

Handing on the Faith Club, (HOTF), started in the 1990's at St John Vianney Church Wantage. In those days there were as many as 32 children attending each week. Sadly, the club closed in about 2000 when a founder member became seriously ill but we started again in 2008 and we're delighted to have children now whose parents were original HOTF members. We meet on Wednesdays during term time in the hall behind our Church.

When the children arrive at 3.30 p.m. they have a drink and a biscuit and the first few minutes can be riotous whilst they enjoy racing around having been released from school. Most of the children attend St. Amand's Primary School, and we have two teenagers who continue to attend and help with the younger ones.

We celebrate major feast days and all birthdays are marked with a card, a present, cake and 'Happy Birthday to You' At 4 p.m. we go into Church where Canon Peter joins us. Each person's prayer intention is read out, we pray, then hold hands in a circle and sing our friendship song with much pumping of arms. Canon seems to enjoy this at least as much as the children. Then we have a Bible reading, before silent prayer in front of the Tabernacle. The children then gather round to hear a story about a Saint or an event from the Bible. Inevitably there are a lot of questions before we return to the hall for varied activities, including, craft work, competitions, plays, and singing. Canon joins us again for prayers before the children leave at 5:15pm.

We are now entering our tenth successive year thanks to the parents, teenagers and children who are so supportive of our HotF club.