



# Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

July 2005

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

## Buying Software as Churches

The trust has been concerned for some time that churches do not always take advantage of the huge charity discounts that are available to churches. The result is that they spend considerable more than they need to.

Generally when you buy a PC it will come with some software pre-loaded, but this in most instances will be pretty basic. This means that a church will nearly always need to purchase some extra software to do what you want. Software can be expensive.

However many software companies offer huge discounts to charities. These allow churches to buy software at a fraction of the one-off commercial price.

The scheme will vary from one supplier to another but generally there are schemes that allow charities to purchase software at the volume price without having to buy the numbers that would normally be required of a commercial customer.

For example Microsoft, the largest software supplier, has such a scheme on most of its products such as Microsoft Office which would include the very popular PowerPoint.

However buying with the charity discount is a little more complex than popping into your local store and picking something up from off the shelf.

Basically you have to go through a validation process to prove that you are a charity. Normally this means registering and as part of this process quoting a charity number.

This can be slightly more complex for churches as they are not registered charities, but have charitable status. They do not have a normal

charity number but rather an exemption clause. The key phrase for the Methodist Church is "Statutory Instrument 2002 Number 1598".

The situation is further complicated because each supplier and developer has a different scheme and place varying requirements on the purchaser. For example with some developers you have to buy a number of copies to qualify for the discount.

Microsoft allows charities to purchase the software at the volume prices, but without having to buy the quantities to justify this. **Note that this means you will need to buy a single CDrom package and then in addition to this, the number of licences you require.** You can add further licences at a later date.

A good way of buying software is through the internet and there are a number of companies that will supply software to charities and give them a discount. Most companies have schemes for other software such as Adobe, Macromedia and Symantec.

The following companies have been recommended to me. In supplying the information below the trust is passing on the results of its research and is not recommending any of the companies concerned although all 4 have been helpful and responsive to our requests.

Citnexus - [www.citnexus.co.uk](http://www.citnexus.co.uk)

Phoenix Software - [www.phoenixs.co.uk](http://www.phoenixs.co.uk)

Entec - [www.entec.co.uk](http://www.entec.co.uk)

Charity Logistics - [www.charitylogistics.org](http://www.charitylogistics.org)

A much fuller fact sheet for buying software has been placed onto the Family Friendly Churches web site. Click on [IT HELP](#) for more information.

# SONGS KIDS LOVE

Songs Kids Love has been launched and already we are arousing interest. Mike has done an interview for Premier Radio and has another lined up for BBC Cambridgeshire.

But most importantly the web site has already had a number of nominations and some of the more popular songs are already being nominated.

So if you have kids that would like to take part get them to nominate a song quickly. We would hate to have them miss out on the great prize.

## MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY



Mike and the trust are great believers in the Make History Poverty campaign. Mike has been involved since he took a party of young people to the G7 demonstration in Birmingham - now some years ago.

The photo above is of a small event held in Haslingfield where Mike is the minister. It was organised by the two churches in the village for the benefit of the community. A good number of folk joined us, including several who are not church attenders.

Mike has created some PowerPoint presentations that he has used to highlight the issues around this campaign. He has placed them on the web site so that they are free for others to use too. They can be found under [IT HELP](#) or the quick link [MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY](#). Please do feel free to use them.

## From September 2006

Mike has now been given permission to work for the trust full time from September 2006. This is quite daunting as the trust will become his only source of income.

The trust receives no grant funding from the churches so every activity the trust runs has to be self-financing. One of the most secure forms of income for the trust could be the membership.

Churches can sign up and become members. This is not a straightforward process as we need to know that our listed churches are either Family Friendly or well on the way to being Family Friendly. The trust now provides a membership pack for churches that clearly explains the process involved. If your church is interested then ask for a pack.

Individuals can become members too. This is just £15 a year. If you support the work of the trust then do seriously consider becoming a member. If everyone who read this Newsletter became a member then the trust could be on a really secure footing.

You can find an on-line form for either joining as an individual or requesting a church membership pack under [QUICK LINKS](#) and [JOINING](#).

## Mike's Diary

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

### July

8<sup>th</sup> - Cyber Café at Rave in the Nave, Ely

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend at Leominster

19<sup>th</sup> - Buying a Data Projector evening, Sudbury

25-29<sup>th</sup> - Jerusalem TV Holiday Club at Chesterton, Cambridge

27<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly evening at Histon Methodist Church

31<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August - Family holiday in Derbyshire

### August

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - SPIES Holiday Club at Downham Market

13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> - Multimedia Weekend at Downham Market

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Website: [www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk](http://www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk)

Email: [Mail@FamilyFriendlyChurches.org](mailto:Mail@FamilyFriendlyChurches.org)

Tel: 01945 77245