

the big E newsletter

aiming to equip, enthuse and energise children's workers across the Diocese

Issue 26 January 2010

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope you enjoy reading the first Big E of 2010.

Being involved in Children's Work usually involves thinking and planning ahead. In this issue you will find some ideas for Holiday Clubs as well as a training evening in May to share ideas about Holiday Clubs.

You may want to think ahead and decide to get involved with Love Life Live Lent (not that far away really, Ash Wednesday is 17 Feb!).

Lots of churches plan towards the end of the school year and buy the It's your Move booklet to give to Year 6's moving schools - more details on back page.

Have a great 2010, whatever you plan to do!

Linda Rigg

Bishop Begins

Nick writes

I am sure you are as excited as I am that Bishop Paul Butler, currently Bishop of Southampton and Bishop Advocate for Children is starting here on 27th February. I am involved in planning his installation service, and children will feature as part of it. I know Bishop Paul will be looking forward to meeting people whose ministry is to children and young people once he has settled in.



INSIDE ...

- Resources Room and video Giveaway! p2 & 3
- Messy Church at Bawtry p2
- Big E Day 2010! p2
- Training Events p3
- Holiday Club p3
- One generation Event at Southwell p4
- Think about 'It's Your Move' booklets p4



Love Life Live Lent book and booklets contain over 40 simple things to do during Lent: one action for each day. These actions help us to transform our world - locally, nationally and globally.

With separate booklets for kids and for adults/youth, a book for families and supporting resources for churches and schools, everyone can get involved!

"Together we can build better and more generous communities. Together we can lighten our load on the planet. We show God's love when we do these things. Why not start today?"

To order booklets and for more ideas see Love Life Live Lent website: www.livelent.net

Info via e-mail?

We would like to communicate with you more often by e-mail, as well as continuing with this (rather expensive) paper-based mailing for the time being. It would be a great help if you could send a brief e-mail to Alison in the Education office - alisonj@southwell.anglican.org saying that you would like to be on our e-mail list. We WILL NOT share the list with anyone else!!

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01636 817234 e-mail nick@southwell.anglican.org

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

www.southwell.anglican.org

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Howard's End!

Many of you will be aware that the Diocesan Director of Education, Howard Worsley, is moving to become DDE in London in February. I am sure we are grateful for Howard's work and wisdom in the Diocese, and will pray both for his new ministry in London and the family as they gradually move there, and that those recruiting his replacement are led by God to the right person.



If you have not yet come across Howard's Worsley's book, *A Child Sees God*, it is worth borrowing from the Resources Room or getting hold of your own copy. In it Howard looks at a number of Bible stories and, after they are told to children, carefully considers and comments on their responses. An unusual, fascinating and revealing read!

Nick

Resources Room

Marlene Shrive, the excellent volunteer, and Nick are constantly amazed at how many people don't know about and therefore don't use the Resources Room at Dunham House.

The room contains a range of resources for children's ministry, youth, pastoral work, music and worship, prayers, RE and Education, Bibles and theology.

PLEASE use the room, and pass the message on to others in your congregation. Also put the enclosed little poster up in your church.

The Resources Room is open whenever Dunham House is! If you are there for a meeting in the evening or weekends you can go in there while in the building. Normal office hours are 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

Video Giveaway!

After an analysis of borrowing patterns Nick has decided to remove all videos from the small room at the back of the Resources Room. If you could use any of the videos (ranging from children's to adult, home group, evangelism, etc) then please go to Dunham House and take them before the beginning of February. Any remaining videos will be disposed of then. In the meantime we are gradually building up the DVD resources as limited budgets allow.

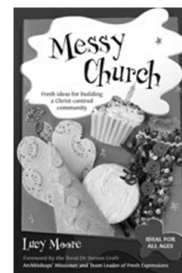
Advance Notice - Big E Day

Please note the date for your 2010 Diary Big E Training Day Saturday 23 October at Southwell Minster School

'Messy Church' in Bawtry

In September 2008 we took a very tentative step and started our own version of "Messy Church" at St Nicholas Church. It grew out of the church's regular running of a Tuesday afternoon club in the church hall for primary age children at Christmas and Easter, which whilst good, had variable attendance, and didn't engage with parents. Sunday church is becoming more child friendly and we have a Sunday school with only five regulars!

Lucy Moore's book 'Messy Church' (BRF 2006) seemed to offer what we needed, so 'Tuesday Club' became 'Tuesday Club Plus' (TCP) the plus being a regular monthly slot, 15 minutes in church, a cooked tea for everyone and a deliberate intent to involve adults too. Our strap line is that TCP is "for families, faith, food and fun on the fourth Tuesday at four pm".



Our first session was "I am the true vine" ("Messy Church" page 106), and to make clear our intention to engage with adults we added an adult activity – "wine tasting". This went down very well with the mostly mums who attend! (They asked for and got, in a later session "chocolate tasting").

Our regular pattern for preparation is to meet as a team (8-10) three weeks before the session. We decide what crafts we will be doing (mostly straight from the book) and who will do each one, usually those individuals are responsible for making sure they have the materials they need. Also we decide on the menu (limited by the basically "domestic" kitchen in the church hall), and we pray.

For our time in church we use songs from CDs, a short talk and prayers often in the form of an activity. During this time a small team stay behind to clear up the craft activities and lay up for tea, so that on our return everyone sits down together. Dads are welcome to join when they can as the afternoon progresses.

