

## Nursery celebrates 25th birthday

CHILDREN and staff at a church-run nursery celebrated their 25th anniversary with a bouncy castle, magician and a cake.

St Jude's Church Nursery in Southsea was officially registered in July 1992, and has always been rated by Ofsted as "good". It now caters for more than 100 children aged between two and four, and has recently moved to being open 51 weeks a year.

The celebrations involved a bouncy castle for children inside the nursery and the visit of a magician who delighted the children with his amazing tricks.

And it was a special moment for deputy nursery manager Helen Marshall, who has been working at St Jude's Church Nursery for 24 of its 25 year-history.

Manager Levinia Glanville said: "There has



Natasha Wells and Helen Marshall with (middle, l to r): Som Pal, Zachary Rhule, Ava Monk, Bailey Simmonds and Stevie Bleach, all 4: (front): Samuel Bacon, Rebecca Morrison, Raya Taylor, Maryam Labaran, Harper Taylor, and Brooke Joyce-Ragless, all 4 been a childcare element for the building for many years prior to 1992.

"Initially a parent and toddler group started here around 35 years ago, and then it became a part-time nursery. Once parents began to be employed it

needed to be registered with Ofsted, which is what happened 25 years ago.

"The first manager, Lesley Bowden, was in charge until 2012 and helped to make the nursery as professional as it is today. Fifteen years ago

we completed an extension which allowed for more rooms and a garden and meant we could also take children from age two. More recently, wraparound care was increased, with the nursery being open from 8am-6pm during the term.

"The nursery has always promoted the great links with both St Jude's Church and St Jude's Primary School and church members regularly come into nursery to share stories and songs.

"We've recently moved to being open 51 weeks a year, which has already proved popular.

"We feel the nursery is able to offer affordable childcare whilst still delivering an excellent service to both the children and their families."

For more information, see [www.stjudeschurchnursery.co.uk](http://www.stjudeschurchnursery.co.uk).

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# Creative prayer excites pupils

IT was a chance for pupils at this C of E school to experience creative prayer in the classroom.

Children from St Jude's C of E Primary School in Portsmouth were given the chance to try everything from Fizzy Forgiveness to Thankful Playdough during a week of spiritual inspiration.

Staff and volunteers from St Jude's and St Simon's Churches in Southsea, our cathedral and Kings Church in Somers Town set up creative prayer stations as part of a Prayer Spaces in Schools project.

They created six different prayer activities in a spare classroom and outside the school in a tent, and gave the children gentle explanations of how to use them. All 14 classes from the school got involved over five days in the summer.

The Family Tree activity involved them writing prayers on hand-shaped pieces of paper, which were attached to a paper-maché tree. Fizzy Forgiveness involved dissolving a tablet into a bowl, representing the



St Jude's C of E Primary School pupils enjoy creative prayer in the classroom

wrong things they wanted to say sorry for.

Daniel Akpa, 10, said: "The first activity we did was to draw names in the sand of those who had helped us in our life. I chose my mum and friends.

"It helps you to think about things more and to trust in God even more."

And Louie McCafferty, 10, said: "We were also asked to think what brings you down,

like when people are mean to you and you feel lonely and want to get revenge. You put the tablet in and it starts to fizz and all the bad feelings go away."

The week was organised by Liz Morrison, children, youth and families co-ordinator at St Jude's Church.

It came after pioneer minister the Rev Tim Watson had led a training morning in

how to lead Prayer Spaces in Schools back in May.

"All of the children responded in different ways," said Liz. "There were a mixture of prayer stations about themselves, their families and the wider world.

"Interestingly, something like this actually ticks various boxes regarding the syllabus, as well as helping with the Christian ethos of the school."

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