



DREAMING DREAMS

Children and Families Ministry Review 12/09/26
Reverend Tracey Hallett Pioneer Team Vicar
White Horse Benefice

ABSTRACT

This report represents the voices of volunteers who are involved in Children and Families ministry. The '*Dreaming Dreams*' away day presented an opportunity to review and consider the needs of children and their families at this current time.

The outcome is a vision for the future which was birthed from a group theological reflection on Matthew:14:13-21



The White Horse
Team Ministry



Diocese
of Salisbury

Making Jesus Known in Westbury, Dilton Marsh, Westbury Leigh and Brokerswood



¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.

¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

¹⁶Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸“Bring them here to me,” he said.

¹⁹And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:13-21 NIV

CONTENTS

○ Dreaming Dreams	3
○ Sharing our experiences	4
○ Analysis of Experience	5
○ Reflecting & Responding - Using Scripture	7
○ Our Vision for Children and Families	10
○ ACT: Recommendations & Actions	11
○ Next Steps	13
○ APPENDIX 1 – What Do Pioneers Do?	15
○ APPENDIX 2 - Five Values of a Mission-Shaped Church.....	16
○ APPENDIX 3 - The Anglican Framework: The Five Marks of Mission	16
○ APPENDIX 4 – Laurie Green’s Theological Reflection Model	17
○ Contact Details	18



DREAMING DREAMS

We created space to Dream Dreams with the hope that we could hear the voices of all involved in Children and Families ministry to review and consider the needs of children and their families at this current time.

Our Intentions were to:

- Reflect with God and each other
- To share all that is good
- Consider what needs laying down
- To work together engaging with and seeking God's Mission (Missio-Dei)
- To think about what the Missional direction of travel is
- Lean more about Pioneer Ministry
- Consider al vision: Where do we go from here

Our day consisted of the following:

0930: Refreshments & catching up with friends

0950: Health & Safety

1000: Welcome

1010: Opening worship

1040: Reflection on pioneer ministry experience - *Tracey shares her experiences & gave two handouts explaining in brief what a Pioneer is and what they do.*

1100: 1a) In groups we shared our experiences of children and families work

1130: 1b) Let's Explore – we shared our stories and testimonies – all that is good

1230: Lunch

1300: Lectio Davina reflection on the Scripture from Matthew 14:13-21

1315: Using Matthew 14:13-21 we theologically reflected on what God was saying to us through this Gospel reading – this gave us hopes and ideas for the future

1415: Hopes for the future taken from our theological reflections on Matt 14:13-21

1445: Closing worship

The format for this day was based on Laurie Green's Theological Reflection Model (see Appendix 4), which consists of sharing:

1. Our experience
2. Analysis of experience
3. Reflection using scripture
4. Act (recommendations & action)

Please note: these colours are used throughout the document to indicate each step

SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES

- What is already happening / How are we already engaging with children and families?
- Where are we now?

What is happening at this current time – The Now!

Schools	Open the book (WACT), Collective Worship, Experience Events (WACT), Transition days, Occasional RE Lessons.
Church	Little Lights stay and play (WACT), First Steps to worship, Easter Fun Day, Fundays (WACT), Tree Festival, Christingle, Crib Service, Nativity, School Collective Worship, Youth group, Youth Organisation Services, Summer Craft Fairs, Café Church, Baptism Preparation
Community	Friday Fun Club, Tea & Toast

What was -The Past!

Schools	
Church	Lego Church, Soul Space
Community	Easter Trail, Light party, Family Fun Days

What do you see?

- We see a lot of activities, but not a lot of joined up thinking
- Activities are limited by a lack of volunteers
- Better spread across the team
- Pray for people with a passion for children's ministry
- We see exhausted volunteers!
- D.B.S Regulations
- Involvement with secondary schools



ANALYSIS OF EXPERIENCE

In groups, we shared our stories and experiences:

Group One

What is Good?

