



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS SO
THEY MAY SEE THE GOOD DEEDS YOU DO
MATTHEW 5:15-16



YOUR INSPIRE YOUR CHURCH

JUNE 2019

'PLAY TIME'



COG is in the middle of a monthly awareness campaign to highlight the great outreach work that is happening across the UK. For five months in 2019, we will be sending all UK ecclesias an interesting story to hopefully encourage and inspire your church to do the same. At the end of the campaign we hope to make these into a booklet.

BETHEL'S STORY

Every Thursday morning, during term-time, our Youth Church Building is transformed into a bustling space as we open the doors to Playtime, our parent/carer and toddler group.

We set up a variety of play spaces including jigsaws and construction, small world play with Happy land and farm, dressing up and kitchen area, tool sets, book corner, baby area with playmats & baby bouncers and a craft table.

We open at 10am, with free play until 11, at which time we put out fruit and toast, with juice and water for a sit-down snack time. At 11.45 we have singing time, while some leaders start tidying up, before home time!

We welcome children and carers on arrival, explaining the set-up to those who are new, and catching up on news with those we may have known now for years. For those who can afford it, we charge £1 for each child over the age of six months.

Toddler groups are in great demand by your local community and are a fantastic opportunity to reach out and give.

Whether you are a new parent or not, children are demanding and getting out of the house with other parents can make a huge difference, helping to tackle the many issues faced. Here's an example from one Christadelphian church who have set one up in their local area.

How much work is involved?

We run Playtime with 4-5 leaders. It takes about 45 minutes to set up, and we are usually cleared away by 12.30pm.

Consistency is important in terms of building relationships, so whilst we have one or two people who occasionally support us, the core team are there most weeks. It is a full-on three hours, but the time flies, as we are pretty busy!

So how are you doing?

Over the years we have been able to welcome hundreds of children with their Mums, Dads, Grandparents, and child minders; from many countries, of other religions and differing sexualities - all are welcome, and many have become good friends.

Interestingly, our Christmas gift to all children - a Nativity book - has always been gratefully accepted by all.

Adults comment about the friendly atmosphere and are surprised by simple acts of kindness; tea and coffee served to them on arrival, toast offered to the adults at snack time, the offer to hold a crying baby, and a listening ear for life's ups and downs.



WE WANT YOUR GRANT APPLICATIONS

COG HAS THE FUNDING IN PLACE TO SUPPORT
YOUR INDIVIDUAL OR CHURCH PROJECTS
AND WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.

COG is not a team on the ground, so can only facilitate your work. For example, we can buy the homeless bus for you but we can't drive it. So however big or small your idea, please approach us. We will consider anything and application is easy, through a form which is available on request or as an online link on our site. Please start the cogs moving and think about how you can DO something in your community.

So far we have sent funding to Liverpool and supported a 'Flask Aid' winter project in Worcester.

OUTREACH IDEAS FOR JUNE

GIVE A REFUGEE YOUR SPAREROOM.

SEVERAL MEMBERS ARE PART OF THIS SCHEME
AND THEIR EXCITING STORY IS ON OUR WEBSITE.
WWW.REFUGEESATHOME.ORG

FIND YOUR LOCAL 'PLACE OF SAFETY' AND OFFER SUPPORT.

THEY NEED VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS AND HALL SPACE.
THEY ALSO NEED PEOPLE TO DELIVER ESOL CLASSES IN THEIR AREA- CAN YOU HELP?
WWW.CITYOFSANCTUARY.ORG

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