

Family Friendly Churches

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

September 2004

Check out our website: www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk

Help for Churches

As the publication date for "Building Family Friendly Churches" draws near the trust has launched a number of initiatives to help churches consider the issue of whether or not they can call themselves family friendly.

These are events that can be used in several different ways by churches and could be part of an 'away' day or weekend.

The aim of these days and weekends is to give a church time and space to think about being family friendly and the route that can be taken. Every Church is different with its own set of challenges and so the aim is to tailor the weekend to suite the needs of each individual church.

However a general pattern might well be as follows:

On the Saturday morning Mike could lead a presentation outlining the dramatic fall in the numbers of children, teenagers and families worshipping in our traditional churches and then exploring what may be the reasons for this. This would make use of PowerPoint technology and would give everyone a chance to discuss the matter.

This could then be followed after a lunch break by a presentation and discussion on the "Family Friendly Charter" and looking at how the charter might be implemented in the host church. This session then could look at what other churches have done and in particular the things that family friendly churches had in common.

For the weekends after a shared tea there could be a series of workshops to prepare a family friendly act of worship for Sunday morning. These workshops would very much draw upon the gifts and talents of the members of the church and hopefully would attract people of all ages.



The Sunday morning act of worship would be an example of family friendly worship and most likely would draw upon the work done in the Saturday evening workshops. If the church had decided to sign-up to the 'Family Friendly Charter' then it could be signed during this act of worship.

The Sunday afternoon would probably be taken up with taking a look at the results of the 'Family Friendly Audit' (the forms would be sent out in advance) and deciding the aims and goals for the next 12 months. All this would then put a church in a position to join the Family Friendly Churches Trust and be listed on the website. This would take place in the evening if the church chose a Family Friendly Day

In the evening Mike could lead a quieter communion service using material from the *At the Breaking of the Bread* CDROM, but this would still be family friendly and could use many advanced multi-media techniques. The trust is able to supply all the equipment that is required for a weekend.

For more information check out our website or contact us.

Holiday Clubs

Holiday Clubs are not only great fun for everyone involved - including adults, but they can be a valuable part of a Mission Strategy. In order to achieve this they should not be run in isolation, but should build on existing work with children or be used to launch some new work.

The trust can offer two fantastic holiday clubs and we will come to your church to help you run the club!

SPIES is a holiday club where the children are secret agents in the 1st century and they are charged to find out as much about Jesus as possible. They are set a mission each day and this is backed up by a worksheet which leads them through the material. Clips from 'The Miracle-maker' are used each day to illustrate an incident in Jesus's life. There are laptops running 'ILumina' available for research and it is amazing how quickly children learn to use this package to the full.

It's not all work though. There are the usual games and crafts, agents 'X' and 'Y' are there to show us how not to be spies and there is a code to solve each day.

Jerusalem TV is a holiday club where we set up a TV studio in your church. Various roles are



assigned to the children each day. There has to be a director and an assistant director, newsreaders, reporters, film editors, camera operators, journalists and on-lookers. The children experience a different role each day.

The team then watch the rushes as they come in from the camera crew in Jerusalem. The same clips are provided in digital form and are edited down to make a number of 1 minute reports. Meanwhile the news-readers are writing their script and the on the spot crews are gaining eye-witness accounts. All this is overseen by the director and the assistant director.

All the equipment is operated by the children themselves and you will be amazed at how well they do. You will also be amazed at how hard this club makes them look at the story of Holy Week.

And the atmosphere is just like a real TV Newsroom. How do we know? The real life camera crews who have visited us during this club have told us so!!

We are taking bookings for next year so to find out more about these clubs do contact us or check out the website.

PowerPoint Course

There is a PowerPoint Course at Fakenham on the 18th of September. There may be some spare places. If you would like to attend then do contact the Trust.

Mike's Diary

Below is a list of Mike's commitments for the next couple of months. Please do pray for him as he promotes the Trust.

September

- 2nd @ 7:30pm - Welcome service at Castle St., Cambridge
- 4th - Leading workshop on worship at Contact, an East Anglia District young people's event, at Diss
- 15th - Launch of "Building Family Friendly Churches"
- 18th - PowerPoint Course at Fakenham Methodist Church

October

- 3rd @ 6:30pm - Harvest Festival at St Andrew's, Outwell
- 10th @ 10:30am - Harvest Festival at Upwell Methodist Church
- 17th - Multi-media Sunday with the Nene Valley Circuit
- 27th @ 12:00noon - Seminar at CRE Midlands
- 27th-31st - Leading a team at Carnival Leeds.

Published by 'The Family Friendly Churches Trust', Wesley Manse, Town St., Upwell, Nr. Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9AD or on 01945 772456. To receive a regular copy by email simply contact us and ask. Back issues can be found on the website.

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