- Lego Church: we organised lots of Lego, it started on Sat afternoons – changed to Sunday PMs. 4-6 families, mostly with church connections; stories. Juice & cake, making models. Tried different activities for the older children.
- Little Lights stay and Play: A great stepping stones to build further relationships, the families work together and ecumenical leaders.
- Collective Worship – team being recognised out of school
- At Experience Easter – why no bunnies? – Applying the stories to everyday life, using Jesus as a role-model. *Why the cross – to advise us not to do bad things – children's experiences can be / make it difficult ... drug abuse.*

Challenges?

1. *Funding and financial issues and heating in the winter – alternative venues?*
2. *Little Lights – How do we keep contact with the families after the Children go to school?*

Group Two

What is Good?

- Positive experience of adults volunteers is welcoming & interested in the children
- 'Experience' & 'Open the Book': School children always interested. Positive reactions, children enjoy stories, in a comfortable & familiar environment.
- 'FUNDAYS' Always enjoyable, good to be out in the community,
- Families appreciate 'children's corner'
- Families appear to enjoy their visits to church, once they are in!

Challenges?

1. *Need sufficient / able volunteers*
2. *Need for warm space to hold events cost of heating large Church*
3. *Poor Attendance*
4. *Volunteers all need to be DBS & Safeguarding trained*
5. *Need team integration & WACT integration*

Group Three

What is Good?

- A mother & 2 children met them at Experience Easter and Pentecost. They walk past my house to school. This year gave her a book Bible Society Pamphlet and 2 days ago she stopped to chat, and we had a really good conversation.
- Small Fruit from one or two Children saying 'I know you' as we are recognised from experiences and snippets given by teachers and volunteers.
- Families dropping into Church to use the children's area as it is a safe space (All Saints).
- In the Church last Wednesday and a mum & child were sitting in the children's area; I said hello and started talking to her. She had just moved to Westbury and lives near the church, we introduced ourselves and I showed her the books and toy boxes, I told her about first steps to worship and Little Lights. She mentioned her little boy enjoyed hearing the bells. She said that it was a lovely warm atmosphere and welcome space.
- Using the Church occasionally for youth club events always lead to interesting questions about the Church and Christianity... they have questions.
- Dilton Primary School services in Holy Trinity Church are very uplifting. My only real connection with children as part of Church.
- Baptisms are wonderful to be part of.....

Challenges?

1. *Baptisms – rarely see families after the baptism.*
2. *Following up after Baptism.*
3. *Getting people in the Church as circumstances often prevent them from entering.*
4. *Parents (from school children when attending services) not respecting the Church building & it's a challenge to connect with them.*
5. *Relevant services for families and young children, liturgy can be off-putting.*



REFLECTING & RESPONDING USING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

(see page one for the Bible text)

In groups, we considered the following questions in relation to the Bible passage

1. What is God saying to us through Matthew 14:13-21?
2. What are our hopes for the future?
3. Where do we want to go and how are we going to get there?
4. What needs to change?

Group One

Reflection:

- Jesus prayed, broke bread and gave it to all for them to eat
- Jesus said the crowds didn't need sending away
- Women and children not included in the total number – additional to men
- Remote place – He withdrew to a solitary place
- 'Bring them here to me'
- 'Looking up to heaven, he gave thanks'
- Showed compassion
- Feeding and Satisfaction

Response - what is God saying to us?

- ✓ Do we need a strategic plan?
- ✓ Linking up across the team
- ✓ Resources – people – money- venues
- ✓ Reflection on current activities:
- ✓ Timings to suit parent
- ✓ Ages involved
- ✓ Uniformed groups
- ✓ Outdoor Church - new container on DM playing field - Victoria Gardens - Vicarage Gardens
- ✓ Food! Feeding = Community = Sharing
- ✓ Group review - discussions - surveys
- ✓ Broadening communication
- ✓ How to overcome geographical separation: Westbury / Dilton Marsh / Westbury Leigh
- ✓ Linking with PTAs

Group Two

Reflection:

- Compassion
- Come to us
- Open to all
- All are equal

Response - what is God saying to us?

- ✓ We can make a positive difference to children & Families in our community
- ✓ Raise profile to make more people / families aware of our offering
- ✓ Be perceived as “Community” not solely “Church” (Publicity)
- ✓ Avoiding duplication (where relevant) both events and volunteers.
- ✓ Consolidate what we can offer within our resources

Group Three

Reflection:

- God is saying, ‘if Jesus is here with us, we don’t need to go anywhere else’.
- Everyone is welcome, they can come and go as they please.
- With a small amount God can do great things.

