

Youth and Children's Work at Sanderstead United Reformed Church

Our Church has a long history of working with Children and Young people and ministering to them, since its foundation in the 1930s

Over the last 20 years we have employed three youth workers, we also had a nursery school operating from our premises and the local primary school were running after school clubs. For many years we ran Saturday night youth club, midweek children's clubs and annual holiday clubs. We have also tried some bold initiatives, such as Sunday Scoot which involved scooting around the local park with worship to follow as well as participating in Kick London, a Christian football project. Many of the folk who organised these activities are still the congregation.

We now have a new young Minister with school age children and we are looking to build upon this tradition and the activities which are currently undertaken which are:

- Junior Church meetings twice a month.
- Annual Festival Service and special Children's service.
- The weekly Toddler group which has been running at the same time on a Monday morning for over 40 years and regularly attracts over 30 children.
- A Church affiliated Scout Group with their own headquarters and outdoor space. within a few metres of the Church buildings. Their Scout, Cub and Beaver sections are all fully subscribed. Unfortunately, the Guiding section closed a few years ago.
- Leading regular assemblies at the local Primary school, who use our premises for their annual Christmas carols.
- Host church for Coulsdon and Purley Music festival.

We have good sized premises with a possible Youth Room and there are opportunities to make better use of some parts such as the tennis courts and pavilion.

We have a good and prominent standing in the local community, because of all the activities which have taken place over the years. It is always gratifying when mothers attending at the toddler group are known to us because they attended as toddlers themselves and also came to other church activities or the uniformed groups.