

The National Day of Prayer for church toddler groups – 2013!

Here is an account from Pippa James who leads Beeches Toddler group in Carshalton

I used the 1277 press release and National Prayer Day poster/PowerPoint for all my information and statistics on toddler groups.

Having chatted my ideas through with our minister, we decided to do the day of prayer on the Sunday 2nd June (nearest one available to National Families week. I had a short slot in the morning service, where our minister asked me 3/4 questions interview style about the day of prayer and how people could get involved. I explained about 1277 and how important toddler groups are to mums that attend. I explained about how many families we were currently in touch with through toddler group and how God can use these opportunities to bring people into the church. I wish I had had longer to say how important it is that the church supports the toddler group on a regular basis through prayer!

I asked the mums who attend toddler group 2/3 weeks before if they were happy to be included on the list and explained that a member of the church would pray for them and their family on this National Day of Prayer for church toddler groups. I also gave them the option, that if they did not want to be part of this, to let me know (no-one came back and said no!) I also gave the opportunity for those mums that wished to, to add any prayer requests onto the list. I explained that no-one would contact them. (covered all eventualities!)

I put together a list of all the families who attended toddler group at that time and a list of all the helpers families too, including as much information as I had available from the mums membership forms I had on file. Mum and Dad's name and child who attends toddlers plus any other children I knew about, any prayer requests. I think I had about 60 names of both helpers and mums families on my list! (no mean feat to try to find 60 people to take one family each to pray for (especially with a 1 year old in tow!!!!)

On a couple of Sundays before, I managed to catch a number of church members and explain to them what was involved and was able to give individuals a name of one of the mums from Toddler group to pray for on that day or week ahead. I think over all the 3 weeks I managed to cover almost half of the names on my list. It was a start of something I would like to continue again this year. Everyone was prayed for on the list (even if I did have quite a few myself to pray for!)

We have used the prayer cards for mums to pass on prayer requests anonymously. We have also produced laminated Prayer bookmarks – we had a number available at that service to give out to church members – so they could pray specifically on a Tuesday morning or regular basis if they wanted to.

It was really great doing this and I would really encourage groups to give it a go! Start small, but think and pray Big! God can use these opportunities to pray for families and also link families together with church members who may know them through toddlers. It may also get church members inspired to come along to toddlers and see what you do and offer to help!!!