



RAINBOWS

“Challenging”, “different” and “strange.” All words that were used to describe 2020 and what a year it turned out to be! Little did we think that when we closed on March 2020 a year+ on we would still not have re-commenced!

In some aspects of youth work Zoom was a great way to keep in touch but with Rainbows it just wasn't practical so we had to think outside the box.

So on three occasions, Autumn, Christmas and Easter we put together gift bags of crafts, puzzles and treats etc and distributed them, socially distancing of course, to the girls in Watson Street. We also kept in touch via Facebook just letting the girls know we hadn't forgotten them.

Regarding September 2021 we haven't made any concrete plans yet but are waiting on guidance from the Church, government guidelines and Girlguiding. We have provisionally agreed on all three sections meeting informally for a short time on September 14th with a view to re- commence on 28th September.

But God is in control, and we pray continually for his guiding hand to direct during this ongoing pandemic.

Louise Irwin

BROWNIES

January 2019 started with around 36 girls attending regularly. We really appreciate the support of parents in bringing the girls along and have also been really pleased that so many of our girls have brought along school friends. More than ever we have many brownies who don't regularly attend church anywhere. It is such a privilege to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the girls, both through our devotions, and hopefully by the way we as leaders interact with them and their parents.

Throughout 2019 we had our usual array of crafts, baking, movie nights and games, as well as a very entertaining evening of making and modelling some homemade hats! These events give us as leaders an opportunity to interact with the girls on a more casual basis, building relationships and sharing our lives. We are always so delighted to have special guests with us at Brownies, and really enjoyed our evening of line dancing with Elma, and our first aid evening with Dianne – I think most of the leaders were in need of the first aid after our line dancing! We have been completing our charity badge and we were delighted to have Joy Irwin come and share about her trip to Romania with Stand By Me. The girls also investigated some charities for themselves and you can see the results on the brownie notice board. We are also in the process of completing a language badge and have been really excited to learn some sign language with Joy Smith, an opportunity which the girls have really enjoyed.

Our devotions through the first half of the year were to continue looking at the big picture of the bible through material called “The King, The Snake and The Promise”. As always, it was so encouraging to remind the girls, and ourselves, that our God is a God who keeps His promises, and whose plans never fail. We also used the “Wordless Book” to guide us through a very clear gospel presentation to our brownies.

With a new term starting in September, we were pleased to see our numbers increasing again to around 40 girls. As always, this brings both encouragement and new challenges, as we struggle to learn new names and to help our new brownies feel welcome and part of the group.

Our devotions for the second half of the year looked at some of the things that God created us to be: to be loved, to



be rescued, to be in relationship with God and other Christians. Please pray for us as leaders as we seek to share these amazing truths with the girls in a way that is engaging and inspiring to them. As with many adults, so many of our girls know all the right answers, but please pray that they will be challenged by God to not just know about Him, but to know Him.

As with all church organisations, we rely on the help and assistance of many other people as well as our leaders. Thanks to Cecil, Mark and Kirsty-Lee as well as all our special guests for their invaluable input.

Cathy, Diane, Grace, Heleen, Katie,
Kirsty-Lee, Nicola, Lesley & Fiona

GIRL GUIDES

Guides meet on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.00pm in the Activity room. We have girls from the age of 10 – 14 years. Most girls that come to Guides have been through Rainbows and Brownies so they know the structure of Guiding but we do get new girls attending for their first time to be a Guide and this is lovely to see.

As a Guide you take part in many different activities and challenges. This helps the girls to work together and learn new skills.

We worked this year on the Fashion for Fashion and Love for Animals badges and the girls tie-dyed a t-shirt and jazzed up shoes, and learnt about different animals: we had a volunteer come and talk about a dogs home.

We had our shopping at Christmas in Newry and our ice skating at Dundonald.

Thanks to Session and Committee for their support and to our caretakers.

May we thank God for all the girls who attend Guiding and for His continued blessing and for guidance into another year.

Please pray for our leaders, for all sections and for our church at this time. If you would like to help even on a part-time basis please do contact any Guide Leader or the church office for information.

Wendy McKee