**Reports for APCM April 2024**

**Little Stars**

This has been running weekly on Monday mornings (during term-time). At the start of the year, we had 3 families regularly attending, but it has been exciting to see the group growing steadily over the last 6 months. We currently have on average 10-11 children attend each week with 15 families on our register! We have a time of free play, including an arts/craft activity that links to our Bible story. We finish each session by sharing the Bible story together (with some snacks) and then singing some favourite children’s songs with instruments. At Christmas and Easter, we shared small gifts with the families, including a preschool book with the relevant Bible story in. We also celebrate the children’s birthdays (and one birth!) as they occur in the year. Feedback from the families has been positive and it has been lovely to see the friendships developing between both the children and the adults.

Key areas for prayer include building on our relationships with the parents/carers and children who come on a Monday and opportunities to welcome them to other events / services in church.

**Sunday Discoverers**

This has continued to run on the 1st and 3rd Sundays during the 9.30 service (during term-time). We have approximately 13 families on the registers, with 6-8 families who attend regularly. There is an average of 10 children each week across the two groups, with around 6 in Sparklers and 2-5 in Explorers. We are using the Roots on the Web resources to base the sessions on. The Team Leader plans the session, assisted by a second adult. The children start and end the service in the main church, leaving to go to their groups at some point after the first hymn. The Sparklers (ages 3-6) tend to go up to the mezzanine room and the Explorers (ages 7-9) out to the vestry. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, the children stay in the main service, with activities arranged by Rev Julie and setup in the corner area. Parents usually accompany the children to support them in these activities. Feedback from the children is that they enjoy learning about the Bible and doing fun arts & crafts and games and there has been a request for more singing in their groups! Parents have shared that Sunday Discoverers provides a space for the children to learn about the Bible together and build strong bonds.

Key areas for prayer include building on the current provision for our 3-9 year olds as well as having a provision within church services for our 0-3 year old babies/toddlers which will feed into the groups as they get older.