

East Kilbride

<i>Journeys in faith</i>		
<i>Kidz Klub in East Kilbride</i>	<i>Kidz Klub</i> is an activities-based format for younger children, originally developed in Liverpool. It shares Christian teachings using games, sketches and story-telling – “a cross between Saturday morning television and Sunday School”.	31
How did this project come about?	The church held an open day and used survey sheets to ask visitors about local needs. “Something for the children,” was the repeated response. Church worker Annette Robb investigated a number of options but kept returning to the <i>Kidz Klub</i> format .	41
What are the needs in your community that you set out to meet?	“We’re in a young area here,” says church member Rod Shanks – “young families and not a lot for youngsters to do. There’s no other community facility and we were keen to make the church more of a community venue.” Other volunteers say that the local estate was not a safe place for children – partly because they didn’t really know each other and never had the opportunity to do anything together outside school.	72
What difference does the involvement of local Methodists make to the project?	Turning the church into a weekday venue has been important for the community. Volunteers have been drawn from local parents and concerned adults, as well as church members, and occasional BBQ open days draw the community to the church to socialize. <i>Kidz Klub</i> “gets kids off the street and the community comes closer together because it’s a constant thing that goes on and the church is in the middle of it.”	71
What have been the ups and downs during the development of this project?	It was originally thought that <i>Kidz Klub</i> would be limited to 30 children but it now has over 40 registered. The team gets some help with props from another <i>Kidz Klub</i> in the area but what really makes this project possible is the quality, diversity and commitment of the volunteers.	50
What effect has the development of this project had on the Methodist community in this area?	“I’ve been told that there’s a bit of a buzz about the place,” says Annette, “and I think the congregation is happy with the work that’s being done.” Rod adds: “The whole thing has raised the profile of the church in the community. It’s not just a building that’s open on a Sunday.”	53
What help have you received in developing and running the project?	<i>Kidz Klub</i> requires £2-3,000 a year to operate – to cover props and contributions towards the venue. The scheme has had help from the Methodist District and also grants from the local authority and a few smaller local organisations. “When you	61

	mention it's kids and a community like this, there's normally enough people willing to come forward and help financially," says Rod.	
How do you see this project developing?	<i>Kidz Klub</i> will continue to run in 12 week blocks for the young children, but the team has begun looking at how they can run another group for younger secondary school-aged children on a regular basis.	36
What advice would you give another church community thinking of doing something similar?	Think about what you've got – a building, adults with some time to share? Think about what's around you, what's missing from your community. Think about the times that people are free to come.	33
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