**Report from Caterpillar Club 2018**

The club continues to meet in church every Wednesday from 1-30pm to 3-00pm. Our numbers fluctuate from week to week and our membership changes regularly. New Mums come on the recommendation of friends and neighbours and many attend regularly until they return to work following maternity leave while others come until their child is of school age. We do have a number of Mums who return following the birth of their second or third child.

Very little changes in the way the club operates. We have suitable toys and jigsaws for the children, a cup of tea or coffee is offered to Mums, Dads or Grandparents who come with the children. We have our special biscuit mat for those children who are old enough to sit and eat one and juice for them to drink. We celebrate birthdays with a card, a pretend cake with the required number of candles and the happy birthday song. The last part of the session is filled with singing to the accompaniment of various shakers and tambourines and a short prayer with which to end. We average about 15 children each week.

At Christmas we had our usual celebration lunch with a visit from Father Christmas who distributed nativity story books to the children suitable for their specific age group. At Easter, we gave out small chocolate eggs. We do not ask for any donations from our members but are able to function financially by having a generous grant from the Robert Hungate Foundation which for 2018 was £500. This allows us to be an independent organization and not ask for any finances from church funds.

 My grateful thanks go to Eileen Stothert, Irene Lees and Margaret Gaygan for their unfailing support and work in the club week by week. With their help, we have built relationships with both children and Mums who appreciate the friendship, support and care we offer them. We feel that this is continues to be an important expression of mission and ministry in the benefice.

**Pastoral Committee**

Since the departure of our last Rector, the Pastoral Committee has not functioned officially for several reasons. This has not meant that pastoral ministry has been overlooked but those of us who agreed to form a team responsible for this area of ministry are looking to guidance from our next Rector as to how best to organise this work.