

April 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.

It's not long now until Easter and if you're still looking for inspiration we have some links here for you to check out:

### Welcoming Children to Holy Week services

This blog from [Worshiping with Children](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com) has some great reasons why children need to be included in the congregation's Holy Week worship, along with practical ways to do so:

<https://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2013/03/welcoming-children-to-holy-week-services.html>

### Holy Week Activities

Flame Creative Children's Ministry has some creative Holy Week Activities, including a downloadable Hosanna! Palm Sunday Reflective Colouring Sheet, Last Supper Play Dough Mats, and Easter Egg Prayers: <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/p/holy-week-activities.html>

### Weekly@ Easter Sessions

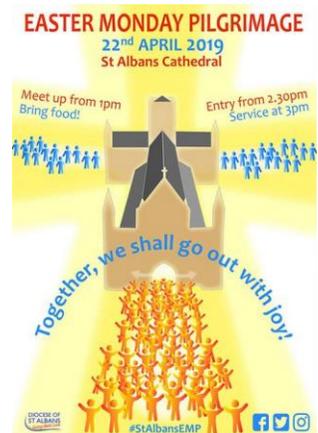
Our friends at Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education have been releasing weekly Easter idea resources, and these are available on their website for all to check out and use. Resources include an Outdoor Easter Scavenger Hunt, Multi-Sensory ideas and an Under 5s Easter Service:

<https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/children/childrens-resources/weekly>

### Easter Monday Pilgrimage

If you're looking for something to do on Easter Monday, then why not join pilgrims from across the Diocese at the Annual Easter Monday Pilgrimage. Meet up with other pilgrims from 1pm on the Abbey Orchard. Entry to the Cathedral is from 2.30pm, with the service starting at 3pm. 'Together, we shall go out with joy!' <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansEMP>

We wish you a happy & blessed Easter.



In this edition of Children's Ministry News:

- Toddler Groups & Mission booklet
- Vacancy – Children & Families Worker
- Thy Kingdom Come
- Messy News
- Sticks for Stumps
- Resources
- Events, Conferences and Training.

## Toddler Groups & Mission booklet

Toddler groups are great! They have been part of the provision of churches for many years. Usually led by volunteers and run on a small budget, they can be a life-line for new parents and help build community amongst those with young children in their care.

Many toddler groups are closely connected with the church, having been established by church members and continuing to be run as part of the church's regular activities. However not all church toddler groups are confident about their Christian distinctiveness or about the missional opportunities which Toddler Groups can offer.



This booklet comes out of the Toddler Project, which set out to discover practical ways in which church-based groups might be encouraged to become more confident in their Christian distinctiveness. Read the findings in this beautifully designed booklet - and check out the Top Tips which experienced Toddler Group leaders told us worked for them.

Product code C5755BT price £2.45

<https://www.cpo.org.uk/product.aspx?prod=C5755BT&cat=6070>

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## Vacancy – Children & Families Worker

All Saints' Church (LEP) Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church wish to develop and extend their work with children and families. We are looking for someone with experience, initiative and enthusiasm to tackle the challenge of engaging and inspiring the children and families across both of these churches. There is a genuine occupational requirement for the postholder to be a Christian.

Full time: 40 hours per week Salary: £25,000 - £30,000 dependent on experience

Funding is currently for a 3 year fixed term post

**Closing date: 1 May**, interviews week commencing 20 May.

Application pack available from Mrs Liz Terrett E: [allsaintsberkhamsted@outlook.org.uk](mailto:allsaintsberkhamsted@outlook.org.uk)

Further details from Rev Hawkins T: 01442 866324 E: [Rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk)

## Thy Kingdom Come 30 May - 9 June

Bright  
PRAYER IDEAS  
for families at home



Why not check out all the range of resources available for use during Thy Kingdom Come.

Resources from previous years are still available to download free of charge, including the great 'Bright Prayer Ideas for Families at Home' which helps give families a variety of creative ideas to join with others around the world in praying for friends and families.

