



# Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

December 2004

Check out our website: [www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk](http://www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk)

## Churches and Data Projection.

The trust has undertaken a fairly ad-hoc survey on the use of data projection by churches (in the main Methodist Churches) and discovered that the take up of this technology is much higher than many would have expected.

The trust conducted this survey through the Methodist Minister's Email group and its own mailing list. We received some 70 responses.

Of these some 52 churches (74%) said that they had access to some form of data projection.

Of these 52 churches, 19 (37%) owned a projector themselves and 14 (27%) had shared use of one with other churches. In many cases this was a projector that was owned by a circuit and loaned out to churches. In some cases a circuit had a number of projectors available.

In 7 churches (13%) the minister of the church had bought a projector with his/her own money and was happy to loan the projector to the church when necessary

The remaining churches borrowed a projector from outside the church when required. 9 churches (17%) borrow one from an individual in the congregation and 7 churches (13%) borrow from local companies and/or charities.

Some churches have access to more than one projector (which is why the above percentages add up to more than a 100%). It was also noticeable that a number of circuits had 3 or 4 projectors available.

Some 17 (33%) of the churches using projection had organised training for those who would create presentations and operate the equipment. Most of the remainder said that they relied on skills that

members of the congregation had acquired at work. Another 24 (46%) had sought advice before buying the equipment. A number referred to the fact sheets provided by the trust on our web site. In one District (South Wales) the RTDO had proved to be a good source of useful advice.

There were also 17 (33%) churches intending to purchase a projector for themselves. Of these 8 did not currently use this technology at present. 5 (29% of those intending to buy) churches were looking to purchase in the next 3 months, 3 (18%) between 3 and 6 months, 5 (29%) with 12 months and 4 (24%) within 2 years.

Of the sample only 9 churches (13%) said that they had no access to the technology and no intention of purchasing equipment in the future. The capital outlay involved was cited as the most common reason for this.

Although not a particularly scientific survey it does point to the increased use of projection technology in churches. The figures for take up did seem to be high and so one has to conclude that perhaps the sample was a little self selecting, particularly as the forms were sent out by email. However it shows that data projection is becoming widely available to churches.

This mirrors our experience. Our most popular days and weekends are the multi-media Sundays and Weekends and the PowerPoint course is our most popular course. We are able in a day to train people to be able to create and then run PowerPoint presentations. We are also putting together an Advanced PowerPoint course to help with using it with multimedia (music, pictures and video). Do contact us if you need any help in the purchasing and use of this equipment.

## Holiday Clubs

The trust has now received a couple of bookings for the two holiday clubs we run.

This pleases us as Holiday Clubs are the ideal way to start new work children's work in a church, or build up existing work. We believe that this is very valuable.

The two clubs we run are called SPIES and JERUSALEM TV. They make a lot of use of modern technology and our experience is that children really enjoy them.

We are able to bring with us all the technology and expertise that is required to run the club. We need from you a army of volunteers who are willing to give it a go.



The trust will also link them to evening events though the week which can be used either for family events that can be used strengthen relationships between the parents of children and the church or for events that will build up and support the members of the church. See the web site or contact the trust for more details

## CRE Sandown

Following the seminar at the Christian Resources Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham, CRE have asked Mike to repeat it at CRE at Sandown Park.

Mike's talk will be on May 11<sup>th</sup>. He would be delighted to meet anyone who gets this newsletter after the seminar.



Look out for this in the New Year. Should really be called (Christian) Songs Kids Love (to Sing). What do the children in your church like to sing? - I mean really like to sing.

Well soon they'll have an opportunity to nominate and vote for their favourites. More details will appear in the next edition.

## Christmas Resources

Those of you who have bought *Building Family Friendly Churches* and not looked at the CD-ROM should do so before Christmas.

The CD-ROM contains a PowerPoint version of the Christmas communion liturgy along with the words of many Christmas carols and advent hymns.

Knowing this might just save you a lot of time in the build up to Christmas. It might also be a good time to buy yourself a copy of the book and CD-ROM.

## Mike's Diary

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

### December

1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30pm Family Friendly Workshop @ Ely

### January

22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00 PowerPoint Course for East Anglia District

29-30<sup>th</sup> Multimedia Weekend at Lanchester Methodist Church.

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