



St Matthew's Church
Carver Street

ST MATTHEW'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

20 26

ANNUAL REPORT



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Faith • Fun • Friendship • Growing Together

“Let the little children come to me...” – Matthew 19:14

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A YEAR OF GROWTH, JOY AND FAITH

2026 has been a remarkable year for Children's Ministry at St Matthew's Church. Throughout the year we have welcomed children and families into a thriving community where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed and every child is encouraged to discover God's love.

Through worship, learning, creativity and fellowship, children have grown in confidence while deepening their understanding of the Christian faith. Alongside our regular ministry activities, a wide range of special events has provided opportunities for families to build relationships, celebrate together and participate more fully in the life of the Church.

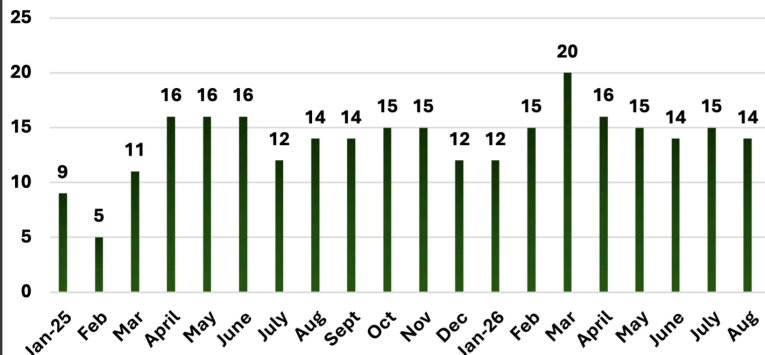
We have witnessed children becoming increasingly confident in worship, eager to learn, willing to serve and enthusiastic about sharing their faith with others. Through every activity, conversation and celebration, we have sought to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children can grow spiritually, develop meaningful friendships and experience a genuine sense of belonging.

We are deeply grateful to every child, family, volunteer, mentor, supporter and ministry partner who has contributed to this journey. Together, we continue to build a ministry where children flourish, families feel connected and faith is lived out with joy and purpose.



MINISTRY AT A GLANCE

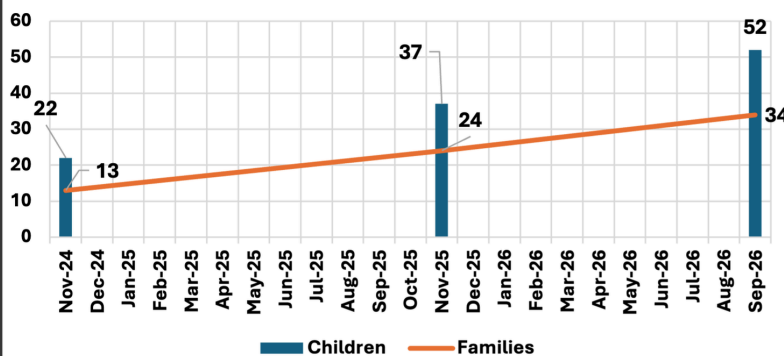
**Monthly Average of Children's Attendance
(Sunday AM Mass, 2025-2026)**



The growth of Children's Ministry continues to be one of the most encouraging developments within the life of the church. Over the past two years, participation has increased significantly, reflecting both numerical growth and deeper engagement among children and families.

Participation has grown from 22 children and 13 families in November 2024 to 52 children and 34 families by September 2026, demonstrating the increasing reach and impact of the ministry.

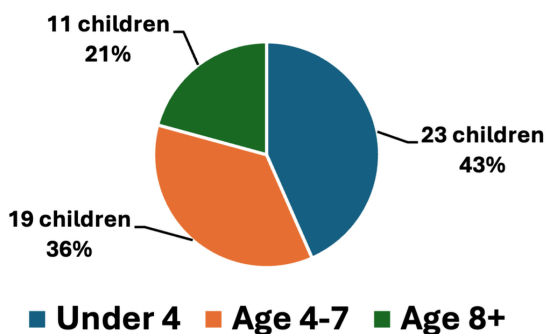
**Growth in Registered Children and Families:
November 2024 - September 2026**



Behind every statistic is a child discovering faith, a family building connections and a community growing together in Christ.