Response - what is God saying to us?

- ✓ All generations represented in the Church and coming to faith, some links to create a pathway from little lights via children’s groups into adulthood
- ✓ Work on our relationship with the schools.
- ✓ Create neutral spaces for gathering (not on a Sunday) to accommodate all ages.
- ✓ Different time slots for different age groups.
- ✓ Mentality, mindset, our hearts, understanding different people’s needs.





Summary of reflections

The reflections on **Matthew 14:13–21** highlights Jesus' compassion, welcome and generosity. Jesus did not send the crowd away; instead, he received what was available, gave thanks and ensured that everyone was fed and satisfied. The passage offers a picture of an inclusive community in which, everyone is welcome and even limited resources can be used by God to achieve far more than expected.

The group felt called to make a positive difference to children and families by becoming more connected, outward-looking and responsive to local needs. This may involve developing a shared strategic plan across the team, bringing people together, considering carefully our resources including funding, venues and existing activities.

It was determined that better coordination could reduce duplication and date clashes for varied events, we would like also to improve support for volunteers and strengthen links between **Westbury, Dilton Marsh and Westbury Leigh**.

Future provision should be accessible and shaped around families. Suggestions included reviewing timings and age groups, working with uniformed organisations and PTAs, strengthening relationships with schools, and creating neutral or outdoor gathering spaces such as gardens and playing fields. Food was recognised as an important way of building community through welcome, sharing and hospitality.

Communication and visibility also need to be strengthened so that more families understand what is available. The Church should be seen not only as an institution but as an active part of the wider community—open to all and willing to meet people where they are. Church can also take place in varied styles on various days of the week – it does not have to be Church as we know or on a Sunday.

The long-term hope is for every generation to be represented and nurtured in faith. This includes creating clearer pathways from activities such as Little Lights through children's and youth groups into adulthood. Achieving this will require listening carefully, reviewing activities through discussion and possibly using surveys, and developing a more compassionate and flexible mindset that recognises the differing needs of children and families.

The following vision is based on all the reflections and responses shared

OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WELCOMING ALL, GROWING FAITH AND BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Inspired by Jesus' compassion in Matthew 14:13–21, we will bring what we have to God and trust him to use it generously. We will create welcoming places where children, young people and adults are known, valued, fed in body and spirit, and invited to discover faith.

Our vision

Across Westbury, Dilton Marsh and Westbury Leigh, we seek to be a connected Christian community in which every child and family can belong, flourish and encounter the love of God. We will meet people where they are—in schools, churches and other everyday spaces and aim to offer accessible pathways from first contact to lifelong faith and participation.

Our commitments

- ✓ **Compassion and welcome:** Be open to all, recognise that all are equal, and shape our ministry around the real needs of children and families.
- ✓ **Relationships before programmes:** Listen well, build trust and create warm, safe and hospitable spaces where people can come as they are.
- ✓ **Faith for every generation:** Nurture relationships and journey with children and families from birth to through to adolescence, youth and into adult discipleship.
- ✓ **One team, many places:** Work collaboratively across the three communities, recognising we are one body of the Church; sharing the resource we have available, volunteers, ideas, venues and resources while avoiding unnecessary duplication.
- ✓ **Outward-facing mission:** Strengthen partnerships with schools, PTAs, uniformed organisations and community groups, and communicate our offering clearly.

Our priorities

1. Review current activities, timings, age groups and locations with families and volunteers.
2. Develop stronger, sustained relationships with schools and improve follow-up after baptisms and community events.
3. Create welcoming neutral and outdoor spaces, using food and shared activity to build community.
4. Support, recruit and equip volunteers through good supervision, training, safeguarding and realistic use of resources.
5. Raise our profile as an active part of the wider community and regularly evaluate the children and families' ministry.

Our hope is to see all generations represented, relationships deepened and faith growing—confident that, when we offer what we have to Jesus, small things can become a blessing for the whole community.

