

The Vision for our work with children, young people and families in the Joint Benefice of St Mary's Tilston and St Edith's Shocklach 2010

2 John 1-4

We agree that:

- Children and Young People are an important part of our Church today and a vital part of the future mission of the Church. They are not simply the future of the Church, they are the present and should have a say in how the Church is run
- They have much to give as well as to receive
- We will listen to them and to their parents
- As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of Children and Young People

Mark 10: 13 - 16

The two churches through prayer and practice will support the following within the Joint Benefice:

1. Trekkers (ages 5-11) meets after school at Tilston every Thursday in Term time
2. Regular joint worship activities with the school to include:
 - taking of collective worship usually every other week to include the nursery / toddler days at each school
 - Preparing and delivering special services in each of the churches for midweek services such as Harvest, Christingle, Easter, End of year
 - Education Sunday to be at St Mary's with both the schools taking part
 - Both schools to be invited to participate in the Joint benefice Carol Service
3. Regular joint worship activities within the current service patterns to encourage the development of Family / All Age Worship activities through:
 - The monthly All-Age Family Service of the Word (St Mary's and St Edith's) and All-Age Communion (St Mary's). The timing of these services will be reviewed as necessary
 - The use of All-Age Communion for festivals such as Christmas and Easter
 - Preparing young people for confirmation and the continuing encouragement and training of children and young people to take part in regular services as readers, interceders, servers and as appropriate as chalice bearers
 - Engagement with youth activities in the Deanery and Diocese
 - Encouraging young people to write and lead main services once or twice a year, especially as part of Christian Aid Week or other activity

Luke 10: 1-16

4. The Youth Club meets monthly as a secular group, but sponsored by St Mary's

The Future and on-going development of activities to promote the mission and ministry for children, young people and their families

- The development of holiday club schemes
- Changing the time of the Family Worship
- Developing nurture for all family members
- The re-establishment of a church based Youth Group
- Prioritising measures to encourage children, young people and their families within the GAP process e.g. through the activities of Shocklach 860

The two churches will continually review and evaluate this policy for children and young people seeking input from the children and young people themselves and from adults in leadership roles as parents or church leaders.