

## Methodist Insurance Community Award 2017

# Story Cafe

Deacon Sarah Wickett

### Celebration

Poole Methodists are delighted that Story Cafe was chosen as a Methodist Insurance Community Award winner. We attended an award dinner at Methodist Central hall on 2nd November. It felt like a wedding reception, with drinks on arrival, a seating plan, flowers on the table and a superb dinner. What a treat! Thank you Methodist Insurance. It was great to sit with the other winners and hear their stories of hope and transformation in their communities. If you want to read more please look at the Methodist Insurance website <https://www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/church-community-award/poole-methodist-church/index.aspx>

### How does it work?

Story Cafe was developed jointly by Poole Methodists and the School. The School invites ten children and their families to attend Story Cafe at the end of the school day. Children share their school reading books with church volunteers and do a craft activity, whilst their parents and carers relax over a cup of tea and homemade cake. One of the church volunteers then reads a story to the whole group of children. The school was keen to provide incentives to read, so each child has a bookmark and lovely stickers! Ten sessions are offered per term and attendance is rewarded with the gift of a brand-new book. These have been generously provided by the church's next-door neighbours, the Nationwide building society, who encouraged the whole community to donate books.



### Story of hope

Story Cafe is story of hope, because it connects communities school, church and local business. Story Cafe itself gives people hope, because there everyone is valued and accepted. Children love receiving an adult's undivided attention as they read. Parents/carers value appreciate volunteers listening to their "life" stories. Poole Methodist volunteers enjoy serving together as a team. Story cafe brings generations together, and together we learn, laugh and encourage one another.