

AGM Report
2019-2020

Ministry: Children's and Young Families.

Ministry Co-ordinator: Lisa Delaney

KINGDOM KIDS:

Volunteers: Virginia Woodward; Kathryn & Daryl Mc Mahon; Rachel Watson; Kathy Watson; Emma Lou-Roberts; Ann Lawless; Taya Bessell; Ashlee Jameson; Julia Mottram.

Average Weekly Attendance: 15 children.

Age Range: 2 years – 12 years.

Structure: As of the commencement of 2019, the group has been being divided during learning time in order to provide a more age-appropriate lesson for both the littlies and the older children - the littlies group Kinder and below, the older group Year 1 up to Year 6. This has required the rostering of an extra teacher each week. This new structure has worked well with the children in both groups being attentive, engaged and settled.

Curriculum:

Term1-3 2019: "The Bible in Ten Easy Lessons". (Phil and Louise Campbell, Maclean Presbyterian Church; 1998). This curriculum provides an overview of the Bible with the aim of teaching the children that the Bible is one big story about God's promise to rescue us which He planned before He made the world. It teaches that God is our Maker and our King and that when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, He loved us so much that He promised to make things right again. The curriculum focusses on ten essential pillars that hold the story of the Bible together –

- "God is Maker God is King."
- "The Fall- We disobey God and the perfect place is spoilt."
- "Abraham and the Promises of God."
- "David - King of God's People."
- "Solomon Gets it Wrong!"
- "EXILE! God Punishes His People."
- "The Coming of the King."
- "The Death of the King."
- "Jesus is RAISED, Jesus is KING!"
- "God's People in God's Place Again."

The course is designed to be "pictorial", and there is a banner of which the children complete a section of after each lesson. It provides a fun craft activity and a great learning tool.

Due to introductory lessons, Young Families' Weekend Away and Easter, we have completed only the first four sections as it was felt it would be better to stretch each lesson over two weeks to allow consolidation as it is such a broadbrush view.

Term 4 2019:

Curriculum based on the “Chosen Too” curriculum, purchased from Children’s Ministry Deals 2019.

<https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/>

The aim of the curriculum is to help the children to learn that they can choose to follow Jesus our Saviour. It focuses on the fact that each of us are chosen by God for a special purpose, but we must be willing to accept what God asks of us. Mary was chosen to love her son Jesus, Joseph was chosen to lead an unlikely family, the shepherds were chosen to find a saviour, and the magi were chosen to follow. All of this was possible because God chose to show his love for us by sending his Son Jesus to be our Saviour.

- CHOSEN TOO: CHOSEN TO LOVE The Angel Visits Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- CHOSEN TOO: CHOSEN TO LEAD The Angel Visits Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24)
- CHOSEN TOO: CHOSEN TO FIND The Angels Visit The Shepherds (Luke 2:1-20)
- CHOSEN TOO: CHOSEN TO FOLLOW The Star Leads The Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)
- CHOSEN TOO: CHOSEN TO PROCLAIM The Angels Visit The Shepherds (Luke 2:1-20)
- CHOSEN TOO: CHOSEN TO WORSHIP Simeon Praises the Lord (Luke 2:25-35)

Term 1-2 2020:

“Being a Kingdom Kid” based on the Wordless Book (Charles Spurgeon), Kid’s Evangelism Explosion (Evangelism Explosion International) and CEP C2 Curriculum. The aim of the curriculum is to help the children to understand the Gospel as a ‘map’ that takes us through the Bible, points us to Jesus and shows us how to get to Heaven. It also aims to get the children to consider their own responses to Jesus’ offer of salvation and to come to understand what it means to be a Christian – a Kingdom Kid.

- Going on a Journey
- Creation
- Sin
- Jesus’ Death
- Forgiveness
- Faith and the Holy Spirit
- Heaven
- Commitment.

Once again each lesson extended over two weeks to allow consolidation and personal reflection and understanding.

Term 3 2020:

Continuation of “Being a Kingdom Kid” with the focus on discipleship. This curriculum is based on the CEP C2 Curriculum.

The aim of the curriculum is to help the children to understand and explore what living as a follower of Jesus looks like for them in a personal way. The children will come to understand and be encouraged to adopt the different ways in which they

can be 'better friends with Jesus', to strengthen their relationship with Him and to continue to out their faith and trust in Him as their 'forever King and Saviour'.

- Kingdom Kids Read the Bible.
- Kingdom Kids Talk to God in Prayer.
- Kingdom Kids Praise and Give Thanks to God.
- Kingdom Kids Honour God.
- Kingdom Kids Meet with Each Other.
- Kingdom Kids Tell Others About Jesus.
- Kingdom Kids Are Joyful and Don't Have to Worry.

