



St. Peter's

F I L T O N

Youth and Family Policy

Issue 2

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Prepared (date)	June 2018
Adopted (date)	
Date to be reviewed	
Signed, PCC Chairman	



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Youth and Family Policy

- Children are full and valued members of the Church. It is important that they learn about the Christian faith and contribute to the life of the Church community.
- We have a variety of different activities taking place at St Peter's, to appeal to children and young people of all ages.
- The Tiny Tots service runs every other Monday during term time. Please see page 3 for more information.
- The Sunday Club is open to children and young people of all ages and meets every Sunday in the Hall.
- Throughout the year we hold additional Family Days, provided by the Youth Leadership Team. Further details of these can be found on the website and newsheet.
- Our Youth Leadership team is run by Debs Williams. Debs is a qualified primary teacher with specialisms in music and autism. She has worked within youth work in both sacred and secular settings for the past 10 years. She focuses on learning through arts and play at St Peter's, and emphasises the idea that the children should be given balanced information and make their own informed choices. The Sunday Club has an "open question" attitude to biblical teaching and thoroughly love debating topical stories in relation to our faith.
- St Peter's has a Youth Council, run by the Youth Worker, so that children have a voice in the provisions of the Church. These are then fed back to the PCC (Governing Body of the Church) for consideration.



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Tiny Tots

- Tiny Tots meets every other Monday at 1.45pm in the Church. Please see the website for details of the next meeting.
- Tiny Tots welcomes children from the age of 0-5.
- Tiny Tots is a very informal gathering; we all sit on the floor in the Lady Chapel.
- You will have the opportunity to take part in a Bible story, song and craft activity, followed by a drink and biscuit. You even get the chance to ring the Church bell!
- All are welcome and the service is free!



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Sunday Club – General Information

- The Sunday Club is run every Sunday from 10-11am when the children then join the rest of the congregation in Church. Please note that you will not be able to drop off your child until 9.45am.
- Most Sundays, unless otherwise advised, the Sunday Club meets in the Church Hall.
- The Sunday Club welcomes children of all ages. However, if you intend to leave your child with us, they must be a minimum of 4 years old and able to use the toilet. If your child does not meet these criteria, please speak to us and we will do our best to accommodate you. For example, you may wish to join the Church service and keep your phone on silent-vibrate so that we can text you if you need to attend to your child.
- If you do not intend to stay with your child, the expectation is that you will be in the Church, unless you have agreed different arrangements, by prior discussion with the leader in charge. It is your responsibility to come and find your child at the end of the service. *Unless specified on the registration form, your child will remain with us until the end of the service.*
- The leader in charge of Sunday Club is Debs Williams. As stated in the overarching policy, Debs is a qualified teacher and youth worker of 10 years. She is well experienced in caring for children with additional needs and following family plans and safeguarding procedures.
- Each week in Sunday Club we help children and young people to engage in the Christian faith in a way that is age appropriate and seeks to foster their own understanding of what it means to be a Christian. They will learn Bible stories and Christian ethics, and most importantly do so in a fun, supportive and nurturing environment.
- At the end of each Sunday Club, the children join the rest of the congregation in Church to show off what they have been working on!
- In addition to the regular Sunday Club meetings, children are also invited to join in with the Uniformed Organisations' Church Parades and at other child-specific services through the year such as Mothering Sunday and Harvest. Children are encouraged to take an active part in the service, for example, doing readings or collections.
- The Sunday Club puts on a Nativity play each Christmas.

- Occasionally Sunday Club children may be able to take part in off-site activities, for example walking to the local park if the weather is nice. Separate permission forms will be available for off-site activities.
- In order to join the Sunday Club, each child must have a completed Registration Form and Emergency Contact Form (copies attached). These forms must be signed and updated on an annual basis. Copies are kept in the Sunday Club file. Any information you give us is held in the strictest confidence, and is for Clergy use only. Information will not be shared with outside agencies unless a child protection issue arises, in which case we are obligated to do so.
- *If your child is unable to attend on a particular Sunday, please contact Debs to let her know.*

Contact Details

Debs Williams 0117 967 9605 or Deborah.Williams@sovereign.org.uk

If you are unable to contact Debs, as a last resort, please contact the Rector who can pass on a message to the leader on the day.

