

# Families & Youth Ministry Brochure



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The families and Youth Ministry at St. John's Church, Southbourne:

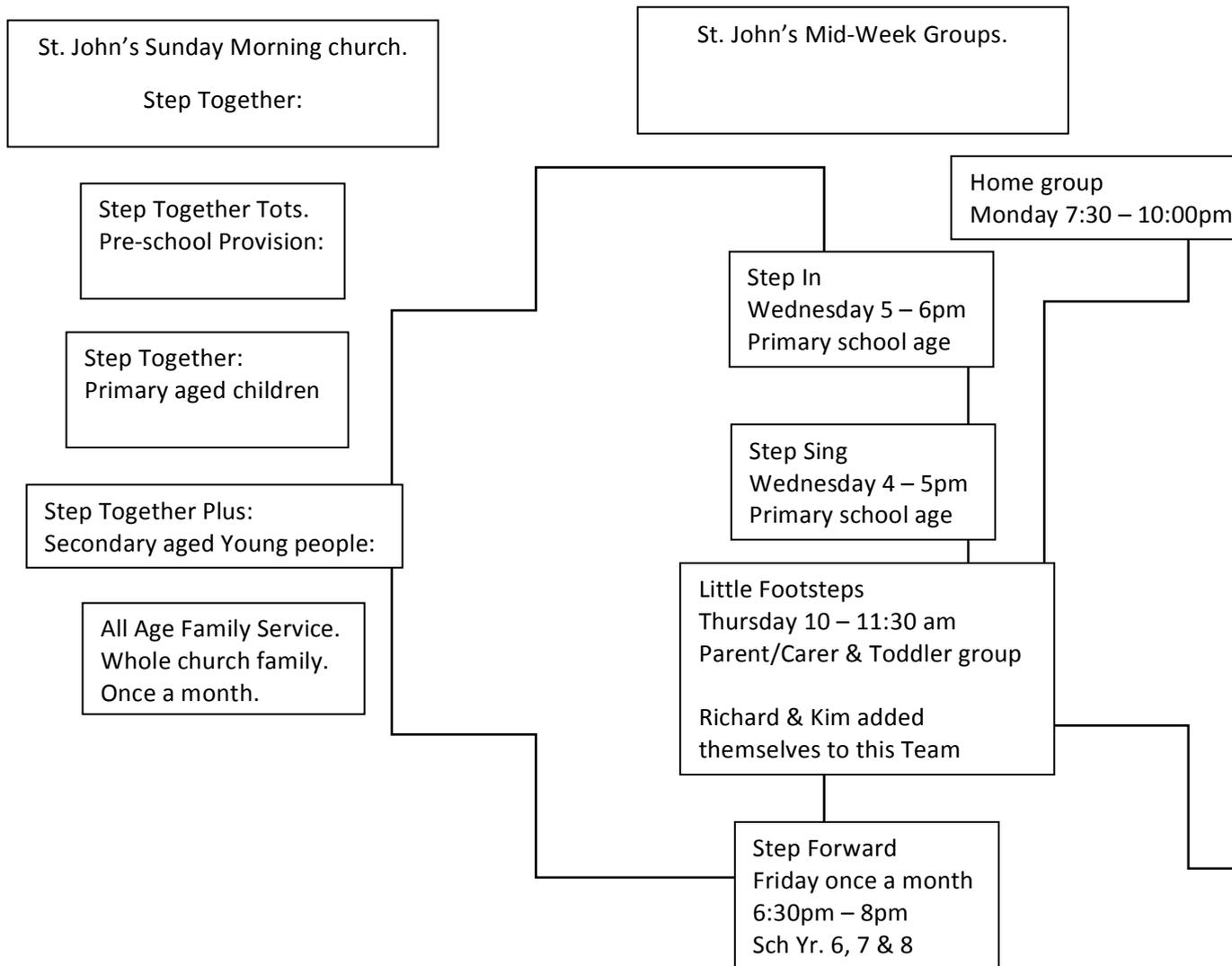
Pre-Pandemic:

*The beginning of the adventure*

August 2018 – March 2020

When Richard, Kim and family arrived at St. John's in August 2018 there were eleven families within the church. Richard and Kim began their ministry here by re-branding the existing Sunday Morning and mid-week groups. All groups were incorporated under the one 'Step Together' umbrella. Within this new branding came a new ethos and identity for the existing Families and youth work. With a renewed ethos the ministry began to grow. Within a year, eleven families had grown to twenty-four families.