Our numbers have grown steadily to currently about 40 children and 25 adults – probably about the maximum we can handle. We also observe that people are moving from being simply attendees to owning their club; there is spiritual growth, though not as yet expressed in Sunday Church attendance. Indeed this may never be an outcome from such clubs. When we did a survey after a year and asked "Do you feel you have been to church when attending TCP" the majority answered yes. For them TCP is Church, and in many ways a very healthy form of church.

Jonathan and Jackie Strickland

Training Events 2010

Worship for all Ages

All Age Worship

Saturday 30 January 10.00am - 3.00pm
Ollerton Community Hall

A day to look at the issues around All-Age worship with Nick Harding

Fresh Songs

Wednesday 3 February 7.30 - 9.15pm
Emmanuel Church Hall, Bestwood

Learn some new songs to use in all-age and children's worship.

Led by Peter Huxtable and Elaine Buckley.

Intergenerational Church

Thursday 11 March 7.30 - 9.15 pm
St Mark's, Woodthorpe

A brief look at what it means to have a church that thinks and works for all generations.

Led by Nick Harding.

Bookings Catriona Gundlach 01636 817232
catriona@southwell.anglican.org

Child Protection

Child Protection and the Internet

Tuesday 20 April 7.30 - 9.15pm
St John's Centre, Mansfield

A look at the challenges church workers and parents face in helping children understand the risks of the internet. Led by Nick Harding.

Bookings Catriona Gundlach 01636 817232
catriona@southwell.anglican.org

Changes in Checking CRB, Vetting and Barring, and ISA

The forthcoming introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme, operated by the Independent Safeguarding Authority, will change the way churches employ volunteers and staff. A tour of briefing sessions is taking place now. The briefings are led by Barbara Selley and Nick Harding. They are for **all clergy** in the deanery, **all those responsible for checking CRB** applications, and **named people** for child protection only!

Please don't worry about what this means for you as someone involved in children's ministry - we will communicate clearly what has to be done and when in due course!

Nick Harding

Holiday Clubs

Holiday Clubs

Monday 17 May 7.30 - 9.15pm
Rolleston Village Hall

A forum and discussion opportunity for churches to share their experience and learn new things. Led by Nick Harding.

Bookings Catriona Gundlach 01636 817232
catriona@southwell.anglican.org

Holiday Club Resources



Scripture Union produce lots of different resources for Holiday clubs and Mid-Week groups. Each year they publish a complete new resource based on ideas which have been tried and tested and are ready to use and adapt for your situation.

This year's theme is Showstoppers and comes complete with a DVD and material for 5 sessions. There is also a follow-on book called Dress Rehearsal which includes 8 sessions on discovering how to live God's way.
www.scriptureunion.org.uk/holidayclubs

Holiday Club Resources in Resources Room at Dunham House

Copies of showstoppers material are available to look at or borrow from the Resources Room. There are also copies of materials from previous years such as Champion's Challenge and Pyramid Rock as well as lots of resources books full of crafts, games and songs.

**Scripture Union
Northern Training
Conference
22-24 January 2010**



Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire. £75 inclusive

For more details go to www.scriptureunion.org.uk and follow links to 'you' then 'training'.

Reviews and Resources

One generation from extinction?

How can the church connect with the unchurched child? Are we one generation from extinction as a witnessing community? In a compelling and thought provoking presentation Mark Griffiths examines how the church reached the unchurched child in the past and details how many pioneering groups are seeking to do the same in the 21st Century.

Mark will help you grasp how many are helping to restock the imagination of children with the message of Jesus and planting the seeds for many more generations of witness. Drawing on material from his new book he will set you thinking with a fast paced 2 hour presentation.

Mark Griffiths will be in Southwell
Thursday 18 March
7.30 - 9.45 pm
Cost of event £5 including light
refreshments

For information and to book tickets go to:
www.childrenmatter.net

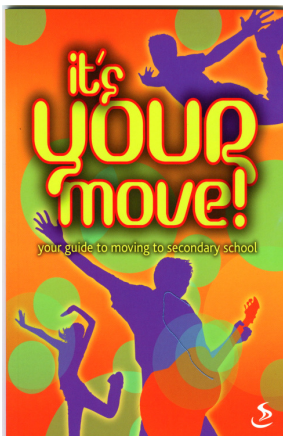


Nick's Year

Nick is going to be extra-busy for much of this year as well as aiming to keep some sort of work-life balance, so please be patient if he isn't able to respond to you as quickly as you and he would like. If you need to speak to Nick it is worth ringing Alison Jacobson (01636 814504) to find out when he will next be in the office.

He responds to e-mails remotely, so nick@southwell.anglican.org is the best method for quick queries.

His main 2010 challenges include Vetting and Barring / CRB changes, Church History Project, Bishop Paul installation, training within the Diocese and further afield....and eldest son Jared's GCSEs!!



It's your Move is a colourful up-to-date booklet designed to be given to Year 6 children who are about to move up to Secondary School. Leaving Primary School and moving onto Secondary School marks an important change in young people's lives and often brings with it some level of apprehension or confusion. *It's Your Move!* has been specially prepared to meet this need. Educationally-appropriate and culturally-sensitive, *It's Your Move!* has been compiled by young people and those who work with them.

It's your Move has been used successfully by many churches over recent years to engage with Year 6 pupils in their church or parish. Booklets have been bought and arrangements made with schools for them to be given to Year 6 children.

As well as providing answers to lots of very practical questions the booklets also point young people to the fact that God goes with them in this next part of their lives.

It's your Move is available from Christian bookshops or from Scripture Union website. (www.sriptureunion.org.uk) Although they usually sell at £2.99 per copy, packs of 10 are available for the special price of £12.