ACT: RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

for 'Dreaming Dreams' to become a reality / reflection leads to action

- ✓ Recruitment of a **Pioneer Mission Team of Volunteers**
- ✓ Pioneer Mission Team will be invited and encouraged to engage with **Pioneering Parishes Course** – this will help embed the pioneer culture across the White Horse Team Ministry. Pioneer Parishes Course will help to create a better understanding and provide a learning platform for those interested in becoming part of the Pioneer Mission Team.
- ✓ Explore **Bubble Church** initiative for Children and Families, consider this as a 'Church Plant' at Westbury Leigh.
- ✓ Improve on our Schools work – Consider a **School Chaplaincy Model**, to develop and support ongoing work within the schools – **Archbishops Young Leader Awards. Music Director and Youth Choir initiative.**

From shared vision to faithful next steps

These recommendations translate the consultation's themes of compassion, welcome, partnership and sustainable ministry into a practical plan.

Recommendation	Priority actions	Suggested lead / partners	Timescale & review
1. Create a joined-up children and families plan	Map existing provision, identify gaps and agree shared outcomes across Westbury, Dilton Marsh and Westbury Leigh.	Pioneer team vicar Ministry team, children and families' volunteers, PCC representatives	Began with Dreaming Dreams Day Follow up November PCC Then present in Churches – recruit for Pioneer Mission Team and Pioneer Parishes Course. Review 3 months January – ongoing
2. Listen to children, families and volunteers	Use short conversations, accessible surveys by attending community groups & School events. Goal is to listen and explore needs and wants for future C&F pioneer opportunities noting preferred times, places, age groups and practical barriers.	Pioneer minister, schools, PTAs, volunteers	Listening phase within 3–6 months
3. Strengthen pathways of belonging and faith	Bubble Church has potential to be the ongoing connection for Baptism families, and preschool children. Provides follow up through warm invitations, consistent follow-up and clear next steps.	Pioneer Minister Pioneer mission volunteers, Rector – baptism team, Little Lights, first steps to worship, schools and youth leaders	Pilot within 6 months

4. Develop welcoming everyday spaces	Test neutral, outdoor and community-based gatherings shaped around hospitality, shared food, play and simple faith exploration.	Pioneer minister, community partners, & volunteer venue hosts	Pilot within 6–9 months; evaluate after each event
5. Recruit, support and sustain volunteers	Clarify roles, invite new volunteers, provide safeguarding and DBS support, build teams rather than relying on individuals, and celebrate contributions.	Pioneer Team Vicar, Rector, Safeguarding leads, activity leaders, PCCs	Recruitment plan within 3 months; quarterly check-in
6. Improve communication and visibility	Create one shared events & services calendar and a simple Children and Families newsletter for churches, schools, community groups and online channels.	Communications leads, parish administrators, WACT partners	Shared calendar within 2 months; monthly update
7. Steward resources wisely	Review funding streams, consider costs when heating Churches and the cost of venues, equipment and transport; share resources across the team and pursue grants or partnerships where appropriate.	Treasurers, churchwardens, ministry team, community partners	Initial audit within 4 months; annual review

At each review, we will consider:

- Who has been welcomed and heard?
- What relationships are growing?
- What is helping children and families explore faith?
- What needs to change, stop or begin?
- What support do volunteers need?



NEXT STEPS

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who gave up their day to share experience, thoughts and ideas in a thoroughly useful review of the Children and Families ministry within the White Horse Benefice.

I hope that you will find the results in this document to be a good reflection and effective summary which has created a vision for the future.

If you would like to be part of the Pioneer Mission Team: Please let me know as soon as possible, it is hoped that we will recruit a team and start to engage with Pioneer Parishes training early in the new year. This will be the team to implement and work together to achieve the recommendations listed in this report.

This report will be presented to PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) in November, and I intend to deliver this presentation at All Saints and Holy Trinity before the end of this year. I hope that the findings in this report will inspire and motivate, and as such I am hopeful to recruit a team who will begin joining God on his mission for the White Horse Benefice.

Please continue to pray for God's vision to be clearly discerned as we embark on this journey together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information, or to discuss the findings of this report.

Every Blessing

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey".