[https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/TKC\\_Home\\_Pack\\_V4.pdf](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/TKC_Home_Pack_V4.pdf)

There's also a Prayer Bear Picnic

[https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/TKC\\_bear\\_picnic.pdf](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/TKC_bear_picnic.pdf)

And a whole host of other resource ideas – check out

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources>

New resources to buy this year are the Family Prayer Adventure pack & journal...



### Family Prayer Adventure Journal

Embark on the adventure of prayer together as a family. This interactive journal can be used during the Thy Kingdom Come season or at other times during the year. Packed with activities, Bible stories and creative ways to pray, this full-colour A4 resource will engage families together in prayer. Product code Z3843, price £5.

### TKC Adventure Prayer Pack

The Family Adventure Prayer Map will be distributed to 330,000 children in years 4, 5 & 6 attending Church of England and Methodist Schools. The new flagship family resource for this year's Thy Kingdom Come was launched at General Synod. Product code V5606PK, price £0.25

For details of these, and all Thy Kingdom Come resources to buy go to:

<https://www.cpo.org.uk/thykingdomcome>



### Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration

#### St Albans Cathedral Sunday 9 June @ 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.

[www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come)

## Messy News



Do you subscribe to Get Messy!? The May-August issue just released has an article by Dave Martin of Christ Church & St John's, Radlett about their Messy Café. It's great to hear stories of what's happening, especially within our Diocese! To find out how you can subscribe to Get Messy! go to <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/getmessy>



### **Messy Church @ Trinity Training Saturday 13 July, 10am – 12.30pm** **Trinity URC, 1 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RD**

Trinity United Reformed Church in St Albans is holding a Messy Church training morning on Saturday 13 July, 10am – 12.30pm. Billed as a morning's training for any Messy Church leader, areas of focus will include:

- How to have meaningful conversations over the craft activities and meal table.
- How to sustain and extend Messy Church for families with older children/teens.

Cost is £5, booking deadline 30 June. To book email: [fionaahislop@gmail.com](mailto:fionaahislop@gmail.com)

### **Messy Church Does Science Saturday 14 September, 9.30am – 12noon** **The Rufus Centre, Flitwick**

Our Diocesan Ministry Development team are organising a Messy Church Does Science morning in the autumn. Watch this space for more details, and keep the date free if you're interested!

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## Sticks for Stumps

2019 is a special year for England and Wales. For the first time in 20 years, the Cricket World Cup is coming home!



# Scripture Union

Scripture Union have created a selection of fantastic 'Sticks for Stumps' resources to help you to engage with your church, your school and your community during this amazing event in June and July.

Whether you love cricket and are already counting down to the first World Cup match, or if you had no idea that England and Wales were hosting the tournament this year - we've got resources for you.

From playground cricket tournaments, to school assemblies; from all-age service outlines to cricket on the beach - our resources will equip and encourage you in using the Cricket World Cup as an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with those who don't yet know him.



All resources are completely free to download, with more resources coming soon:

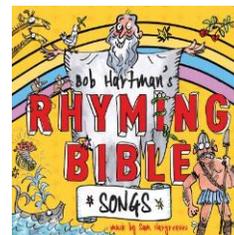
<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/sticks-stumps>

## Resources

### Rhyming Bible Album

Sam Hargreaves has written 10 songs based on Bob Hartman's new Rhyming Bible, and they've just been released as an album. The songs cover a range of styles, and are all fun ways to engage with the Bible stories. You can listen to the songs on Spotify if you want to hear them before investing in the CD. CD price £8, or bundle of CD & Rhyming Bible book for £20.

<https://engageworship.org/store/product/rhyming-bible-songs-cd>

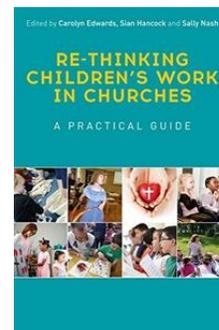


### Re-thinking Children's Work in Churches

A Practical Guide, edited by Carolyn Edwards, Sian Hancock and Sally Nash.

