

# family space<sup>+</sup>

good news in our community

about us



## **about us:**

Family life can be full of ups and downs, good days and not such good days. Parents can often do with having places to go to, people to be with and/or things to do with the children, as well as sometimes having space for themselves. Family Space can help that to happen so parents can spend time with their children, spend time with other parents and children can have time to play together.

## **family space exists to:**

- Develop people's appreciation of themselves and their families
- Encourage family relationships, especially between parents/carers and children
- Encourage an ongoing sense of hope that makes a difference
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy time together and on their own
- Provide spaces where children and parents can feel safe
- Encourage people to do their own business with God

## **family space offers:**

- Stay and Play sessions... for parents + 0-3's
- Time Out for Mums... with a crèche for the 0-3's
- Befrienders... having someone to help with the children, the shopping or just to listen
- Child Contact Centre... a place for children and parents to meet up when the family unit has been separated
- Book and Toy libraries... toys, videos, books and storybooks to enjoy at home
- Support to our partner project – Agape Family Centre in Vaslui, Romania





*Family Space play areas at St Silas Church Centre*

### **further information:**

Further information is available on each of the Family Space activities and if you'd like to know more about them you can call: 01242 580 812, or ring our bell at the rear of the St Silas Church Centre.

If you would like to know about any of our supporting churches' activities for families, then please contact the relevant minister.

### **contact details:**

St. Barnabas, Orchard Way.	Rob Crofton	01242 575 679
St. Aidan & St. Silas, Coronation Square.	Philip Smith	01242 528 567
Hesters Way Baptist Church, Ashlands Road.	James Ingram	01242 673 111
St. Mark, Church Road.	Church Office	01242 580 002
Family Space <i>(full address &amp; map overleaf)</i> .	Phil Blake	01242 580 812

**family space believes in making a difference – however small**

## The Starfish

*Walking along the beach close to the water's edge he could see thousands and thousands of starfish washed up from the previous tide. Into the distance he could see the long line of starfish stretched out before him, all of them only a few feet from the sea as if stranded. Tantalisingly so near, yet so far from the water.*

*He reached down and picked one up and gently threw it back into the sea. He reached down again and did the same to another, and another and another.*

*A second man, walking his dog along the beach saw him and asked 'why are you doing that – surely you can't make a difference to all these starfish – there are too many of them'.*

*Throwing another one back into the sea, the man replied, 'it makes a difference to this one!'*



*This is the thinking behind much of the activity of Family Space, making a difference to some people's lives.*

*Of course, we can't help anywhere near all the families we would like to, but we can help some.*



### family space

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**family space** is a joint venture between Cheltenham YMCA, and four local churches in Cheltenham – St Aidan & St Silas, St Barnabas, Hesters Way Baptist Church, and St Mark.

YMCA

CHELTEMPHAM

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