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| Your initiative's name Sharing And Learning Together (SALT) | MOF ref (Office use only) |
| Sponsoring church & location St Andrew's Church, Sandon | Deanery Chelmsford South |
| Overall vision To help to retain families with children moving out of the pre-school age group, within the Christian community and build their commitment to Christ. The group aims to provide a ministry to those looking after young children so they can share their concerns and joys. The children can have the chance to interact socially both with their peers and with other adults in a safe environment. All can hear and begin to share their experiences of faith in Christ and begin to hear something of His love for the world. | |
| Local need and benefit There is need for people to be supported to become more involved with the Christian faith. Significant numbers of people have supported SALT over the last year, a number attending regularly, others occasionally. The age of those attending ranges from 4 years to adult including mothers, fathers and grandparents. Not all the families live in Sandon but most have some connection with the church, or have been invited along by friends. Helpers range from teenage siblings to retired adults. SALT has also brought benefit to those attending and helped in building relationships and in learning and sharing together. Jean Elliott continues to bring a firm Christian focus together with fun, play and challenges for children and helpers alike. Her drive and enthusiasm is infectious and her commitment has been admirable. | |
| What are the initiative's key mission objectives? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To tell the very young and their parents of God's love for them, 2) To have a simple worship ceremony, 3) To teach this group how they can develop their faith, 4) To encourage an increase in commitment to Christ and the Church, 5) To encourage fellowship and friendships to form. | |
| How will it help people to develop Christian faith and commitment to worship? It will both enable the group to hear the Word of God and encourage them to try to pray and grow in trust in the Lord and provide a means for maintaining contact with the Church and its worship. | |



Whom is the project designed for?

The project is designed to help the children who attend, their parents and those, predominantly from the Church, who help.

How many people are you reaching?

During the last year there have been 30 SALT sessions with between 10 and 15 children at 80% of those sessions along with their parents/grandparent, and with 5-6 helpers, a core of whom come nearly every week and a number less regularly. There have been between 10 and 15 adults at 90% of the sessions.

Extra preparation sessions have been held at the start of terms when Jean, helpers and some families have discussed and planned the forthcoming term's activities.

A group of helpers and parents met for a meal one evening in April at the local pub, and groups of mothers have arranged to socialise together.

During the summer holidays a group of church members, SALT helpers and attendees delivered leaflets locally giving information about SALT and publicising dates for the following term. This seems to have produced an increase in interest and attendance. We plan to repeat this leafleting again in early September.

Who does most of the work? Staff? Volunteers? Hours per week/month?

Jean Elliott was appointed in September 2009 and is paid for preparation and running one session each week in term time. There has been a band of 9 volunteers (R & J Cecil, J & S Whinney, L Bobeldijk, D & J Terry, G Haddington, B Moyse) who have helped on different occasions as they can, and one of the churchwardens (M Puffett) is a regular visitor.

Who oversee the project?

The church treasurer looks after the finances and there is quiet support from the PCC many of whom help with or look in on the sessions.

What are the lines of accountability?

The arrows points toward the person to whom the other is accountable.

**Helpers → Paid Leader → a Churchwarden – Priest in Charge -
Standing Committee of PCC → MoF**

How are you monitoring the outcomes against your objectives?

- 1) **We see that each event actually takes place and note the attendance,**
- 2) **We observe within the group for signs of personal growth and development. (Some of the children are showing signs of improving behaviour and there has been some lovely generosity shown by children, parents and helpers alike.)**
- 3) **We have monitored increasing commitment to Christ and the Church, as families have attended Sunday family worship, Christingle and Crib service.**
- 4) **We listen to parents very positive and appreciative comments, and note that several children have invited and brought their friends (and parent) along.**

What are your timescales?

Jean Elliott was appointed for 3 years with a grant of £12,585. We are now about 18 months in.

Costs and funding

Pay to Jean Elliott as agreed in the MOF bid, paid by grant topped up from church/PCC funds. Parents make voluntary contribution towards church expenses – heating etc, church/PCC/MOF grant funds materials and volunteers provide refreshments.

What happens when the Mission Fund grant finishes?



Although we are only about half way through the SALT scheme we are giving active consideration to the sequel. Several ideas are in mind but it is too soon to decide what the best course of action should be.

We are creating a programme of weekly activities as the project progresses. This could, with development and updating form the basis for a 3 year rolling programme for future work with children.

What is the structure of each SALT session?

Each SALT session has had a common structure which has been worked out with Jean Elliott.

They include about six activities around a common theme and Bible passage. The nature of the activities includes:-

1. Illustrating a story,
2. A creative prayer activity,
3. A prayer box,
4. A freer making activity e.g. clay, pipe cleaners,
5. A painting activity,
6. A game,
7. Play activity,
8. Quieter area/activity

All these are forms of worship and the sessions continue with 'Altogether Time' where Jean leads adults and children in songs and story. This is followed by light refreshments closing with a sung blessing song.

SALT Attendance and Themes 2010