This is what the Families & Youth Ministry program looked like pre-pandemic:



Other areas of the Ministry included:

Schools Ministry:

Richard was a regular visitor for Assemblies and assisting with RE lessons in the following local schools:

- Southbourne Infant School
- Southbourne Junior School

- Chidham Parochial Primary School – Jesus & Me (JAM Club)

Other One off events included:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| • 31 <sup>st</sup> October – Superhero & Princess Party (SHAPP)    | Oct 2018 & 2019 |
| • Harvest Family Fun day   | Oct 2018        |
| • Men’s Curry Night  | Feb/May 2019    |
| • Valentine’s Day Meal   | Feb 2019        |
| • Easter Family Fun Day  | Mar 2019        |
| • Men’s BBQ & Beer tasting   | Jun 2019        |
| • Southbourne Infants & Junior school Summer Fayre stall & support | July 2019       |
| • Bosham Youth Prayer & Praise Event                               | Nov 2019        |
| • Christmas Eve Nativity Service                                   | Dec 2019        |
| • February Half-Term Family Fun Morning                            | Feb 2020        |
| • CAP – The Flipping Marvelous Pancake Party                       | Feb 2020        |

During the Pandemic:

**PHASE 1:**

*First Lockdown:*

March 2020 – July 2020 initiatives:



Love your Neighbour scheme:

- Weekly Food boxes
- Daily Prescription pickups
- Weekly Shopping
- United Community in led daily prayer
- This initiative ended in September.



Free gifts at the gate:

- Free things to help during home schooling
- Free gifts to raise a smile
- Free gifts to bring hope
- Free gifts to show we care
- Is still ongoing

Booking the Church garden scheme:

- Giving access to the community to the church garden.
- Booking time slots
- This ceased in September



Weekly uploading to the St. John's Church Website:

- Step Together Tots
- Step Together
- Step Together Plus
- This ceased in August



Churchmums & Churchdads WhatsApp Groups:

- An effective way to stay connected with families
- To share needs & offer support
- To communicate new initiatives

**PHASE 2:**

*Relaxation of restrictions:*

August 2020 – December 2020 initiatives:



Outside Family Service:

- In August 2020, Richard & Kim launched the 4pm Outside Family Service.
- Where we have seen **thirteen** new families connect with this service during August & September.
- This means there are now twenty-six families engaging with this service. Which is even more amazing when you consider that ten families disconnected with us prior to and during the first lockdown.

Outside to Inside:

- In November 2020 Richard & Kim went from the 4pm Family Service being outside to Inside the church.
- Kim also Zoomed the service 'live' from inside the church.



Alpha Youth:

- In September, Richard launched Alpha Youth for the two top age ranges of School year 5's and Secondary school students.
- Alpha Youth started in the lounge and coincided with the timings of the 10am Church service (09:45am – 10:45am).
- We began with 7 Yr. 5 pupils and 3 Secondary aged students.



The Nativity Trail

- To celebrate Christmas Kim and Richard wanted to create a way of engaging with our community with the Nativity Trail.
- 'Follow the Star' – Nativity Trail was a village wide trail that did just this.
- The trail ended at the Church with a stable scene and a photo booth.
- Families were encouraged to dress their children in Nativity Character dress.
- 55 families that equates to 125 Primary and pre-school children completed the trail and received their Christmas gift of a Bible Society book of the Nativity Story and a biscuit star.
- Each parent also received a Christmas gift; of an invitation to Alpha and a box of mince pies.



**PHASE 3:**

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown.*

January – March 2021:

The Ministry continued online:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown so a return to Zoom led delivery.  
The Family Service at 4pm went from inside the church to being Zoomed 'live' from the church. To deliver an interactive experience, Kim created and distributed weekly family service packs to be used in conjunction with the service.  
Kim is creating a weekly family service pack for 58 children across 26 families.  
Alpha Youth went from the church center lounge to being Zoomed 'live' in the office.  
Gifts at the gate continued.  
With a new lockdown came some new initiatives (please see below):



- Tot's Packs:
- In January, Kim, Susanna Shaw and Belinda Thomas began re-connecting with the St. John's parents and Toddler group families by creating and delivering Tot's packs.
  - The team or supplying a weekly Tot's pack for 24 pre-school children over 14 families with the number increasing weekly.

- Poster to schools:
- In January, Richard & Matt worked on a 'Pray for me' poster that Richard sent to the Head teachers of three local schools in order for Matt to offer prayer support to Staff as schools prepared for online and 'live' delivery to children.
  - Southbourne Infants, Junior schools and Thorney Island Community Primary school all received a poster to place in their staff rooms.



