



ST PETER'S
AT THE CROSS

Parent's Handbook



A note to Parents & Caregivers

We are so excited to enter a new year with our children and young people! GPS

As we partner in our ministry together, we would love you to prayerfully consider ways you can get involved. We know the life of our parents/caregivers can be busy and hectic, but we recognise the importance of having caring adults investing in our children and young people's lives. You may wish to commit to pray regularly for the ministry or consider being practically involved. There are many ways to use your talent and skills within the youth church and we would love to hear from you.

Please know that if there are any ways that we can support you or care for your child more intentionally don't hesitate to contact me.

If you have any questions, suggestions or just want to chat, please feel free to find me on a Sunday morning, email me childrenandyouth@chesterstpeter.org.uk or through the church office on 01244 403634

I can't wait to see all that God will do in and through your families this year



With Love and prayers
Cath Jones – Children and Youth Missioner

What's on at St. Peter's

SUNDAY MORINGS

Our Sunday service starts at 10.30 but you can join us earlier to share refreshments together. We have a welcome point where the children can sign in and connect with the leaders before the service starts. We all start the service together then the children and youth leave the main congregation and go to their groups.



GPS – 5-10yrs

GPS stand for God's Party Squad because we have fun with God and with each other and explore how God directs us!. We play games, discover God's word in fun ways and share snacks together.



ROCK is our older group for 11-15 yrs. Years 11+ are encouraged to develop leadership skills within this group. Games and snacks are a must, but we also delve into what God is doing in our lives.



Under 5's have an area in the main church where parents/carers can be with their young children and remain in the service. We are very relaxed and appreciate little ones can make noise so please relax! There is always a selection of toys available plus an activity themed on the service topic.

Busy Bags. If your child prefers to remain in the service with you there is a selection of busy bags available with activities that can be done in their seats. These can be found with the toys in the children's area

All Together Services are services where we are.... wait for it.... All together!!!! We also share breakfast together throughout the service. Dates for these services will be on the term cards and we encourage all the family to worship together.

Lockdown! While we can not meet in church both groups meet together via zoom on a Sunday morning during the service. Each week the children and young people receive a church pack that has a workbook based on the subject for that week. Rock and GPS follow

the same teaching scheme as each other but the workbooks are different with age appropriate activities. Where possible we follow the same teaching schedule as the Church.

Birthdays. We love to sing happy birthday at the beginning of the service if your child has had a birthday in the week. We appreciate some children may not like this, so we don't do it automatically. Please let us know if you would like the occasion marked.

Going into groups. We ask that you encourage your child to leave the service at the appointed time if they wish to join the group. Children coming in late or leaving during the group time can disrupt the other children and dynamics of the lesson. Some weeks the youth church will have their teaching in another location and there will not be an opportunity to join late so we encourage the habit to form each week we are at church. You will be informed when the children sign in where the group will be meeting.

All the youth church programs follow the same teaching plan as the main service. We want the whole family to experience the same teaching no matter where they spend their time in church.

OTHER REGULAR ACTIVITIES



Zoom 4 God

Each week our small group meets on a Tuesday night from 6pm to 7pm via Zoom. This group is aimed at 10 and up and we focus on what the bible can teach us about our everyday lives. We anticipate this group continuing to meet via Zoom even after lockdown.

Sunday Socials

Once a month we meet on a Sunday afternoon to have fun together. It may be a movie night, playing games or heading out to go bowling. It is a great opportunity for the young people to get to know each other on a deeper level and have fun in a safe, supportive environment.

Discipleship

During the year there are opportunities for the young people to explore their faith more deeply with small groups that meet mid-week. Please get in touch if you think your child would like to take part.

Parenting with Faith

Parents can be the biggest influencers to a child's faith but sometimes it's hard to know how to share our own faith with them in the home. If you would like to attend a 6-session course on raising faith, please express your interest as these run on an ad hoc basis.

Family Days

From March 2020 we aim to have an event each term that is for the family. It is an opportunity for the children and young people to have fun with each other, with their families and gives them the opportunity to invite friends who are not part of the church.

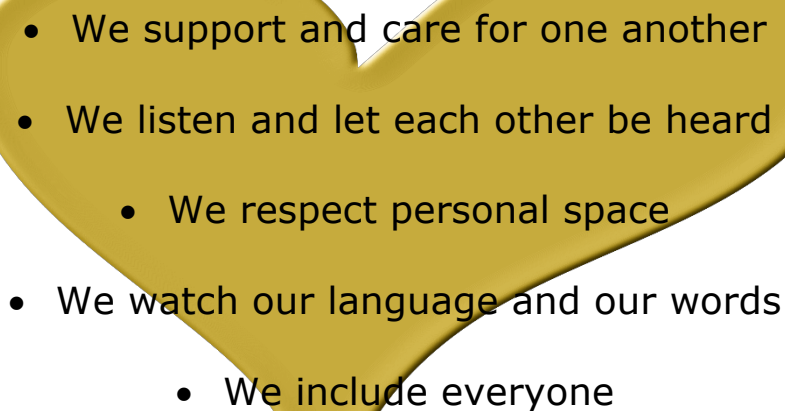
St. Peter's weekend away

The weekend away is a great chance for the children to grow in their friendships with each other and in their relationship with God. There is a separate program for the children and young people and plenty of opportunity to be part of the whole church activities.

Our Code of Conduct

At St. Peter's we are committed to providing a safe space for everyone who is involved in the church. The children and young people developed together our 5 golden rules to enable our groups to be fun, supportive and safe. We encourage you as parents to reinforce these guidelines while your child is in your care at church.

Golden rules

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- We support and care for one another
 - We listen and let each other be heard
 - We respect personal space
 - We watch our language and our words
 - We include everyone

Health and Safety

As our church is an old building there are a lot of areas that are can be considered a safety risk. While your child is in the care of the children's ministry team, we do our upmost to ensure that risk is minimal. During the times the children are not in Sunday group we ask that you keep close eye on where they are.

Mobile devices

We ask that you supervise the use of devices by the children in your care while at St. Peter's. Please ensure the content is suitable and the sound is muted. We do not allow the children and young people to use their phones in their groups.

Safeguarding

St. Peter's Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding. If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding, or you can talk to any other the leaders and our safe guarding officer. All our leaders have current DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

Registration and GDPR

When your child first joins in with any of the groups or activities, we ask that a registration form is filled in. This will contain details of the child and parent contact details. We are GDPR compliant and any personal data is stored securely. You will also be asked to sign a permission form that enables us to take your child off site for their group time. You will always be informed of the details of the location and be encouraged to discuss any concerns you may have.

Child to Adult Ratio

We follow the recommended ratio of children to adults and always have 2 adults with Explore no matter how small the group is. Excite follow an 'open door' policy if there are not two leaders.

Useful contacts and website links

Cath Jones – children and youth missionary
childrenandyouth@chesterstpeter.org.uk

Church Office - 01244 403634
parishadmin@chesterstpeter.org.uk

St. Peter's website
www.chesterstpeter.org.uk