

Report from St Hugh of Lincoln Parish Church, New Cantley.

I think it's fair to say that the plans we wrote in January 2020 for what we wanted to achieve, didn't quite work out as expected.

At St Hugh's we started the year strongly having recently relaunched our Messy Church,



Easter Messy Church @ home activities

February brought in 28 adults and children, of whom 16 were new. Sadly, lockdown and Covid restrictions put an end to our Messy Church in-person. However, for Easter we started Messy Church at Home, and we now have 13 families, including 20 children, regularly receiving packs delivered safely to their doorstep. We've had a lovely response to these packs, from the children and from their adults. For Advent, a small team planned activities that included an advent calendar with daily activities focussed on preparing ourselves, and generosity. We've also started a streamed service to sit alongside the activities. For Advent we did "7 readings, and some carols" which reached 238 people and had 61 engagements on Facebook.

As a team we are going to continue the packs at home and connected streamed services into 2021, the first 2 sessions being themed around Lent and Easter. We have plans in place for when we can return in person and are working towards that, but have to remain realistic about the current situation.

During 2019 I was working closely with the local primary school. RE is mostly delivered by support staff and delivered during teacher's planning time and many of the staff do not have a personal faith and are very uncertain delivering the Christian aspects of the curriculum. I was able to deliver lessons themed on Incarnation (KS2) and Nativity (KS1) to every class in the lead up to Christmas. We also managed to arrange for every class to visit the church (see photo) over the course of two days, with most having never been inside the building before.



Two classes during their visit to church

We had planned the next run of sessions on Salvation for the 2nd Spring half term (March & April) which had to be cancelled when the school closed. We had scheduled new lessons for November, but they coincided with the second national lockdown and so couldn't be delivered.

The internet connection in school is not holding up to streaming from outside, but I'm in discussion with school about pre-recording sessions to be played from a memory stick, and I'm able to join some events like the upcoming Holocaust Memorial Day event. Under current regulations regarding mixing bubbles I cannot run the after school Craft and Story club. We had a fantastic start to the years, running a number of sessions exploring the story of the Wise and Foolish Builders. The children produced some fantastic big art together (see photo). We had also planned a whole school RE day on Pentecost, but sadly this wasn't able to happen as school was closed.

We are looking at how we can deliver a similar day this year within whichever restrictions are in place at the time!



Wise and Foolish Builder's Big Art from Hawthorn Primary School Craft & Story Club