Rev'd Tracey Hallett
18.10.26

See page 16 for contact details

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – WHAT DO PIONEERS DO?

☁☁☁ What do Pioneers do? ☁☁☁

A brainstorm of the ways Pioneer Ministers help new Christian community grow

☁ Build Relationships ☁

Spend time in local spaces where a church presence does not yet exist.

☁ Listen and Adapt ☁

Listen to the local community before trying to start activities.

☁ Start New Groups ☁

Create new, informal ways for people to explore the Christian faith.

☁ Form a Mixed Economy ☁

Work alongside traditional parish churches to expand how the church operates.

☁ Everyday Spaces ☁

Instead of waiting for people to walk into a historic church building, pioneers go out into everyday spaces. They listen to local communities, build friendships, and share the Christian message in fresh, informal ways.

☁ Go to New Places ☁

Pioneers go to new places to live and tell the story of Jesus in creative, informal ways, especially where there is no obvious Christian witness or community.

☁ Follow the Holy Spirit ☁

They often feel called and follow the Holy Spirit's leading by going to places where there is no obvious Christian witness or community.

☁ Listen, Serve and Love ☁

They start where people are by listening, serving and loving. Over time Christian community forms through this work, prayer, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

☁ Different Gifts and Calls ☁

Pioneers come in different shapes and sizes, with different calls, characters, gifts, and traits for the work they are called to do.

☁ Church of England Definition ☁

"People called by God who are the first to see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit's initiative. They identify opportunities and gather others around them as they seek to establish new Christian communities within their local context."

APPENDIX 2 - FIVE VALUES OF A MISSION-SHAPED CHURCH

A mission-shaped church shifts the **focus from expecting people to attend an existing church building to reshaping church life around the context, culture, and needs of the local community.**

Core Value	What it means
1. Focused on God the Trinity	The church's mission flows from the nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It begins in worship and obedience, not simply practical programming.
2. Incarnational	The church embeds itself in the language, habits, and culture of the local community, rather than expecting people to adapt to traditional church culture.
3. Transformational	The gospel actively changes lives and communities. A missional church exists to bring moral, spiritual, and social transformation.
4. Makes Disciples	The aim is not just to gather a crowd, but to nurture long-term spiritual growth, teaching, mentoring, and faithful living.
5. Relational	Genuine community and authentic human relationships are at the heart of church life, with people valued above rigid structures or programmes.

APPENDIX 3 - THE ANGLICAN FRAMEWORK: THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

Mark	Mission focus
Tell	Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
Teach	Baptise, teach, and nurture new believers.
Tend	Respond to human need by loving service.
Transform	Seek to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence, and pursue peace.
Treasure	Safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

APPENDIX 4 – LAURIE GREEN’S THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION MODEL

Format	Spiral Steps	Purpose
1. The Story / Experience	Experience	Stating what actually happened, how it felt, and laying out the raw facts without premature analysis.
2. Analysis of Experience	Explore	Digging deeper below the surface to ask <i>why</i> things happened, exploring the social context, drivers, and underlying values.
3. Reflection using Scripture	Reflect	Bringing the explored situation into dialogue with Scripture, prayer, Christian tradition, and theology.
4. ACT (action)	Respond	Formulating a concrete, on-the-ground plan of action based on what God is calling you to do next.

CONTACT DETAILS

Rev'd Tracey Hallett

Pioneer Team Vicar

pioneerteamvicar@whtministry.org.uk

07474 944063 (rest day on Fridays)

To sign up to the NEW Children & Families Newsletter



or contact the Parish Office

office@whtministry.org.uk

01373 859450 (Tuesday & Thursday mornings)

Website



or go to: www.achyrchnearyou.com

and search for: The White Horse Team Ministry

Then select which church you would like to view:

- *All Saints Church, Westbury*
- *Holy Saviour Church, Westbury Leigh*
- *Holy Trinity Church, Dilton Marsh*
- *The Tin Church (All Saints), Brokerswood*



**The White Horse
Team Ministry**



**Diocese
of Salisbury**

Making Jesus Known in Westbury, Dilton Marsh, Westbury Leigh and Brokerswood

Printed 22.10.26/TH/MC.