



# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## Parents and Toddlers



One of the early outcomes of the appointment of a series of dedicated community workers in the 1980s and 1990s was the setting up of a successful Mothers and Toddlers group which met on two afternoons a week in the church hall, drawing in families from outside the regular congregation. A Toy Library was set up in 1996, and the group was still flourishing well into the 00s, when its role was perhaps superceded by the new government Children's Centres.



In 1998, a new initiative saw the introduction of 'Tinies', a short mid-week service for pre-school children and their carers. While the name changed several times over the years, the concept is still going now entitled Little Angels.





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## Younger Children



The Sunday School children make Brian a Farewell card



Sunday School children in the car park

The number of families with children attending St Michael's meant that it had a thriving Sunday School with between 60 and 70 on the role in 1978. For older children, Sunday at 10 provided an opportunity for discussion while their parents were in church, and social activities such as theatre trips.

Following the appointment of a new Youth and Family worker in 2002, a weekday group for 7s-16s was launched under the title, Eco Club. It ran for three years, during which time a monthly children's page was included in the church newsletter.



Harvest Festival

Between 2007 and 2015, Junior Drama offered this age group another opportunity to get together and to build self confidence and develop self expression. At the end of each year, there was an annual show to which families and members of the congregation were invited. These performances included Snow White, The Ugly Duckling and Winnie-the-Pooh.



Sunday School in the Hall



SOME OF THE DWARFS



Christmas



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## Youth Clubs

‘Completely unique..... one of the best youth clubs in the country’

Commendation of St Michael’s Youth Club by the Buckinghamshire Association of Youth Clubs.



Youth Group Residential Weekend



Friday Club at the Carnival



Youth Group Progressive Supper



When two young people approached Brian Griffiths in 1970, telling him there was nothing for them to do in Amersham, and he asked his then curate, Noel Whale, to start a youth group, he cannot have foreseen that it would flourish for over 30 years, with would-be members being added to the waiting list five years before they were old enough to join the Club.

Together with the Friday Club, for 10-14 year olds, it chalked up many sporting victories in countywide competitions, and in 1991 made the final of a national cookery competition.

The Clubs aimed to provide an environment where young people could grow in confidence and respect for themselves and others. Its success in achieving this can be seen in the way it grew its own leaders, and expanded its activities into the wider community such as running an annual party for senior citizens which regularly attracted 100 guests.



Youth Group at the Carnival

*“We used to visit Pratt House, and The Leys, entertaining the residents with old time songs and just chatting to them. Also we would go carol singing at Christmas.*

*We held tea parties in the Hall for members of the congregation and family members, putting on entertainment.*

*I think my funniest memory is when we took part in the Amersham carnival. Our theme was four and twenty blackbirds. I was one of the birds. We made our masks from black crepe paper. It was a very wet day. By the time we took our masks off, we all had rather black faces. I found this funny; some of the others didn't.*

*We had a trip to Richmond to go midnight ice skating. When the coach arrived, one of the windows had been broken. As it was winter, it was rather cold – good excuse to cuddle up.”*

Memories of a former member of St Michael’s Youth Group