

February 2019

DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS
Living God's Love



Welcome to Children's Ministry News; the newsletter for all involved in children's work in our parishes and communities. It is available online or by post - to sign up for it and download the current issue go to the Diocesan - Children's Ministry welcome page: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/yac> or tel: 01727 818160.

"Where do we go from here?"

Sometimes church leaders ask me that with hope and excitement, sometimes with frustration. Sometimes it's the result of an unexpected surge of families, sometimes numbers have dropped off a cliff. Sometimes you feel you've launched eight new exciting initiatives, and they've all failed, and you don't know what to do. But there is often a sense that we're randomly throwing darts around in the dark, hoping something sticks.

Over the last year, Dean, Tim Lomax (Director of Mission), Julie (Team Administrator), and I have worked to put together a pack for churches to use, to help them answer this question. We combined our experiences and came up with a general pattern of development that churches follow – sometimes not always in one direction, and never quickly – to move from having few or no contacts with children and young people to having children and young people fully integrated into the life of the church. A few churches have already started using this pack, and it will soon be available on a much wider basis.

We encourage you, as you use it to guide your planning, to put children and young people on the PCC agenda as a standing item. Ten or fifteen minutes of conversation every meeting helps reinforce the idea that this is everyone's responsibility, not just the children's ministry volunteers or staff. It also means that, with regular check-ins, plans set forth from one meeting to the next are more likely to get done. (If you're like me, you do everything you said you'd do at the last PCC on the afternoon before the next, because you need a deadline to actually get moving!).

Also, it's now the time of year when many churches are putting together annual reports and starting to plan their APCMs. Is there any way you could include children and young people in the parish meeting itself? How can we use this opportunity to hear their ideas about worship, charity and justice work, how we spend our money, and more?

Finally, if any of you are looking for inspiration over the Holy Week and Easter period, let me know – I have a list of churches who are willing to have visitors come and observe their programmes. If you'd like to be added to the list, do let me know!

Peace,

Margaret



In this edition of Children's Ministry News:

- Pocket Money Praise
- Volunteering – results of a national survey
- Out-of-school settings voluntary safeguarding code of practice
- Salaried Children/Youth/Families Workers survey
- YAMA Young Person's Photography Competition 2019
- Messy News
- ROOTS resources
- The Big Pancake Party
- Resources
- Events, Conferences and Training.

Pocket Money Praise

I have a drama game I use sometimes to explore the images of a story with children. It's called 10-second objects.

Choose a variety of images from the story – for Candlemas, you could use Dove, Temple, Holy Family, Flame, and Sword. Divide the children into groups of between 3 and 6. Call out an image from the story, and the groups have 10 seconds to use all their bodies together to form that image – but the trick is, they have to do it WITHOUT TALKING.

It's great for building teamwork and cooperation, reinforcing the images associated with a story, and helping children who are more physical than verbal to engage with the story.

Variations: you could do it WHILE you're telling the story, or you could have them suggest which images to use. You could also speed it up as you go, moving from 10 to 8 to even 5 seconds. Or you could give each group a single prop that they can include if they want to – a cloth, a chair, etc.

Volunteering – results of a national survey

"How can I get more volunteers?" is one of the questions I get asked most often. The NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) has just completed a large piece of research about the volunteer experience. Why do people volunteer, or not? What are they hoping for from the experience? They write: "Discussions about volunteering often focus on the perspective of organisations that involve volunteers, considering questions such as 'How can we recruit people to volunteer?' and 'What resources are needed for good management?'. Whilst recognising the importance of organisational context, this survey puts the focus on the individuals who volunteer. In view of the ever-growing interest in getting more people to volunteer, including in public services, it seems more important than ever for practitioners and policy makers to understand what makes a quality experience in the eyes of people who give their time as volunteers." You can read the summary of the research here, which includes a link to the full results:

https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy_and_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience_Summary.pdf

Messy News



Messy Prayers

With Brexit looming, there's a certain amount of anxiety in the UK and our Messy families might be under extra strain. Messy Church are posting on their Facebook page some prayer stations for troubled times to use in your Messy Church or to share as a take-home family activity.

