

Welcome to the SYM monthly news and prayer letter

May 2019

Welcome to the summer term! We can't believe how fast this academic year is going and we trust that you all had a time of rest and celebration over the Easter season.

March and April:

We enjoyed celebrating Easter in schools, particularly through our Emerge groups where themed games were played and chocolate consumed! It was a wonderful opportunity to visit afresh the power of the Easter story and its enduring relevance for us today and for us all.

News updates:

The **Baddow Charity Race** is held every year in Great Baddow and is a blister -inducing 10miles long! This year, Abigail Sheldrake (Fundraising and SYM Trustee) and Karen Tullet (SYM Trustee) are both participating in the run to raise money for SYM. We have both been training hard and our distances are getting longer and sweatie! We will be launching a giving page via the SYM Facebook page – **please sponsor us!** We will be using the money to further the work of SYM in schools and hope to buy some computer tablets for use in the classroom so we can show short video clips and images in our discussion groups.

In other news – we are excited to launch our new **Resource Events**, in partnership with Chelmsford Diocese. These will be held once a term and aim to support and resource those who work with young people, especially in a volunteer capacity. The first event is the evening of Wednesday 18th September on the theme of '**Being a significant adult**'. There is more information to follow but we wanted you to have the date early so it can go in your diaries!

Meet the team

Hello, my name is Gillian Pickett and I have been a volunteer mentor for SYM for 4 years. I am married to Clive and have a married son and daughter and 5 grandchildren aged between 7 and 18 years of age. I first became interested in SYM when they came to our church to tell us about their work many years ago and, as a result, I joined a group which met to pray once a month for their work. SYM then produced a weekly prayer diary which I followed, and as I prayed more for SYM, I became quite concerned about the many problems and difficulties young people face today; things that young people didn't have to face when I was young! As a result, when SYM's work load increased and more mentors were needed, I volunteered to help.

I was a little nervous about volunteering as everyone else at SYM seemed to be so young! However, I needn't have worried - I was welcomed with open arms. I can honestly say it was the best thing I ever did. I love trying to help the young people I see and find it very rewarding. So many of them just want someone to give them their undivided attention. I may not be able to help every young person I see, but if I can make a difference to just a few of them it will have been worth it!



Volunteer mentor, Gillian

Theme for the term: BIG bible stories!

Did you know that approximately 95% of young people have no regular contact with a church?* This means that there is a large proportion of this generation missing out on the incredible stories from the Bible. From Daniel in the Lion's Den to Jonah and the Whale, we are spending this term looking at the BIG, stand-out stories from God's word and what they have to say to us today. We have already had fantastic feedback from our first sessions!

*Scripture Union research

Youth in the news: Climate change

Whether or not you agree with the tactics used in the recent climate change protests, it is a cause of undeniable importance. How amazing that it has been young people as the driving force behind a desire for change. It is their future which will be most affected by our human impact on this precious planet. It is a reminder of what young people are capable of and what they are passionate about.

Thank you for: National Teacher's Day!

Every day at SYM we see the impact that dedicated and enthusiastic teachers make to young people. In honour of National Teachers Day on May 7th, we asked Sian Field from Baddow High School about her journey into teaching.

'I loved being a youth worker and wanted to develop a career working more closely and regularly with teenagers. I did my teacher-training year at Baddow School and have stayed ever since! I wanted to add to my English teaching as I feel kids need more than education; they need support, encouragement and care. So, I moved into being Head of Year, PSHE co-ordinator and one of the Safeguarding Leads. The best part of my job is knowing I genuinely make a difference and being able to see kids through the situations they might be in.'

We love working with Sian and her team at Baddow. They are so committed to the individual children in their care and the whole community benefits from the long-term impact of their work. So today, in your prayers, give thanks for teachers!

For our young people:

Exams

For those undertaking exams who have additional educational needs.

For those undertaking exams with physical and mental health issues.

For wisdom and purpose as decisions are made about futures following exams.

Environmental issues – how can we help make our world a healthier place to live for the next generation? Pray that world leaders and business groups begin to take climate change more seriously so that our young people have a more promising and greener future.

For the team:

To consolidate our work so far this year.

For continuing good relationships as we visit schools to agree our partnership plans for next year.

To use this term to be ready for next year, with practicalities and with our vision.

For our safeguarding workshop.

For the continuing planning and purpose of our Resource Event.

For Karen and Abigail as they train for and run the Baddow 10 mile Race.

Diary dates:

Please pray for the following weekly events:

Mondays	Emerge @ KEGS Gillian and Charlotte T mentoring
Tuesdays	Emerge @ Boswells and Great Baddow Sophie and Kate H mentoring
Wednesdays	Emerge @ Sandon, Hylands and CCHS Charlotte C, Ben and Stephanie mentoring
Thursdays	Emerge @ Chelmer, SJP and Moulsham; Andy, Kate G, James, Abigail, Stephanie, Emma and Lynsey are mentoring
Fridays	Dot and Jane are mentoring <i>Dot is currently taking time to recover from an operation. Pray for her as she recuperates.</i>

Other events coming up:

Mentor training – Thursday May 2nd 9.30am

Team Safeguarding Training – Saturday 11th May

Trustee Meeting - Monday 13th May

Abigail and Karen running The Baddow 10 mile Race – Sunday 19th May

Abigail speaking about the work of SYM at St Michael's, Galleywood 23rd June

Other items for prayer:

We continue to need funding for our work in schools across Chelmsford. Our vision is to;

1. Be a significant presence to young people in times of need
2. Support young Christians in their school environment
3. Host events which resource those working with young people, and events which provide opportunities for young people to hear more about the Christian faith.

Our hope is to continue to grow and all monies donated goes to further the important work we do. For information on how our finances are managed contact John Grayson via info@symchelmsford.org for a breakdown. You can adjust your giving amount via your bank. Alternatively, you can download a new form from our webpage. Our bank details are:

Sort Code: 20 12 21 Account Number: 50264156

Thank you!