



Junior Church

What is Junior Church?

Junior Church is an informal session organised for our children during the 10.00 am service other than on the first Sunday of the month (Family Service) or major festivals (Easter, Harvest, Mothering Sunday etc).

Children are in church for the beginning of the service and leave with the adult helpers at the beginning of the second hymn (just before the Gospel).

We cater for children from about three up to any age. In practice, we find that we deal with four to thirteen or fourteen year olds. Younger children seem to cope well when they have got used to being in nursery. (Very young children are looked after in the crèche).

There is no upper age limit. Older children are welcome at all sessions, although some are involved in the Junior Choir and those who have been confirmed like to stay in the service or help out as servers.

One Sunday a month, secondary school children go to Café Notso and we have an exclusive “little” group.

Sessions are organised by a leader, who plans the activity. The second adult is there as helper/supporter. In addition, we often have help from parents attending to encourage nervous newcomers!

No two sessions are the same, but we would normally include a Bible story, some discussion about parallels between that story and the children’s daily lives and an activity connected with the theme (painting, drawing, drama, model making, cooking...).

Refreshers Sunday



How much time is involved?

At the moment our team of four leaders does one Sunday a month. A leader needs to spend a little time planning the session and to arrive a bit before the service to arrange the room as required. (We meet in the Upper Room of the Church Hall). Helpers come straight into the service and leave at the second hymn when we all troop over. Because we have a few extra helpers, their

commitment is about once every six weeks. Obviously, the more help there is, the less commitment there is for each of us!

*What is worthwhile or enjoyable
about this activity?*

The worthwhile part lies in helping our youngest members find out a little more about the faith we share. We are often in the privileged position of getting to know the new families at King Charles and are often a helpful point of reference.

The enjoyable part is devising activities that we choose to do and enjoy and sharing them with younger people. Many strong friendships have developed among the team of leaders and helpers and we get a lot of positive feedback from parents who appreciate that their children are being looked after during the service and are kept busy, happy and safe.

*Are there any particular skills or abilities that are helpful for
volunteers to have?*

No!

Please don't think that you need to be a teacher! You don't even have to be a parent!

You need to be able to talk to children on their terms, help them with activities and, if a leader, think of two or three things to do in a session. Everybody has something they can share with our children – story telling? Sewing? Singing? It's your choice.

*Is any training available if I would like
to be involved?*

There is no formal training, although a number of our present leaders started as helpers, got a feel for what went on and gradually felt able to “step up”. Anyone interested in exploring this further is welcome to contact Mary Anne or just wander over one Sunday to see what goes on. (There is one formality, however, in that anyone working with young people must agree to a Criminal Records Bureau check).

Who should I contact to find out more or to become involved?

Please contact **Mary Anne Lockie**; 01892 532765. maryanne.lockie@btopenworld.com