Focusing on the holistic development of the child, the purpose of this book is to re-envision holistic approaches, as well as to prepare and inspire those involved in or wishing to support church-based children's ministry. By drawing on an international group of authors, this guide offers best practice advice from the wider world. ISBN: 9781785921254 Price £19.99

<https://www.jkp.com/uk/catalog/product/view/id/39869/s/re-thinking-childrens-work-in-churches-2>

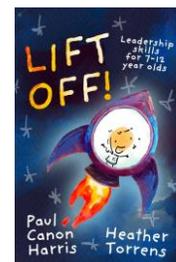


### Lift Off! - Leadership Skills For 7-12 Year Olds

by Paul Canon Harris and Heather Torrens

A brief guide to help young people who are given leadership roles. Ideal for children of junior school age. This informative, interactive and accessible guide is packed with advice, scenarios and practical toolkits on communication, running meetings and conflict resolution. There is also a downloadable teachers' guide available. Due to be published 18 April, available to pre-order price £5.99 ISBN: 9781848679870

<https://www.kevinmayhew.com/lift-off-leadership-skills-for-7-12-year-olds.html>



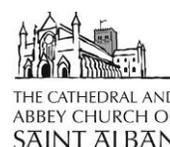
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## Events, Conferences and Training

### 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>

## 22 April: Easter Monday Pilgrimage

St Albans Cathedral

Join other pilgrims from across St Albans Diocese to celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Monday at St Albans Cathedral. This annual Pilgrimage and service have become an all-age event. People, young and old, walk to the Cathedral from across the diocese to meet and gather in the Cathedral from 2.30pm. Service starts at 3pm.

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



## May 2019

### **1 May: All Inclusive? Working with Children & Young People with Special or Additional Needs**

Christ Church, Bedford 7.30pm – 9.45pm



BY APPOINTMENT TO THE KING OF KINGS  
— SERVING YOUNG PEOPLE —  
FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS

**URBAN  
SAINTS**

An essential seminar for all parents, teachers, church leaders, youth and children's leaders, and anyone who cares about children and young people with special or additional needs. Most children's and youth workers want to include kids of all abilities and needs in what they do, but many struggle to make this a reality. There are many different kinds of special or additional need, and each one, each child, can present different challenges (and opportunities!). It is hard for children's and youth workers to navigate the right path through this sometimes difficult and complex area; being caring, inclusive and supportive to each child (and their families), while not losing focus on the needs of the rest of the group. This is an area that is confusing and challenging to many of us who are responsible for looking after children and young people who have special or additional needs. How can parents, churches and children's/youth workers not only understand more about the children we are working with, but also change the way we work with them so to be more inclusive? The evening is free, but booking is essential due to limited places.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-inclusive-working-with-children-and-young-people-with-special-or-additional-needs-tickets-58425440064>

### **7 May: Pioneering with youth and children**

Oxford 10am – 4pm



A one-off day conference led by Church Mission Society in partnership with Frontier Youth Trust, sharing stories and research on pioneering with children and young people. Experienced practitioners will speak about their work in order to stimulate ideas and discussion around the issues and challenges faced. It will also be a fantastic opportunity to network with others working in the field. Cost is £20 with lunch. Book online at:

<https://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org/event/pioneering-with-youth-and-children>

## 11 May: Godly Play Childhood Spirituality Conference - Free to Play

Sheffield Cathedral

Godly Play<sup>UK</sup>

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>

## 18 May: Godly Play 3-day Accredited Training Course

Cambridge

Godly Play<sup>UK</sup>

This practical, hands-on course is open to all, and will develop your ability to use the Godly Play approach in your church and community. This course runs over three dates, and you will need to attend all three days: Saturdays 18 May, 1 June & 8 June: 8.30am – 6.30pm. The course is led by Rebecca Nye and Andrea Harrison. Cost £315 (includes handbook and refreshments. Bring your own lunch).

