

SPARKLERS

COOL STARS

XCC

A very happy new year to you all. Welcome to a brand new term, we hope you had a fabulous Christmas and were able to take part in some of the many festive services at church, from carol services to Christingles and Christmas worship.

Looking back over last term:

It was a busy few months for the children and leaders. In October, we held our annual Light Party, which has been a success every year since we introduced it in 2010. There were silly games, delicious food and a brilliant talk by Sam – darkness was well and truly banished that evening and the Light flooded in.



November saw the commemoration of the end of World War 1. The whole country took part in remembrance activities and Cool Christians were no exception. On 11 November itself, they performed a moving short drama, telling the story of a soldier visiting the battlefields with his granddaughter.



Another hugely successful event was the Christingle and Nativity service on 23 December. As usual, it was standing room only for Steve and Caroline's witty and insightful Nativity telling, complete with hosts of angels, flocks of sheep and shepherds, the odd donkey and more wise men than University Challenge. It was a great way to build the excitement of Christmas and tell the age-old story of why we have Christmas in the first place.



And finally even our youngest Sparklers can get involved with activities, producing creative artwork throughout the term. Look at examples of all our CC children's work below.



And looking ahead to the future:



A highlight in the Cool Christians calendar, this year's party will take place on **Saturday 9 February from 3pm**. All CC children are invited, along with friends they may want to bring along and



other family members, especially junior ones. There will be fun, cake, entertainment, cake, food, games, cake, a magician and did we mention **CAKE**? Look out for your invitations coming very soon!



Talking of cakethere will be a fundraising cake sale on Mothering Sunday 31 March to raise money for the Ealing Soup Kitchen. All baking efforts by children and parents would be very gratefully received, the more home made the better as they always go down so well (literally) but we know people are very busy, so in the absence of home made goodies, we're more than happy to take bought cakes from you too.

As you can see from the above photos, our CC members are a creative lot when it comes to arts and crafts. We're going to branch out this year and explore more drama and music, tapping into other areas of creativity of our younger church members – it might get noisy, but it'll be fun. Watch this space for further details.

HELPING HANDS: *We really value the help of parents in our groups, as we must have 2 adults in each for the session to take place. If you haven't yet volunteered to help, please let Celia or Martyn know when you can. You provide a vital service, as well as seeing first hand what the children do in their session.*

The Bible topics for this term's sessions are as follows:

13 Jan	Close to God's Heart	1 Samuel 16: 1-13: Psalm 23
20 Jan	Larger than Life	1 Samuel 17: 1-18: Psalm 23
27 Jan	Keep Safe	1 Samuel 19 & 20: Psalm 23
3 Feb	All Age Worship	
10 Feb	Wait for God's Time	1 Samuel 24: Psalm 23
17 Feb	Power to Provide	1 Kings 17
24 Feb	Power to Amaze	1 Kings 18
3 March	All Age Service	
10 March	Visit by the Bishop of London	
17 March	Communion teaching	
24 March	Power to Judge	1 Kings 21:1-19, 22:29-40

We hope you will come to the monthly All Age services. Although there is no Sunday school, there are opportunities for the children to join in the service, take part in prayers, do readings or perform in the occasional play. Not forgetting the very important issue of marking everyone's birthday that month!

Leaders' Update

Our leaders are managed by Celia Manwaring (07766 024469) and Martyn Verity (07989 592707)

XCC (age 8-11): Jonathan Culling, Martyn Verity and Lucy Harding-Anderson

Cool Stars (age 5-7): Sophie Johnson and Xiao Li

Sparklers (includes creche) (age 0-4): Rebecca Wall and Jane Devereux

At the start of every term, our leaders meet up to plan the term; if there's anything you would like raised, speak to Martyn or Celia to get it on the agenda



When the children come into church after a CC session, please remember that Communion is a quiet time and ensure your children remain with you until the Service Leader leaves the church. In the interests of safety, we also ask that you stay with your child whenever they are outside.