

***Greetings from Dave & Lucy***

We have decided to do a joint update from the two of us (Dave Casson, Associate Minister and Lucy Slavin, Families & Children's Worker) to let you know how things are going here in Rock Ferry. We have many things to praise God for.

We are extremely grateful for your support over many years, prayer and financial, which has enabled us to continue working at St Peter's Church. I (Dave) have now been working for St Peter's for over 20 years, and Lucy for 6 years. However, due to a lack of funding over the last year or so, we put forward a proposal to reduce our weekly hours to enable the work to continue rather than stop altogether. (Dave is now working 24 hours a week, and Lucy 16 hours a week.) Please pray for us as we seek to use our time wisely and effectively, and that we don't try to cram in all we did previously to the detriment of the ministry.

**St Peter's @ the Barn**

The new congregation started in September 2021 headed up by Dave and a small team continues to meet each Sunday. The average number is slowly creeping up to 30. The school very generously continues to let us use the Barn (a sports hall) free of charge, not just on Sundays, but for a weekly children's club and other events. We have held craft mornings, Christmas events, summer holiday clubs, coffee and cake drop ins and other activities to reach out to the local community. We are holding a Barn Dance (appropriately) and an Easter Trail/craft morning in the coming weeks.

Through children's activities, the school and other links, we have regular contact with many people in the area. Our holiday club service in summer 2023 was attended by 60 people, as was our Crib Service in December. Please pray we will build good relationships and invites to Sunday services will be accepted.

**Youth and Children's work**

Our youth group continues to meet on Sunday evenings. We have a small but regular core group, most of whom also come to church in the morning. We have not been involved in a summer camp for this age group for a few years, but this year are hoping to take a few on the Quinta Venture in July.

A few of the group are now reaching their mid-teens and we are thinking and praying about how we may need to alter things to cater for older and younger members.

We run two children's groups (KidZone), one in the church building and one in the Barn. Numbers are encouraging, but more so the consistency in attendance of those who come. We are hoping to take a group of the children on the Buzz holiday in May half-term, with which we have been involved for many years. Please pray there will be the spaces for our children to go.



## Family ministry

Little Stars, our parent and child group meeting on Wednesday mornings, is very encouraging, with a regular core. The group includes childminders, parents and grandparents most of whom are Christian, so it is a great environment for new people to join. We have recently added more Christian songs to our Bible story time, and while I (Lucy) was worried it would be a struggle to get non-Christians enthusiastic, God has touched the hearts of those coming along. Please pray that as relationships are built it would lead to people knowing the awesome love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Rock Ferry Primary School

We continue to have very strong links with the school. Dave is a governor, Lucy has two children in the school. Following a meeting with the Head and RE lead, we have changed our input. Rather than teaching the curriculum RE to years 1–5 each week, we now run workshops once a term for each year group (including year 6) on a theme. So in December we ran workshops on Christmas for all years, ending with a Christmas assembly. We will be running workshops on Easter in March. While this means we are not around the school as much, we have a freer hand in the workshops than we did in the lessons.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We trust it gives you a taste of what we get up to, ideas of how you can pray for the work, and the joy it is to serve God in Rock Ferry. Please pray for us as we continue to seek to serve faithfully and make the most of the opportunities he so graciously gives us.

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