At the heart of Children's Ministry is a desire to help children encounter God's story in engaging, meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Every week provides opportunities to explore Scripture, ask questions, reflect together and discover what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life.

**Number of Children per Age Group
(September 2026)**



Through Bible exploration, discussion, music, prayer, crafts and creative activities, children are encouraged to grow in confidence as young disciples. Learning takes place not only through teaching but also through relationships, shared experiences and active participation in church life.

Throughout the year we have seen children develop a deeper understanding of faith while building friendships and strengthening their connection with the wider church family. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity continue to inspire everyone involved in the ministry.

Families Lunch & Advent Packs

Families Lunch and Advent Packs offered an opportunity for children, parents and carers to gather together in fellowship as they prepared for the Advent season.

Through shared meals, conversation and family activities, relationships were strengthened and families were encouraged to continue exploring faith together at home.



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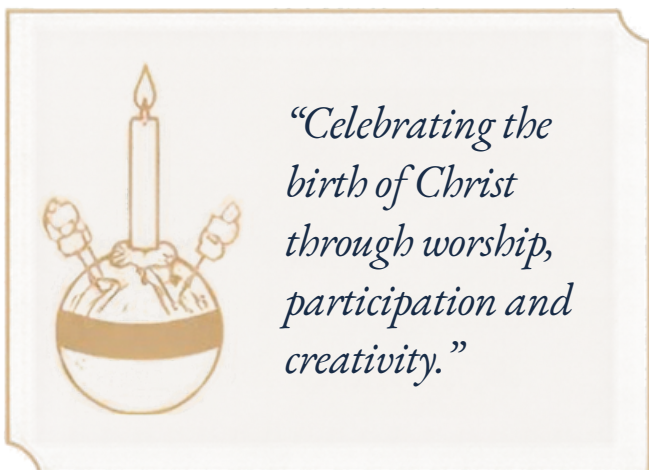
*Preparing together
for Advent through
fellowship and
community.*



Christingle & Christmas Vigil Family Service

One of the highlights of the year was the Christingle celebration and Christmas Vigil Family Service. Children enjoyed creating their own Christingles while learning about their symbolism and meaning.

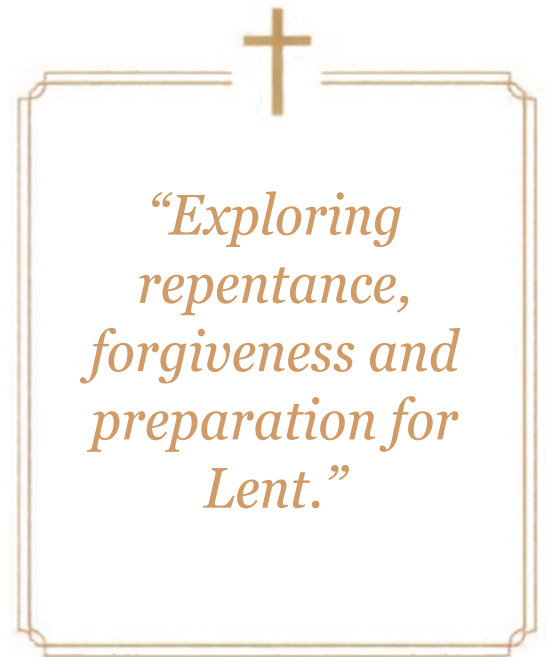
During the Christmas Vigil, they proudly participated in the Nativity tableau, celebrating the birth of Christ through worship, creativity and joyful service.



Pancake Party & Lent Packs

The annual Pancake Party brought children and families together for fun, friendship and faith-filled learning. As pancakes were mixed and flipped, children explored themes of repentance, forgiveness and preparation for Lent.

Families also received Lent packs to support spiritual reflection throughout the season.



Easter Family Special

Good Friday provided an opportunity for families to journey together through the Easter story. Through themed crafts, prayers, hymns and an intergenerational Stations of the Cross, children actively participated in retelling Christ's Passion before sharing hot cross buns together in fellowship.