Rev'd Lizzie Gregory 0117 931 2808 / 07452 992 122

rector@stpeterschurchilton.com



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Sunday Club – Rules and Safeguarding

- The Sunday Club works to the Child Protection Policy of the Church of England. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org>

- The Sunday Club is up to date with the Diocesan policy on DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and all volunteers follow the Church policy on Safeguarding. A copy of the Church Safeguarding policy is available on request and is also kept at the back of Church.
- Each week we ensure that we meet the Diocese regulations on the ratio of adults to children. In the unlikely event that there are not enough adults, the children are taken through to the Coffee Shop at the back of Church.
- The Sunday Club is covered by the Church Insurance policy, both in the Church/Church Hall, and also out and about as part of Sunday Club activities.
- A Sunday Club volunteer will do everything possible to avoid being alone in a room with a single child. A volunteer will not send an older child off with a younger child to a room by themselves. Sunday Club volunteers will always try to work with a small group of children.
- If a child is upset, uncomfortable or asks to go back to their parents/carers, a volunteer will text the parent/carer and request that they come to Sunday Club for their child. If this is not possible, and the ratio of adults to children allows, the child will be escorted back to their parent/carer.
- If a child is hurt, the parent/carer will be notified immediately if any first aid is required. If the injury is life-threatening, the Sunday Club volunteer will call 999 first, and then the parent/carer. Please ensure you have signed an emergency treatment form, clearly specifying your wishes.
- Please note that, in order to prevent accidents, the stage is not safe for children to play on, or climb on. Children are not allowed in the kitchen unless accompanied by an adult.
- If the accident is minor, the parent/carer will be notified after the service.

- In all cases, accidents will be registered in the accident book which is kept in the Church Hall.
- Parents and carers are always welcome in Sunday Club.
- Any adult without children in the Sunday Club may help out occasionally. When a new adult is helping, a Sunday Club volunteer must be present. If you would like to help out in the Sunday Club, come and talk to Debs or Rev'd Lizzie. You would be very welcome.
- In the case of a Sunday Club volunteer being under the age of 18, an adult must be present. No children should be left at the Sunday Club until handed over to an adult helper.
- In case of fire, the Sunday Club volunteers will evacuate the Church or Hall following the parish Fire Evacuation Plan.
- If a parent or carer is concerned about any aspect of the Sunday Club, he/she is encouraged to speak to the Youth Worker, Debs Williams. If the parent or carer does not feel that their concerns have been adequately addressed, they should contact the Rector.
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Rector and Youth Worker and passed by the PCC.
- For the purposes of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation 2018), a child is defined as being <13 years. However, in line with St Peter's safeguarding policy, permission will be sought from a young person's parents until they reach 18.



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Facilities for Children and Families

- We recognise that children play an extremely valuable role in the life of the Church and St Peter's aims to provide as many facilities as possible to make children and families feel welcome.
- The Sunday Club welcomes all children and the leader will do everything she can to accommodate different needs. Please discuss any concerns with her.
- On attending a church service, sidespeople (wearing a name badge) will be there to welcome you. If you have any concerns or requirements, please speak to them. They will be happy to help.
- Booklets to help guide children through services will be available for use when a child or young person is in church. Please ask a sidesperson for one as you enter.
- Baby changing facilities are available in the Church and the Church Hall.
- A table has been set up at the back of the Church should your child wish to play during a service.
- The St Peter's Room (at one side of the hall) or the Coffee Shop (at the back of the Church) are available for women who wish to nurse their child during worship or Youth and Family activities.
- As you and/or your child grow in the Christian faith, you may wish to explore the option of Baptism and Confirmation. Details can be found on the website, and Debs or Rev'd Lizzie will be more than happy to discuss this in further detail.
- Children's opinions are important at St Peter's. They are encouraged by the Youth Worker Debs to think about their part in St Peter's and their views will be represented at the PCC (the governing body of the church). If you have any comments or views which you feel would enhance the life of young people and families at St Peter's, please e-mail or speak to Debs or Rev'd Lizzie.