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/2018/05/31/cambridge-3-day-accredited-training-course-2>

## 21 May: The Gospel for Gen Z

St Albans



How do we present the Gospel truth to a generation that has rejected truth as an absolute, distrusts 'experts' and has no point of reference for personal sin? The267project is hosting a morning to ask if we can change our words, in order to present The Unchanging Word to our children and young people. Local church leader Trevor Withers will be sharing the results of six years of research into ways the emerging generations engage with the Gospel and then we will have time with fellow practitioners to work out practical ways we might transform evangelism and discipleship in our work. Starting with breakfast and ending with lunch (in true '267' style) please book the morning of 21 May in your diary, for this ministry-transforming opportunity. Watch this space for more details (cost £15 per person). <http://www.the267project.com>

## 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. <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/parenting-events/owndeices>

## 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.

[www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/thy-kingdom-come)

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

High Leigh Conference Centre



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>

### **20 June: National Estate Churches Network (NECN) Conference**

Birmingham 10am – 3pm



"Always room for one more" Children, Young People and Estates; stories of participation and partnering. At the NECN Conference this year, we will be focusing on participation and partnering in our mission on social housing estates with Children and Young People. What's working? What resources are available? Who is there to support our ministry? It will be a day of sharing wisdom and stories from Estate Churches and projects around the country. Tickets cost £25.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-estate-churches-network-necn-conference-2019-birmingham-tickets-57159052264>

### **27 June: Parenting as Church Leaders training day**

St Paul's Church, St Albans



Being a church leader affects every part of our lives, including our children. We all want to be good parents and good leaders, seeing our children flourish spiritually and emotionally - but how can we do that well? Parenting as a church leader requires unique skills and choices, and it can feel a lonely journey. The 'Parenting as Church Leaders' training day is open to church leaders, children's and youth leaders and anyone training for ministry and their spouses. Cost £20. Book online at <https://www.brfoonline.org.uk/PF20190627>

## 29 June: Puppet Training Day

St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green 10am – 4.30pm



This exciting puppet training day is designed to give you hands on experience. The day is for adults and young people, those who are curious as to how puppetry can enhance your outreach, schools workers, church leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth/children's workers or those already involved in puppet ministry and wanting to improve or refresh their skills! There will also be a large range of resources available for you to try out and purchase, including the latest puppets from the One Way UK Creative Productions workshop! Cost £18 per person if booked 10 days prior to event, £25 thereafter.

<https://onewayuk.com/event/puppet-training-day-croxley-green-hertfordshire>

## 29 June: Gen2 Conference

Kings Park, Northampton NN3 6LL 9.30am-1pm (followed by networking over a bring-your-own lunch until 1.30pm)



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, the event is free. Speakers booked so far include the Rt Revd Donald Allister - Bishop of Peterborough, Jason Royce, Anna Hawken... more to come!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-gen2-conference-tickets-57980288604>

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This month we pray for:

- ◇ children and their teachers enjoying the Spring holiday break this month.
- ◇ children and leaders in our church groups, that they may have a happy and holy Easter.
- ◇ all who will be baptised, confirmed, or admitted to Holy Communion at Easter.



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St Albans Diocese, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HE  
Children's Work Team Tel: 01727 818160

Margaret Pritchard Houston  
Julie Cirillo  
Jeremy Hirst  
Martyn Hedley  
Ruth Garman

Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler  
Youth & Children's Work Administrator  
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser  
Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser  
Diocesan Resources Centre

E: [cme@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:cme@stalbands.anglican.org)  
E: [yac@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:yac@stalbands.anglican.org)  
E: [safeguarding@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@stalbands.anglican.org)  
E: [safeguarding@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@stalbands.anglican.org)  
E: [rgarman@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:rgarman@stalbands.anglican.org)

<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://stalbandscme.com>

[https://uk.pinterest.com/margaret\\_pritch](https://uk.pinterest.com/margaret_pritch)

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