



Introducing Louise Young

Louise Young tells her story of moving to a new village with 3 young children.

A vicar's wife, new to the area, knowing no-one, managing commuting and a demanding job, raising three young, lively boys!

She expressed how she felt “warmly welcomed, but... there was a serious lack of children’s work”.

Over a 2-year period, Louise started from scratch to establish a children’s ministry, which is now vibrant and thriving!

How?

I knew that something needed to happen NOW!

Louise had experience of 2 other parishes with strong children’s work. Her children attended these, so her knowledge was that of “a consumer”.

She had seen how children became part of each other’s lives and the importance of offering children something to fill their spiritual needs. She also had a network of people she could go to for advice.

I knew that you can't wait for children to come and then set something up

Whatever we put in place needed to be set up well, ready to accommodate more children. With a primary school in the village, she knew children were there. They just needed to have something to go to. And this proved to be true almost immediately!

Preparation

Louise sought advice from a range of people.

Using this as her springboard, she felt her way to access training, attend courses on a range of subjects from safeguarding to writing risk assessments. She knew it was important for Junior Church to be well set up, ready to accommodate more than her own 3 children.

Once ready, Junior Church was publicised in the local primary school. As expected, she found that families were there, and they came!



The Start

Having moved in September, Louise started the first sessions before Christmas. After just a few sessions at the vicarage, they soon moved to a separate building close to the church.

Leaders & Helpers

Louise began as leader with a small team of three helpers. She led Junior Church for the first year. In January, she needed to share the leading after the birth of her 4th child. The helpers rose to the challenge and now share the lead.

It is a joy to see people step into their gifting and grow into a role as they are nurtured and grow in confidence. Louise sees how each helper will lead differently – their diverse giftings benefitting the children.

Resources

Louise has used 'ready to go' materials:

- Faith in Kids – an excellent resource which can be modified for different age ranges and contexts. This is a growing set of resources.
- Mustard Seed. Every book of the Bible is covered over a 4-year period.
- The Biggest Story – a 2-year curriculum looking at how the whole of the bible fits together. Uses videos, games, crafts, a podcast for families so they are engaged.

Families benefit too!

The vision for Junior Church is for Children to enjoy age-appropriate teaching and for their families to take part in church services. For this reason, Louise and the team do not ask parents to be on the helper rota.

Louise also explains that when parents see her children in church, it helps other parents relax about their own children in church.

Reflection and Inspiration

Over a 2-year period, Louise has seen Junior Church grow from nothing to an average of 15 children regularly attending supported by 7 helpers. The church has further committed to children's ministry by the appointment of a Children's & Families' Worker.

You can do a lot more than you think you can... step out in faith without needing to see the end point.

Louise explains, "I was not qualified to do this... other than being a mother, I have no child care qualifications... if I can do it, others can!"

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SET 4 Delving *a little* Deeper
Faith Matters!
Audio 3 – Starting from Scratch

Companion Notes

Set 4 Audio 3
with Louise Young

And finally...It's fun!

Children and leaders have fun. They enjoy games and snacks. It's a place where children can be children and make friends with each other.

Further information, practical guidance and advice are available through
Turning Little Stones

Delving a little Deeper

www.turninglittlestones.co.uk

and Perfectly Patched

Further resources mentioned:

www.faithinkids.org

www.mustard-seeds.net

www.thebiggeststory.com

www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk