

## Children's Craft Workshops (Beckley)

Beckley Church or The Abingdon Arms, Beckley.

Check the Four Parishes News Magazine ([www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine)) for times, or ask to be on the mailing list.

Contact: Betty Dye  
[betty.dye10@gmail.com](mailto:betty.dye10@gmail.com)

The Children's Craft Workshops take place approximately once a month, usually on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon from 3.30 - 4.30pm. They are aimed at primary school children and are run by the 'Acting the Bible' and 'Crafty Church' teams - but you don't need to have attended either of those to come and join in the fun.

Children must be accompanied by an adult please. There are light refreshments and opportunities for conversations.

Please do book in by emailing Betty Dye beforehand at [betty.dye10@gmail.com](mailto:betty.dye10@gmail.com).

*The painting on the front cover is by Pip Rutherford and is a modern interpretation of a stained glass window in the North Aisle of St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill.*

*Jesus is saying "Suffer [allow] little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven".  
(King James Bible, Matthew 19 v14)*

## Family Church does Forest Church (Horton-cum-Studley) Bernwood Forest 4th Sunday of the month, 3-4pm (winter), 4-5pm (summer)

Contact: Anthea Beresford  
[anthea@fourparishes.org.uk](mailto:anthea@fourparishes.org.uk)

Laura Mermet-Burnet from Horton-cum-Studley leads Family Church, along with Anthea, our vicar.

Family Church meets in Bernwood Forest as 'Forest Church'. Worship, including a short Bible reading and prayers, is intermingled with outdoor play, woodcraft, conversation, a walk, and an opportunity for appreciation of the natural world. Our relaxed get togethers always end with refreshments of cake and fruit. Attendees can bring their dogs along.

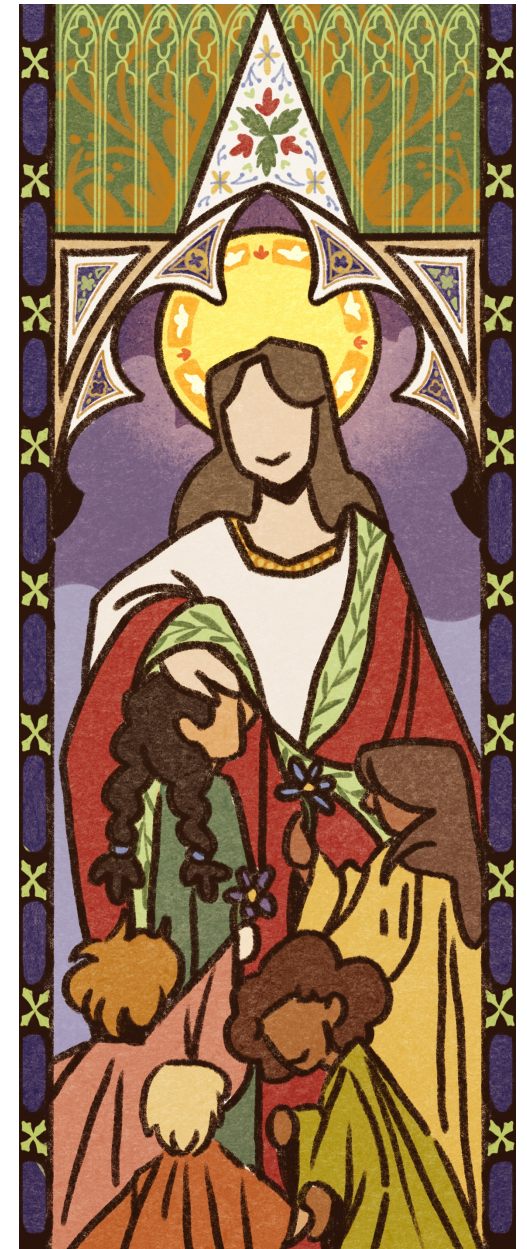
Worship and learning through play and walking is a family friendly activity and the children really engage with it. All ages and not just families are warmly welcome! An adult needs to accompany the children please.



Family Church

**Four Parishes Benefice**  
[www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk)

# Children and Families in the Four Parishes



Joint Benefice of

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley St. Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover  
St. Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John

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St Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley  
St John the Baptist, Stanton St John

### Activities for younger children and families in the Four Parishes (Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley and Horton-cum-Studley)

Families with children are always welcome to join in worship at any of our four village churches, but we do have some regular activities which are particularly suitable for younger children.

In 2022 we started some new activities in the Four Parishes to augment Family Church which had been running for some time, even though there have been developments with that too. All these activities are intended to be of special interest to pre-school and primary school children and their families, but of course everyone is welcome to them all! With all the activities, parents, or another adult, must accompany the children, please.

Each activity is different, but they compliment each other. You might be more drawn to one than the other, but please do think about trying them all. Those who have, have had a great time. A warm and friendly welcome awaits you!

## Children's Church (Forest Hill)

### St Nicolas Church

1st Sunday of the month, 4-4.30pm

Contact: Julia Stutfield  
julia.stutfield@gmail.com

Children's Church is led by Anthea, our vicar, together with Julia Stutfield from Forest Hill, who is a member of the 'Acting the Bible' team.

Children's Church lasts 30 minutes and includes a Bible reading, followed by a drama of it in 'Acting the Bible' style, songs led by members of the St Nicolas Choir, and prayers. Children and adults all join in rehearsing and acting out the drama, using scripts with stage directions specifically written for use in St Nicolas Church.

The songs are a mixture of traditional hymns and modern worship songs and children are welcome to join the choir for this (contact Julia Stutfield for more information).

Our vision for Children's Church is to provide a place where we can introduce young children to the essential elements of a service in church, by presenting them in a brief and accessible format.

In spite of the fact that we meet in a beautiful historic building, the atmosphere is informal and friendly and we are passionate about making children and their families feel comfortable and welcome. Everyone is welcome to stay and chat afterwards.

## Crafty Church (Stanton St John)

### Stanton St John Village Hall

2nd Sunday of the month, 4-5pm

Contact: Betty Dye  
betty.dye10@gmail.com

Crafty Church is led by Anthea, our vicar, together with Betty Dye, who leads the 'Acting the Bible' team.

Crafty Church lasts an hour: 40 minutes for activities including a Bible reading, followed by a drama of it in 'Acting the Bible' style, singing and prayer, and 20 minutes for a craft activity linked to the theme of the day, during which we chat and have drinks and cakes. An adult needs to accompany the children please.

### 'Acting the Bible'

The Four Parishes 'Acting the Bible' team (previously known as 'Open the Book') leads assembly once a fortnight in Beckley School. The team take stories fresh from the pages of the Bible, and make them into mini dramas, to be acted out by themselves, together with Beckley schoolchildren. Through this, it is hoped that the Bible stories are brought alive, and remembered by the children, especially as they too are involved in the acting.

The team is led by Betty Dye, a Licensed Lay Reader, and includes members from Forest Hill and Beckley. They meet once a fortnight to write the scripts, with the aim of adhering as closely as possible to the original Bible texts. This often involves comparing different Bible translations and even reading the New Testament in the original Greek!