

Paul Hine

Paul joined the staff team at Upton Vale seven years ago as the Children's Worker along with his wife Ele who took on the role of Families Worker.

It has been a joy to see the Children's work grow under the leadership of Paul along with his willing team of helpers. His work in UV Kids has highlighted the importance of the children as part of the church family. The whole church enjoyed the variety of activities in the children's slots on a Sunday morning. They were great fun and always carried a very challenging and practical message of how to apply the words of scripture to our daily lives so that we can share Jesus with others. It was a delight to see the children rushing out with such enthusiasm every Sunday to join together to learn about Jesus. During his time as Children's Worker, Paul has written a rolling programme of children's teaching material, covering the whole Bible in a year.

As well as the work with the children on a Sunday morning, Paul, again with a team of willing helpers, ran a variety of mid-week sessions for children up to 11 years of age. The activities included bowling, treasure hunts and lots of different games which I am sure much older members of the congregation would have loved to take part in! These mid-week activities were so popular that Paul ended up with a waiting list for children who wanted to come.

Not only did Paul have a wonderful relationship with the children, he also set up a great relationship with the parents and communicated with them regularly even during the lockdown.

For those who were fortunate to visit some of the Sunday and Wednesday UV Kids sessions, it was a great blessing to see so many children really enjoying learning about Jesus. The bible and learning verses were always part of those sessions.

Who can forget the Christmas quizzes that Paul and Ele have provided each year. The numbers were so big that it had to move from the Main Hall into the Church Sanctuary so that everyone could be included. We even had a zoom Christmas Quiz in 2020 so Covid did not stop Paul from getting us all involved!

It has been a delight to see Paul flourish in his preaching ministry during his time with us. He has studied hard to complete a theology degree and he has matured in his preaching the word of God to us all.

We have been very privileged to have Paul on our staff team for the last seven years and we are pleased that he will continue to be part of the preaching team in a voluntary role. He has a great passion for Jesus Christ and for encouraging children to share Jesus with their friends. He has brought fun, laughter and joy to us as a church and we are grateful that he will remain as a member of the congregation. May God bless him, Ele, Bekah and Bethany in the future.