

Watton Community Hub Thursday Group

St Mary's Church

Report for Town Council Annual Meeting

This group has been running since 2019 and provides a safe welcoming space for parents, carers and their children once a week during term time. It was set up in the first instance as an outreach project by the Families Keyworker as a joint venture between the Town Council and St Mary's church. When the Keyworker left her post the group continued to run but by volunteers. St Mary's church took over responsibility for the administration of the group and also agreed to find the funding for paying the rent for the room.

It has not been easy for the church to keep up with the payments for the rent and so we applied for, and received in March 2024, a grant of £500.00. This will be used to provide consumables such as tea, coffee and juice, and will also go towards the rent.

Receiving this grant will mean that we are able to keep this vitally important group going for the foreseeable future. It is very important to provide such facilities for families and the Community Hub building is convenient for families.

St Mary's church PCC and our Priest in Charge Dave Cossey are very keen to work with the community to provide for Watton families. We also run a Storybags session at St. Mary's every Monday morning during term time. At this and the Thursday group we only ask for £1.00 per session if parents and carers can afford it.

Both toddler groups rely on volunteers and we are extremely grateful for all that they do. Particular thanks go to Romaine Humphrey's and Eileen Kibler who have worked tirelessly to keep the Thursday group going. It was really hard to get going again after Covid but they have persevered and the group is now running very effectively and is much appreciated by those who attend. We are always very keen to find more volunteers and would be able to provide even more activities and events if we could attract more volunteers. Please let me know if you could spare some time to help.

Linda Benton

April 2024