

## Some Play Church Feedback (after the first year of hosting)

### 1. How have children responded to Play Church?

- Most children were under 7 and many pre-schoolers. “The younger ones loved it, the older ones were more reserved. However they all liked playing with the candles and loved switching them on and off pretending they were blowing them out!” All engaged during specific play sessions eg Godly Play / Messy Church / Christmas Workshop.
- Social play – children enjoying dressing up – and playing together, parading up the aisle and acting out a combined wedding and baptism with two brides – one wore the dress, the other the petticoat.
- Ella (6) “Where’s my church gone?” Most enjoyed standing behind the altar and making adults sit in children’s seats!

### 2. How have adults responded to Play Church?

- “Adults loved Play Church...A number of people told me that they had been sceptical about it prior to its arrival, but really enjoyed it in reality.”
- “Quite a lot of activity around me, but it didn’t disturb me”
- “Anything that opens people’s or children’s minds is a good thing”

### 3. What has been the best thing about your church’s Play Church experience?

- “Its acceptance by all ages and delight at the quality of the resources.”
- Giving adults an insight into children’s imaginative play and their awareness of what happens in worship.
- Adults and children more at ease in each other’s company – “at-one-ness” in worship.”
- “An open conversation with children about the ‘fun’ side of worship and community.”
- “Children engrossed in Holy Communion when gathered around the Play Church altar”
- “60 Primary School children in church with teachers and helpers, all playing, dressing up and asking questions!”

### 4. Was there anything that didn’t work or that you found difficult about the experience of hosting Play Church?

- “Three year old using large candlestick as light sabre – imaginative play included Star Wars.”

### 5. Has Play Church changed anything for your church?

- Recognition of children as fellow worshippers, valuing the contribution of children. We appreciated the flexible use of the church and the integration of All Age Worship, which is closing the generation gap.
- “It has made us think again about involving children more in our services and getting them involved with the things they are comfortable doing: using much more interactive prayers, ways of worship and allowing them to be part of the work of the church.”