

Fr Andrew Howard, St Wilfred's, Cantley

The COVID Pandemic over the last year has had serious implications for the way in which our Centenary Project youth worker has been working.

All of our church based activities have had to cease, including our weekly 'Tots on Tuesday', our 'Tuesday Church for Children' and our 'O.M.G.' Youth group. Kirsty had been heavily involved with all of these, as well as other regular and occasional activities. She was also heavily involved in organising our annual Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and our annual Diocesan (Hickleton Chapter) Youth Day. However, there have been alternative activities that Kirsty has been involved in and has organised. She has been supporting our Church School (Branton S. Wilfrid's V.A. Primary), by assisting with class room based activities, and with particular parents and children.

She has also organised virtual activities on-line with members of our Youth Group and has met with them socially, outdoors, on a number of occasions in the Summer. Kirsty has also been working with our other leaders in keeping in touch with the parents of the children who would have attended our other weekly activities.

Part of Kirsty's remit is also to have a role with in the wider Hickleton Chapter. This is the Chapter in the Diocese of Sheffield for the traditionalist parishes. For example, she supported a parish over two days when there was a funeral for a teenager who was well known in the area. She supported the young people who attended the funeral, and was present in the church the day before when many other local young people attended to light candles, etc.

Just before the lockdown, and therefore just over a year ago, Kirsty and myself started a 'Church in School' event every month, on a Sunday afternoon, in our Church School. This was aimed at attracting parents and children both from Branton (an area of the Parish notionally separated off by the motorway) and from School. This started to take off, but unfortunately, again, had to cease because of the Pandemic. Kirsty is very capable at making such events imaginative and attractive by using technology, so her skills came to the fore in organising these monthly events. We will be re-starting this activity as soon as we can.

At Christmas, the usual activities and events could not take place, so Kirsty organised a virtual Christingle presentation in church with myself which was streamed into school for all the children, the teachers and the parents. Beforehand she had organised the making of Christingles in school which were then lit during the streamed event in church. This was well received and much appreciated by all.

It is hoped that as soon as is possible, we can re-start both our regular activities and the occasional events, all of which Kirsty was involved with and helped to organise.