

Dear Parent/Carer/Grandparent,

Well we are now well and truly in the throes of everything September brings. There is always much excitement as we start afresh with a new academic year. But, with this excitement, there often comes an element of anticipation – or even concern – about what the year will bring. It is with this in mind that we invite you to join us for a Parents' 'Prayer Space' on Monday 19th September, 8-9pm, in the church. This will be an opportunity for us, as parents, to give to Jesus everything that faces our children/families this year.

This term sees also the launch of 'Messy Church' here at St Sebastian's. See below for dates/details and watch out for a more detailed explanation on Sunday mornings. In this letter you will also find details of all aspects of the Children's Ministry at St Seb's including an outline of what is being taught on a Sunday morning, and ideas as to how you can explore further at home. Whether you are new to the children's activities at St Seb's, or already part of the furniture, we'd love to see you at various events throughout the term.

The Space Place continues at 9.50-11.15am on the second Sunday of every month, although we will have a break in Nov/Dec for the all-age Remembrance (13/11/16) and Christingle (11/12/16)



services to be held in the main church. The Space Place is a children's service, complete with worship, drama, prayers, games and crafts and a crèche for the littlies (who will also have a chance to explore the theme of the service and join in with the singing). Each of our services focuses on one 'Superhero' from the bible and we use their story to explore an

aspect of the Christian life in more depth. In September, we looked at Jonah and, in October, we will be looking at the life of Moses. Parents are welcome to stay with us at The Space Place if that suits your family (or even if you are simply curious as to what we get up to) but, of course, feel free to leave us to it if that's better!

Space Trekkers has seen a few changes this term as LOADS of fabulous new leaders have come forward! The children will now split into two groups – Satellites (Reception-yr 2) and Rockets (yr 3-6): feel free to pop over to the school hall with your child to introduce yourself to their new leaders. After the success of last year's topic 'Who is Jesus?' we will be investigating the question 'Who is God?' over the course of the next year. We will also be looking at the various festivals that come our way this term in the liturgical calendar: Harvest, Advent and Christmas.



Last year saw the introduction of **The Prayer Space** for children when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Run by our Prayer Space team, the response by the children was hugely encouraging, so we have decided to continue them this year, starting on October 30th. This time our Prayer Space will be centred upon the idea of Light and Dark, and will give the children opportunities to pray in creative ways, with our youth band leading us in worship.

We have also decided to introduce a regular Prayer Space to Space Trekkers during every session. This space is designed to be reflective and improvisatory, where children (and leaders!) can pass through praying by themselves, with each other, out loud, silently, or by engaging in some simple planned creative-prayer activities.

Little Angels will continue to meet on every other Friday morning in the parish centre. This term we will be looking at various figures from the Old Testament: Noah, Joseph, David and Jeremiah. We will be visited by Mr Bible who, during snack time, will entertain us with the week's story, before the children have a chance to respond with a simple craft. Our ever-popular music spot will continue with a mix of preschool favourites and early-years' worship with, of course, coffee and cake for parents. We will be taking some time to think about advent on December 2nd before our annual Christmas party to be held on Friday December 16th.



Our first **Messy Church** is planned for Friday October 14th and it will be held in the church after school, 3.15-4.45pm – the theme of this first session will be Harvest, please drop in as suits and bring a friend! Children will be fed and watered upon arrival, and there'll also be refreshments for

parents. The theme will be explored using a variety of fun and interactive activities before some simple teaching, for all the family, at the end. All accompanied children, of any age, welcome. You are also warmly invited to our Christmas Messy Church on Friday 9th December where we will also be decorating the Christmas tree.

St Sebs' family service, **Sunday 4**, is held on the fourth Sunday of each month and is continuing to go 'Through the Keyhole...' to explore a different biblical home each time. Held in the church at 10am, everyone sits round tables, café-style, and squash, tea and cake are served as part of

Sunday **4**

the service! The service is interactive with videos, games, challenges, music, and there's even an Under-5s areas to take the strain away from parents. We don't want to reveal which homes we're going into just yet...come and take part in our video quiz at the beginning of the services to work it out for yourselves!

What you can do...

It is such a privilege getting to see the children coming to Jesus, getting to know Him more and seeing Him blessing them. There are many ways your child can continue to get to know Jesus better – here are a few ideas that may help you:

- Pray WITH your child each day. Pray FOR your child each day. Pray OVER your child when sleeping/cuddling them.
- Talk to them about Jesus, and let them talk to you about Jesus.
- Read age-appropriate Bible story/activity books together.
- Play simple worship CDs at different times and places (in the car, at bedtime, etc.).
- Take an interest in their group activities at church and talk about things they bring home. Find out the stories and songs they are learning and repeat them at home.

If I can help point you in the right direction of resources for your family's use, please don't hesitate to drop me an e-mail at children@stsebastians.org.uk. Please feel free to get in touch about anything concerning your child.

Looking forward to seeing you at our events throughout the term.

Rachel Jeremiah

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