- The Free Shop:
- During this 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown phase Kim became aware of a potential financial crisis within our community and a need for emergency food.
  - Kim did research and found out that there was a need for free food.
  - In order to meet this need Kim initiated "Free Shop".
  - On 21<sup>st</sup> January 21 Free shop was launched in the Church Centre Lounge.
  - Free provides free food for those in the Southbourne Community who really need it.
  - At present 49 families have registered for Free Shop and on average about 25 (often different) families come each week.
  - Free shop is being supported through you, the St. John's church family donations, UK Harvest, Fareshare (Tesco), Neighbourly (Aldi) Chichester FoodBank InKindDirect and

### Church Garden Easter Trail

- On Easter Bank Holiday Monday Kim organized and delivered the Church Garden Easter Trail.
- Using a Bible Society retelling of Jesus meeting two disciples on the Emmaus Road, Kim created a Church Garden Easter Trail that retold this story in a relevant and engaging way to children and their families.
- 148 people participated in the trail which began at 10am and finished at 2pm.
- Each child received a copy of the Bible Society story and an Easter Bunny chocolate lolly.



### Alpha

- As a result of the Christmas Alpha Invitations to parents at the 'Follow the Star' Nativity Trail and from promoting Alpha with Free Shop 'shoppers', Richard & Kim are leading an Alpha Course Group which has been meeting every Tuesday at 8pm (during school term time) since January 😊



### The Marriage Course

- In February Kim and Richard wanted to give people, connected with St. John's Church, the chance to spend some quality time with each other and invest in their relationship during this challenging time.
- Out of this came the idea to run and deliver the Marriage Course.
- Kim approached Eric and Tina Thompson and asked if they would be happy to lead and facilitate the sessions, which they did wonderfully.
- Five couples accepted the invitation and completed the



### Invited to support RE lessons in school

- In February, Richard was invited by a local school to have online input into their RE lessons. This was a great opportunity and experience. One pupil said this in response to the things I said:

*"You made me believe in god and for the first time in my life I actually listened to a pray and wished for happiness! Thank you! I'm so glad I tried, it was like someone was actually listening and helping my problems, it felt great now I'm actually thinking about being a Christian!"*

PHASE 4:

*Restrictions lifting*

March – Present day.

Restrictions Lifting – The road map to recovery:

At the moment, Kim and Richard are working on the following initiatives and groups.

- Free Shop:  
Which will continue until July as St. John's ongoing support to the families of our Community.
- One to One over Zoom:
- St. John's Youth:  
The youth group, which started out as an Alpha group is now looking at a Bible Overview called God's Big Picture looking at the uniting theme of the Kingdom of God. From Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> the Youth Group is being held 'live – outside' the church weather permitting and on Zoom during wet weather until May 23<sup>rd</sup> when the wet weather alternative will be the Upstairs Church Centre Hall (restrictions willing).
- Weekly Tots packs:
- Weekly Family Service packs:
- Zoomed Family Service at 4pm:  
The family service at 4pm will continue over Zoom until all 'social distancing' restrictions have been lifted. Once these restrictions have been lifted, then 'live' services will be reintroduced.
- RE Lessons:
- Richard continues to support a local Junior school with their RE lessons.

PHASE 5:  
*A Bright Future*

The Short term:



Maycamp Connected 2021:

- Maycamp is a historical Anglican youth camp which gathers young people from different Anglican churches in the diocese together over the last Bank holiday weekend in May for fun, fellowship and worship.
- Due to COVID19 the camp cannot 'gather' this year but Youth Workers are being encouraged by the diocese to join forces and create 'Maycamp experience days' in which to safely gather young people for Maycamp online.
- Richard & Darren Lewis (The Youth Worker of St. Pancras Church, Chichester) are joining forces to create a 'Connected' day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May for all our Secondary School year students.

Long-term:

Richard and Kim are committed to the ongoing development of the children's, youth and families' ministry here at St. John's Church and are passionate about the spiritual formation and development of children, youth and families.

Richard & Kim are passionate about exploring the ongoing evaluation of the Sunday Family Service at 4pm.



Richard & Kim are hopeful that in September 21 they can launch a brand-new family's provision called 'Fellowship Friday'. The aim of this provision is to create a place, a time and an environment where children, youth and families can develop friendships, have fellowship and draw closer to Christ together on a Friday.

Youth Work Development:



Sunday 10am:  
St. John's Youth Group

Sunday 4pm @ Family Service:  
Youth Group serve as the youth band in this service.

Tuesday:  
School year 8 - 9's  
CBC 6pm - 7:30pm  
CBC Discipleship group

Fellowship Friday:  
Youth band practice.