Lessons have gone online since the end of March 2020 due to the cessation of face-to-face lessons due to Covid-19. A system has also been set-up whereby craft and goodies are dropped off to each of the families every Saturday afternoon. This has been a great way of maintaining some socially distanced contact with the kids and parents.

Highlights for 2019-2020:

- During this time, we have had six new children join us in Kingdom Kids – two new families and current family additions.
- Up until the cessation of face-to-face lessons due to Covid-19, we had consistent attendance of children each week which enabled consistent engagement in the lessons and carry over of learning. It also meant the children were more settled and friendships were formed within the group. Within the older group, the children have become more comfortable with discussing and sharing ideas as well as reading the Bible out loud.
- In March 2019 we held the Young families' weekend away. Although only one family ended up staying down at Kiama for the whole weekend, all families came together on the Saturday for swimming, a picnic, fun on the jumping pillow and in the water play area. All parents enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and get to know each other better, particularly our new families.
- Involvement of the children in the Easter services allowed us all to remember and celebrate God's amazing sacrifice for us as a whole church family. One of the parents told me that their child had really grasped a deeper understanding of what Easter is all about because of their involvement in the service and preparation leading up to this. There were also several positive comments from general congregation members regarding having the children involved.
- Kids' Fun Day was run on the last Friday of the July 2019 school holidays. Eighteen school- aged children had a fun-filled day – eight from St John's Keiraville and ten from other churches and contacts. Twenty – six wonderful volunteers gave up their time leading up to and on the day to make the day a great success. The day consisted of worship and learning time as well as two workshops (a choice of Soccer, Face Painting, Lego Building or Craft) and challenge activities. There was also a parent café and prayer team. It was a wonderful time of coming together as God's people and working together as a church family to serve God and reach out to our local community.
- Involvement of the children in two musical items at the Wiseman Park Carols was so heart warming and once again a great opportunity for the children to feel very much a part of our church family. It was also a great time of strengthening

relationships between the kids, between kids and the congregation and between the parents.

SRE:

Volunteers: Lisa Delaney (currently co-teaching Yrs 3-4 2019; solo teaching Yrs 5-6 2020); other volunteers are members of St Michaels and Salt churches.

SRE Co-ordinator: Andy Stevenson (St Michaels).

Schools:

Gwynneville Public School

Co-ordinator: Christine

Kinder: 10

Yr 1-2: 20

Yr 3-4: 7

Yr 5-6: 20

Keiraville Public School

Co-ordinator: Pam Maranesi (2019); Jan Breslan (2020).

Kinder: 15

Yr 1-2: 30

Yr 3-4: 27

Yr 5-6: 30

Highlights for 2019-2020:

- Have started to build a relationship with school SRE Co-ordinators at both schools.
- Getting to know and building firmer relationships with students in classes at both schools.
- Consistent attendance in both classes although SRE classes across all grades have lost students due to a push by Ethics.
- Getting to know and building relationships with office staff and principals at both schools.
- Involvement of St John's Keiraville members in the Keiraville Public School Fete on a number of different stalls as well as donations of baked goods and other items. It was a great opportunity to strengthen the ties with our local public school and to show practically the love of Jesus to our neighbours.

Plans for 2020-2021:

- Continue to encourage involvement of the children in weekly church services eg welcoming, prayer, bible reading, leading worship (once face-to-face gathering resumes).
- Provision of Leader and Parent Workshop providing information on children's faith development and support in helping children to own their own faith (Tim Beilharz Youthworks).
- Investigate opportunities for children to be involved in a community project and/or fundraising activity for 2021.
- Plan for Kids Fun Day in July holidays –July 2021.
- Investigate and encourage opportunities for SJK volunteers to be involved with teaching/ assisting in SRE in 2021.

- Commencement of some preliminary discussions and strategic planning for recommencement of Youth Ministry as we now have two preteens and one teen in our church family.
- Exploring some options for supporting the parents of St John's in discipling their children as well as encouraging the strengthening of their own faith and relationships with Jesus. (??Young Families' Bible Study).

Conclusion:

Thank you to Rev John Reed for his support and guidance in performing my role here at St John's and for the way in which he values children and young families. Thank you also to the Wardens , Parish Council and members of our St John's family for their support, encouragement and prayers and their willingness to be involved in activities that uphold and support the Children's and Young Families' ministry here. Lastly, but in no way the least, a huge thank you to the parents who have provided amazing support and encouragement to me in this role and a willingness to be involved in the different events and activities.

Lisa Delaney
Children's and Family Worker
20th July 2020.