

Welcome to St John's

Diddy Disciples



Worship and Storytelling
for Babies, Toddlers & Children aged 0-6

Diddy Disciples is church for little ones.

It follows the pattern of the usual Sunday morning service at St John's; the sessions encourage participation, discipleship and leadership from children's earliest years, using storytelling, singing, colour, repetition, art and....

lots and lots of movement!

What happens at Diddy Disciples?

We start off in the main service, gathering together after the first hymn to move to our own room, taking the cross with us as a sign that we're part of the whole gathering.

We begin by welcoming each child and adult; it's best if everyone is there from the beginning, but don't worry if you're occasionally a little bit late, just come in quietly and find a spot on the floor.

Our **worship** begins with the sounding gong - signifying a moment of **quiet calm** as a child leads us into **worship** by making the sign of the cross.

Then we discover the theme for the day, starting with a **song** and some **movement** to fire up the children's imaginations.

We tell the **Bible story** together dramatically, using **movement** and **song** to explore the children's emotions. The stories form part of a series of themes which are developed week by week, through the church seasons.

After the drama of the story, we move to a short period of **stillness** for **our prayers**, saying sorry, saying thank you to God and praying for other people and for ourselves.

Creative Response is the children's opportunity to develop their own response to the story through their choice of different craft materials. It's the response that matters, not the finished result, so we don't do a show and tell.

The Peace Our worship ends when we come back together as a group to sing the Peace song and to share God's Peace with each other, before quietly rejoining the service for Holy Communion.

How you can help

We encourage children to attend without their parents as soon as possible; please work with your child towards this; they will enjoy being part of the group and you can have some reflective time in the service without them. The children's room is not very big, and we need every inch of it!

If you stay with your child, please do join in actively; there are no observers in Diddy Disciples, only participants!

The three regular leaders, Emma, Jen and Mimi, together with a helper, will quickly get to know your child, help them to settle and to become familiar with the rhythm of the session.

For more info contact Emma: emmalloydwilliams@me.com

We welcome any members of the congregation, preferably those without children for whom they're responsible, who'd like to give occasional help as an extra pair of hands, please do speak to us to find out what's involved.