<https://www.facebook.com/messychurchBRF>

Redesigned Messy Church website

We've just launched a complete redesign of the Messy Church website. Our prayer is that it will serve the whole Messy Church community well – check it out:

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk>

ROOTS resources



Lenten journey for children

To help children follow Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, we offer a simple worship activity for each week in Lent. Teardrops are decorated with symbols to form a road of tears, which are transformed into flowers of joy on Easter Day. You could use this activity with your children's groups, as an Easter activity session, or families could complete their own journey at home.



<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/i-am-looking-for/public-copies/lenten-journey-for-children>

All-age service for Mothering Sunday

In Motherhood: the cliché and the reality we explore and celebrate real 21st century motherhood, with a view to supporting and empowering mothers and all people in mothering roles.



In this act of worship three biblical extracts are integrated to weave the sacred into the secular, enabling people to see the Gospels' relevance in everyday life.

https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/9976/motherhood_cliche_reality.pdf



Looking forward to Holy Week and Easter

The Passion of Christ, resources for children and young people, based on paintings by Nebiyu Assefa.

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/seasons-and-festivals/church-seasons/holy-week/resources-for-holy-week/reflections-and-meditations/nebiyu-assefa-passion-of-christ-cyp>

The Big Pancake Party

Shrove Tuesday resources for children and youth



The Church Urban Fund's annual Shrove Tuesday campaign 'The Big Pancake Party' is back for a third year. The campaign raises money for their work tackling food poverty in communities around the country through the Together Network. Church Urban Fund research shows that 1 in 8 British adults worry about not being able to afford enough food for them or their family but it also shows that churches have an important role in changing this. The Together Network mobilises churches to respond to food poverty through projects such as holiday-hunger schemes, community fridges, and lunch clubs. The Big Pancake Party is a chance to raise money to support projects like these and help end hunger in Britain. Churches and schools are encouraged to throw a 'Big Pancake Party' either on Sunday 3 or Tuesday 5 March. Church Urban Fund have provided a number of excellent resources for children, youth and churches including Assembly/Collective Worship, Fun and Games, Pancake Quiz and a Bible Study for children and youth.

<https://cuf.org.uk/the-big-pancake-party/bpp-resources>

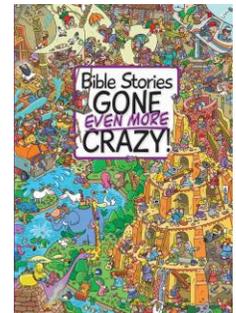
Resources

Bible Stories Gone Even More Crazy! by Josh Edwards, Emiliano Migliardo

Eight Bible stories are depicted in intense colour and comic, cartoony illustrations. There is a sentence or two explaining the scene at the top, and then details to spot, mistakes to find, and questions to answer along the sides of the picture. Was there really a fire engine on hand when Elijah prayed for fire? Were there unicorns in the Garden of Eden?

ISBN: 9781781283394 Price: £6.99

<https://www.lionhudson.com/page/detail/?k=9781781283394>

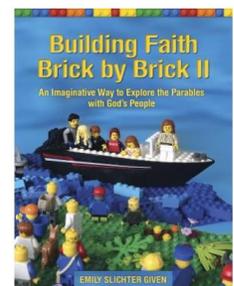


Building Faith Brick by Brick II

An Imaginative Way to Explore the Parables with God's People, by Emily Slichter Given

Follow-up to popular first volume - 32 new stories with lesson plans - can be used at home or Sunday school. Children of all ages have reached into the stories of God while also digging deep into enormous bins of little plastic blocks and miniature people. This second book offers the original methods, discoveries since the first volume was published, and thirty-two new stories with lesson plans based on Jesus' parables. ISBN: 9781640650916 Price: £19

<https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/building-faith-brick-by-brick-ii-an-imaginative-way-to-explore-the-parables-with-gods-people-4885846.html>



Faithful Grandparents

Hope and love through the generations, by Anita Cleverly

There has never been a more important time to find meaningful and acceptable ways of passing on faith from one generation to the next. Part of this privilege and responsibility lies with grandparents who live authentic Christian lives. They can be the vital link between the gospel and the faith of a younger generation. To be published 15 February, available to pre-order. ISBN: 9780857466617 Price: £9.99

<https://www.brfoonline.org.uk/9780857466617>



Events, Conferences and Training

February 2019



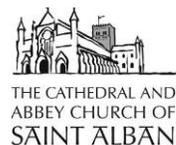
5 February: 'A road-trip around Cowboy Country' fundraising evening