“

*Stations of the Cross,
family worship and
Easter reflection.”*



Spring Stomp & Bible Fundraiser

The Spring Stomp celebrated God's creation through exploration, discovery and outdoor learning in the Botanical Gardens. Families enjoyed a memorable day together while raising funds to provide children's Bibles for the Play & Pray family area.

The event combined adventure, learning and generosity in a unique community experience.



"Exploring God's creation through outdoor adventure and learning."



Beach Trip for Families

The annual family beach trip created opportunities for friendship, adventure and shared memories. Families travelled together, explored the coastline, paddled in the sea and strengthened relationships through a joyful day of fellowship and community.

“Building friendships and creating lasting memories together.”



MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Faith, Friendship and Belonging

A picture can often express what words alone cannot. The photographs throughout this report capture moments of worship, discovery, celebration, friendship and service that have shaped Children's Ministry during the past year. Together they tell the story of a growing community where children are encouraged to participate, explore their faith and develop meaningful relationships within the life of the Church. From joyful celebrations and processions to quiet moments of prayer and reflection, these images reveal a ministry that is vibrant, welcoming and deeply rooted in Christian faith.

-  Friendship, Fun and Fellowship
-  Learning to Pray and Worship Together
-  Celebrating Special Feasts and Occasions
-  Growing in Faith

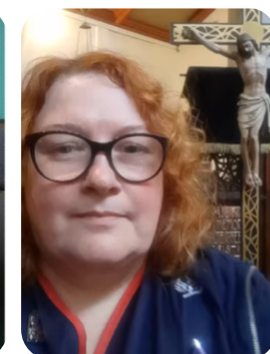
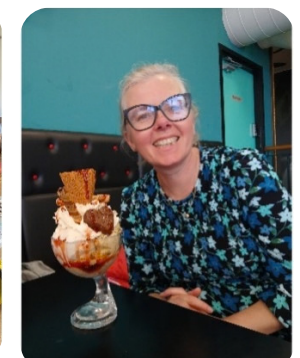


THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING TEAM, SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

It Takes a Team

Every achievement celebrated within this report has been made possible through the generosity, commitment and encouragement of a remarkable group of volunteers, mentors, family members, ministry partners and supporters. Children's Ministry thrives because individuals are willing to share their time, talents, resources and gifts in service to others. Whether through teaching, hospitality, music, administration, mentoring, fundraising, prayer or practical support, every contribution has helped create opportunities for children and families to grow in faith.

We are especially grateful for the support of our ministry partners, sponsors and church family, whose ongoing encouragement and generosity continue to strengthen the ministry and expand its reach.



LOOKING AHEAD

*Every child matters.
Every child is valued.
Every child has a place.*

Exciting Things to Come

As we look towards 2027, we do so with gratitude for all that God has already accomplished and with confidence in the opportunities that lie ahead. Children's Ministry will continue to build upon the relationships, experiences and foundations established during the past year.

We remain committed to creating a welcoming environment where every child can discover faith, develop confidence and experience a genuine sense of belonging.

Our Priorities for the Year Ahead

- 1 Welcoming Every Child** — Continuing to provide a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where every child feels valued and supported.
- 2 Growing in Biblical Understanding** — Helping children discover and understand Scripture in ways that are engaging, relevant and meaningful.
- 3 Encouraging Prayer and Worship** — Supporting children as they develop confidence in prayer, worship and active participation in the life of the Church.
- 4 Building Strong Friendships and Community** — Creating opportunities for children and families to form meaningful relationships and grow together in faith.
- 5 Supporting Families** — Strengthening partnerships with parents and carers while encouraging faith formation at home.
- 6 Developing Creative and Engaging Ministry** — Providing new experiences and activities that encourage learning, creativity and exploration.
- 7 Encouraging Service and Leadership** — Helping children discover their gifts and use them confidently in service of others.
- 8 Growing the Volunteer Team** — Expanding and strengthening the team of volunteers who make the ministry possible.

CONTACT, REGISTRATION & GIVING

We would love to hear from you
and welcome you to get in touch,
register for activities, or support
our ministry.



CONTACT

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REGISTRATION



GIVING

Name: St Matthews PCC
Account Number: 03996810
Sort Code: 30-97-51
Reference: CFM

