sarah (Sowter) and Elizabeth (Ashbolt) this year who bring enthusiasm and experience to the team. We base our sessions loosely on the Living Stones books (Year B 2015 / Year C 2016) to try and tie in with the lesson in Church.

Some of our activities this year:

- Making a 4 page newspaper [Spreading the Word through reading]
- Designing a cover for the Parish magazine [The Easter story]
- Constructing a time-line for Holy Week [Palm Sunday]
- Matching pairs 'Things we know are there but cannot see' [Doubting Thomas]
- Building a pop-up picture of Jesus and the disciples [Overcoming fear]
- Creating kites and headbands of flames [The Holy Spirit appears]
- Blowing up balloons and unrolling Fruit Winders [Parable of the Mustard Seed]
- Measuring height; drawing short and tall animals [St. Margaret's Patronal Festival]
- Treasure Hunt around the Lake of Galilee (churchyard) [Feeding of 5,000]
- Assembling cup and string telephones [Spreading the Word through talking]
- Completing a jigsaw puzzle [God knows the big picture]
- Forming prayer hands [Praying for one another]
- Threading pasta onto string; not passing a camel through a needle [Rich Man]
- Tasting spices and feeling objects blindfolded [Jesus helps Bartimaeus to see]
- Talking about soldiers and created a poppy garland [Remembrance Sunday]
- Discussing the importance of names at baptism [Story of Jesus' Baptism]
- Listening to different sounds and playing Chinese Whispers [Listening to God]
- Writing what we are thankful for on a prayer tree [Lent - resisting temptation]
- Tasting figs and fashioning a paper fig tree [Parable of the Barren Fig Tree]

In 2015, a number of our Earlybirds attended the 'Come and Join the Celebration' course, an introduction to Holy Communion. This took place in Betley Primary School alongside our Earlybirds sessions so numbers were quite light some weeks! Attendance throughout the year varied from 1 child to 14 children (poor Gill & Helen)!

This year we have consolidated our format through regular planning and good communication (Leaders & Helpers) and whilst Earlybirds sessions are still fun and varied, they have a strong emphasis on the relevant bible reading at the core. The sharing of information between Earlybirds and the Congregation at the end of the service is wonderful!

Our aim for this year is to continue to grow and flourish, to welcome new faces and hopefully to enjoy a trip out this Summer too.