Trinity Church, Knebworth 7.30pm

A talk, supported by photos, about a couple's 3,000 mile road-trip, in June-July 2018, around seven states in the West of the US. The talk will touch on no fewer than thirteen National Parks and Monuments and explore the lives of railway workers, homesteaders, settlers, Native Americans and aliens (!), as well as looking at some of the country's most spectacular geological features, such as Yellowstone, Badlands and the Bighorn Mountains. All of this will be interspersed with photos of the indigenous flora and fauna of the region, including the lesser-spotted Trump-voter, an all-year resident in those parts. There will be a collection, at the end of the evening, in aid of Bridge Builders Christian Trust. For info email: admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk or tel: 07934 410193.

21 February: Family Discovery morning - Building Mayhem!

St Albans Cathedral



The first church was built on this site over 1700 years ago, and as you can see, we're still building today! Find out how the Cathedral was built, learn about some of the objects found during the recent archaeological dig and enjoy some wonderful building themed arts and crafts activities.

The Cathedral Family Discovery mornings are free, and suitable for ages 3-11 (all children must be accompanied by an adult). They run from 10am - 12.30pm, we advise arriving before 11.30am to complete all the activities.

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/family>

March 2019

Godly Play ^{UK}

2 March: Godly Play Introductory Day

St Albans 9.30am – 3.30pm

Led by Andrea Harrison, a certified Godly Play trainer, during the day participants can experience key elements of the Godly Play approach, see a carefully laid out children's sacred space and explore many of the resources. The group size is small, so ideal for asking all of your questions and having a go yourself! Cost is £10, which includes refreshments and lunch.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/godly-play-introductory-day-yac-tickets-49475336062>

9 March: Developing Christian Distinctiveness - A day for Toddler Group Leaders

Norwich 9.30am - 4.30pm

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

A day exploring what it means to be Christianly Distinctive as a church toddler group; what it means for toddler groups to be recognised and play a part in their church's missional strategy and how to develop ongoing links and levels of discipleship with the families who attend. We are pleased that Revd Richard Hardy of The Entheos Trust will be joining us to lead the day, sharing his considerable passion, knowledge and expertise for encouraging and helping toddler groups realise their potential. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. Cost: £10. For more information or to book your place contact Anna Walker E: anna.walker@dioceseofnorwich.org T: 01603 882374

9 March: Quiz Night

St Paul's Methodist Church, Stevenage SG2 8QR 6.30pm



The quiz night is in aid of Bridge Builders Christian Trust. Tea and coffee will be served (please note alcohol is not permitted). The suggested donation is £5. To book tables for teams of 6 people email: admin@bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk or tel: 07934 410193.

11 March: Becoming an Autism Friendly Church

St Andrew's Church, Chorleywood 2pm – 4pm

CANON J. JOHN

17% of the UK population live with additional needs... this is an opportunity to reflect and respond to this need – a free seminar hosted by J. John with pioneer Craig Johnson, for church leaders and their teams. The 2-hour session includes:

- the best ways to reach and support children with additional needs and their families.
- what additional needs children and their families really need from our churches.
- practical insights on how to work with those with additional needs.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chorleywood-becoming-an-autism-friendly-church-tickets-53814650067>

15 - 17 March: Let Us Play Spirituality

Cliff College



A weekend that explores issues of spirituality and play amongst children, this short course will be especially helpful for all those who work with or alongside children, especially focussing on 5-11 year olds. It is an ideal introduction to issues of child spirituality, and for those exploring the healing and therapeutic aspects of play with children. What is the value of play and what place does it have in development? What part do adults have in supporting and developing good play practice? From the initial session on Friday evening through to lunchtime on Sunday, participants will be exploring issues of play, through both theory and practice, and reflecting on how we can recognise the innate spirituality of children during playtime. All sessions will be interactive and may involve the use of story and creative materials. Cost £170.

<https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/students/shortcourses/weekend/lupsw>

15 - 17 March: Walsingham Children's Pilgrimage

The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham



The Walsingham Children's Pilgrimage is open to children between the ages of 7-11 in Sunday Clubs, after-school clubs, uniformed organisations etc. in parishes all over the country. You will stay in the Shrine accommodation, and all meals are included. Lively worship, teaching, disco and fun activities. £78 per head, Adult Helpers £98 - full board.

