

## **Annual PCC - Education Group Report 2015-2016 -**

This group now consists of Jo Williams (Scramblers), Emily Davies, Peter Rixson, [Sue Halliwell], Bill Macdonald (chair), Clare Tozer (Climbers), Camilla Brown, Katharine Stanley and Phil Smith (PCC Representative).

During the last 12 months the Education Group looked at a number of issues including:

### **1. Child protection:**

A total of 19 people have been taken through the DBS clearance process during the past 12 months. The Education Group have requested that an up to date list of volunteers who have received clearance be kept in the church office.

Last summer Kathryn Aitken decided to step down from her roles as DBS assistant and Junior Church Leader (the latter after nearly 20 years of valued service!) This role is now being filled by Veronica Brand, who (with Bill Macdonald) will be responsible for taking people through the DBS process. Kathryn also resigned from her role as Child Protection Officer, again after several years in that position – and this task has also taken on by Bill Macdonald. The need for child protection (safeguarding) training, whilst not urgent at present, will be kept under review.

The church's Policy and Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults is currently being amended and updated to reflect these changes.

The diocesan safeguarding adviser (Chris Lees) has also been informed.

2. Messy Church: Following the successful launch of the 'Messy Church' at St Michael's, the Group fully supported Emily's plans to hold a monthly event as an effective way to bring in more young children into the church family, and would be assisting her in seeking additional volunteers (the events are very 'labour intensive').

3. Junior Church Attendance: Numbers of children attending Junior Church continue to fall, and as a consequence, the Scramblers and Climbers Groups have decided to combine. Bill Macdonald (as Chair of the Group) brought this issue before the November PCC meeting. Matters discussed included:

- Holding more 'family friendly' social events.
- The relationship between Junior Church and St Michael's school.
- The relative roles of choir and Junior Church in the life of the church.

On the latter, the PCC supported the view of the Education group that there was scope for the two groups to work together more closely – supporting and valuing each other's contribution to children's Christian development. The PCC have asked Bill Macdonald, Robert Stokeley and Richard Carr to get together to discuss this issue and report back.