



kidZone



JANUARY 2012

TO ALL CHILDREN, PARENTS AND CARERS



Welcome to the first **kidZone** newsletter of 2012. I trust you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas time and that you are looking forward to what 2012 brings you.

We had a wonderful end to our term with not only the baptism of Aolani, Grace, Willow, Meadow and Daisy but a Christmas party with a twist. We played games, had a craft session but we were also able to create some wonderful plant decorations. These were taken by members of the Pastoral Team to the elderly and infirm of our community and they were very appreciative of the decorations you had made. Photos are included at the end of the newsletter.



Messy Sunday for Christmas



For this joint session we spent time finding out what Christmas is really all about. We used the word CHRISTMAS and learnt about the crib, royalty, stables, ice, travellers, Mary, animals, stars but most importantly the Hope that Jesus bring to us all with his birth.

The really messy bit was the edible Christmas trees with ice cream cones, green butter icing and lots of sweets. We also saw a video of the Nativity recreated with Lego figures – a real hit with the boys. More photographs at the end of the newsletter.

Welcome

I would like to welcome Alison Rodgers as a new member to our teaching team.

Also to welcome Poppy, Josie and Benji together with Oliver to kidZone.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2011



We were able to track one of the boxes we sent for the Shoebox Appeal and we have been advised that it ended up in Montenegro!



Here is an excerpt from the Operation Christmas Child website about where our box went to and a story about one child called Sebastijan who received a shoebox from the UK (<http://operationchristmaschild.org.uk/montenegro>).



Montenegro is a small Eastern European country with a population of just 685,000. The nation was created in 2006 following a vote by the population to separate from Serbia. There is 15% rate of unemployment and an estimated 12% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Shoeboxes are sent by truck to Podgorica, where they are looked after by the three Protestant churches who make up the majority of the Christian presence in Montenegro. They are responsible for distributing amongst children in need across the country. This year, we sent over 10,000 shoeboxes from the UK to Montenegro.

Below is a new story from Montenegro...

Sebastijan's story

Sebastijan shares one room with seven other children and two women. The women seem to be the mothers of all of them, but which child belongs to which mother is not clear. One thing is for sure, the women struggle to feed and raise the eight children.

With ten people living in one room, no wonder the little boy seems to have a lot of anger in him. He throws stones and tries to dominate the little dogs on the site. His emotional tension is obvious. His father, whoever he is, is long gone, and this little boy is growing up without any father's love, or encouragement.



Yet when his shoebox arrives, Sebastijan stares up at us in wonder. A great grin breaks across his face as he tears into the box, and gives a little whoop of excitement. His mother, her face heavily lined, wrings our hand: "Thank you, thank you", she says, smiling down at her son. We stress the shoebox did not come from us personally; it was sent by people in the UK who care enough about children to give them some joy at Christmas. The mother struggles to understand this amazing news but just continues smiling.

What a year!

2011 was certainly a busy year in lots of different and exciting ways:

- We have seen an increase of 30% in the regular attendance in our groups and we now provide activities for children each Sunday, including the new kidZone lite.
- We began the year by starting and ending in Church each Sunday which has made more part of the St Andrew's family.
- Our Messy Sundays have produced some wonderful creations including the Easter Garden and the Advent Wreath but were mostly of the edible kind.

OUR VISION

**St Andrew's exists to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known,
sharing His hope in our area**

Jesus said 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life' John 14 v6

- Our outreach work included collecting an amazing £150 for The Children's Society and 15 filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- We enjoyed our biggest Holiday Club yet and partied with pancakes and lights.
- The children have continued to learn more about their faith in many varied ways including craft, discussion, drama, songs, quizzes stories and games.

All of this could not have been achieved without the fantastic team we have in Angela, Collette, Chris, Pip, Kathy and Sandi plus the parent/carer helpers. My heartfelt thanks go to them for the fantastic year we have had.

[Website](#)

If you have problems accessing the newsletter from your email then you can view it on the website. The address is at the end of the newsletter.

[Up coming events at St Andrew's](#)

8 January: **kidZone** restarts

5 February: [feast@4](#)

Watch out for our next big event after Christmas which will be the Pancake Party on Tuesday 21 February 2012. Watch this space for further details.

God Bless
Sarah

Do not forget to check the website for the latest information about what is happening at St Andrew's: www.standrews-burgesshill.org.uk

[Christmas Party](#)





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