

The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Children's Ministry Report for 2016-2017

With Rev'd Andy Markey's departure I took over responsibility for Junior Church (JC) and Youth Group (YG) from September 2016, and this report refers only to the period since then.

Many things have remained the same:

- JC year runs from 1st September until 31st August. Children are placed in groups according to their age on 1st September. There are three age groups: All Stars (age 3-6), Comets (6-9), and Galaxies (9-12).
- All parents receive a copy of our child safe policy and on signing and returning the registration form they acknowledge receipt of this.
- Each Junior Church session begins in the hall with a short group worship. The theme of the day is introduced, a collection is taken and there is a short time of collective teaching and prayer. Children then move into their groups for further activities related to the teaching and the Gospel for that day.
- Our Statement of Principles for our Work with Children and Teenagers also remains unchanged.
- Leaders and Helpers have undergone child protection training, part of which includes a criminal record background check.

Three filing cabinets have been purchased, and what remained of the resources Andy created has been organised and filed. Building on the schemes of work he wrote, Junior Church has continued to develop, gaps are being filled, activities being varied more, and any leftover resources are now carefully filed for future use to minimise waste. Moira Hogg, our Safeguarding Officer, has met with the JC Leaders and Helpers. We have also seen some simplification in the administrative systems. New since September is a once-a-month 'Stories & Songs' session, led by Lisa Dishman and Victoria Hodgson. Work is continuing on how to nurture links between these Sundays and All-Age Worship on First Sundays. Some people have left the JC rota, but others have joined, keeping the numbers stable, if still on the low side. As the number of children attending is quite low as well at the moment, sometimes 3 Leaders and 1 Helper is enough.

Youth Group has also started meeting again, after a hiatus of about a year. As before, we meet in the hotel next to the church once a month. Attendance fluctuates significantly and unpredictably. My fellow leaders and I have entered a period of more focused prayer as we discern where God is leading us in our work with the young people of our community.

I am very grateful to all those who offer their time, enthusiasm, kindness and hard work to the flourishing of our young people and the sustaining of Junior Church.

Evelyn Sweets-Vermeulen
Lay Pastoral Assistant