<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/event/childrens-pilgrimage-2019>

30 March: LEARN - ENGAGE - PLAY

University of Winchester



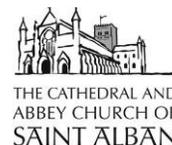
Playfully pushing the boundaries of learning and development in education, business and the third sector. A day conference for practitioners, facilitators and enthusiasts of LEGO®-based learning and the LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® method and materials. Themes include sustainability, education and business applications of play. Confirmed Keynote Speaker: Dr Alison James and Prof Carole Parkes. Seminars, Workshops, Networking & Conversations. Cost: £100

<https://store.winchester.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/academic-conferences/faculty-of-business-law-sport>

April 2019

11 April: Family Discovery morning - Animal Fun!

St Albans Cathedral



Springtime and Easter are linked to a variety of animals, and there are hundreds to be found around the Cathedral. See how many you can find, be creative and make some animal models of your own, and enjoy a taste of our special Easter chocolate fountain! The Cathedral Family Discovery mornings are free, and suitable for ages 3-11 (all children must be accompanied by an adult). They run from 10am - 12.30pm, we advise arriving before 11.30am to complete all the activities. <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/family/>

May 2019

11 May: Godly Play Childhood Spirituality Conference - Free to Play Sheffield Cathedral

Godly Play ^{UK}

The main speaker at the conference is Professor Elizabeth Wood, Head of the School of Education in the University of Sheffield, who researches early childhood and primary education, with specific interests in play and pedagogy. Her title is Free to Play: How do we understand children's play? What is the implication for our practice? The afternoon will offer a series of workshops exploring a wide variety of subjects related to the spirituality of childhood. On the day preceding the conference a series of Enrichment Days will be offered. These can be booked at the same time as the conference itself.

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/conference-and-enrichment-days-2019>

23 May: Left To Their Own Devices? – Confident Parenting in a World of Screens



Vineyard Church, St Albans 7.30pm – 10pm

Much of modern society is dominated by the digital world, and our children are growing up with countless online possibilities at their fingertips. It's an exciting world for them to explore, but there are potential dangers. As parents and carers, it's natural to want to protect our children from any pitfalls. So what strategies can we adopt to ensure our children gain the benefits of being online, whilst developing a responsible relationship with technology? Standard ticket £7. Book online at: <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/parenting-events/owndevices>

June 2019

9 June: Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration

St Albans Cathedral, 6.30pm

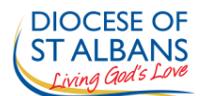


Come and join Christians from across the region at our Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration to worship and pray together that people will come to know Jesus Christ. Save the date, and watch this space for more details.

www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come

11 – 12 June: Come and Worship – 24 hour residential

High Leigh



Jesus said, "become like little children ..." and that's what we're going to do. Join us for a 24-hour residential where we will explore, through demonstrations and experiences, a variety of creative ways to worship with children – not just on Sunday mornings, but at other times and in other formats. There will also be time for formal and informal discussion and space for us all to develop our own ideas and try new things. The time will finish with a celebration we develop together throughout the 24 hours.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/come-and-worship-residential-tickets-52487973943>

29 June: Gen2 Conference

Kings Park, Northampton NN3 6LL 9.30am-1pm (followed by networking over a bring-your-own lunch until 2pm)

For everyone involved in Children's, Youth, Family & Inter-generational Ministry. Bringing together practitioners and thinkers to share current ideas and inspiring ways of being. With plenty of helpful and practical tips, plus space to worship, be refreshed and network. Bring your whole team. FREE. Booking opens on Eventbrite on 1 March. Speakers booked so far include the Rt Revd Donald Allister - Bishop of Peterborough, Jason Royce, Anna Hawken... more to come! Contact becky.wills@peterborough-diocese.org.uk for more details.

This month give thanks and pray for:

- ◇ the children in your lives – as clergy, paid or volunteer children's ministers, parents, godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, scout leaders, and so much more.
- ◇ all those adults who were significant in your life when you were a child.
- ◇ ministries with children that have been running for years, and for those that are brand new.



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<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/yac>

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding/>

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/privacy-policy>

<https://twitter.com/StAlbansCME>

<http://stalbanscme.com>

https://uk.pinterest.com/margaret_pritch

www.facebook.com/pages/Childrens-Ministry-St-Albans-Diocese/310836025679105

