

## ASPIRE REPORT FOR APCM

Aspire was initiated by Revd. Trevor Sharp, at the beginning of 2022, as a group for Year 5 and above. Over the next year and a half, the young people enjoyed various activities together – including an obstacle course, a bonfire in the Vicarage garden and making pancakes.

From September 2023, the group has been meeting in the Loft on the third Friday of each month, from 7pm to 8.30pm, under the leadership of Angie Caldwell and Liz Beardmore, with support from Franki Bickerdyke. We have been using Scripture Union's *Rooted* resource, covering the following topics:

Exploring identity (What is my name?)  
Thinking about our life as a journey (What's my journey?)  
Understanding emotions (What do I feel?)  
Exploring self-worth (How do I see myself?)  
Friendship and choices (Who is around me?)  
Social media and influences (What's around me?)  
Healthy eating, fitness and mental health (What do I value?)

During the summer term, we will cover:

Trying a new skill (Can I be brave?)  
Dreams and aspirations (What does the future hold?)  
What's next? (All wrapped up?)

Each session includes games and crafts, as well as the opportunity to see what the Bible has to say. At Christmas, we paused from *Rooted* to have a Christmas party, where we showed three short videos produced by Scripture Union, reminding the young people what Christmas is all about.

We plan to hold an afternoon in July, just for the Year 6 members of Aspire and their friends, using the *It's Your Move* Scripture Union resource. We also hope to hold a couple of active events during the summer holidays, when Aspire members can invite their friends along. Two of our Aspire members will be going to Submerge, a multi-activity Scripture Union holiday, based at a boarding school in Berkshire. They will be organising a couple of fundraising cake and craft sales in April and May.

In order for the group to grow, we would value extra help – especially to have a male presence on the leadership team, for more balance, in the hopes of encouraging more boys to attend, as our attendees are mostly girls. They are a group with plenty of energy and enthusiasm! We would value your prayers as we grow this special group of young people.

Angie Caldwell and Liz Beardmore