



Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

September 2005

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

New Member Church



We are pleased to welcome Attleborough Methodist Church as a member of the Trust.

Like other member churches they have completed the church audit, set aims and goals for the next year and signed the charter.

Now they are a member they are allowed to use the Family Friendly Churches logo on their notices boards, literature and web site and belong to the egroup for sharing ideas and information.

They also have an entry on the web site so that visitors looking for a church can locate them. The entry includes a link to their web site and also to an interactive map.

Church membership packs, containing all that is needed to apply for membership, can now be ordered from the trust's web site.

Lent Course

I know that Lent is sometime away yet, but I am sure that churches are already planning their Lent courses for next year.

The trust is preparing a lent course based around Mike's book, 'Building Family Friendly Churches'. The aim is to help groups think through the theology behind the issues explored by Mike's book.

The packs should be available by November and will be available as a free download.

There is an added twist to this. On Monday evenings through Lent Mike will be available on-line to lead his own group using MSN. This means that anyone, no matter where they live, can join this group.

If you are interested then reserve your Monday evenings now (March 6th to April 10th)

New Children's Web Site

The Methodist Church has created a new web site for children and also a new logo for its children's work.



On the web site there will be regular polls, finding out their opinions about issues such as what the government could change in schools and message boards so that they can discuss their experiences and beliefs with one another. Children can send in their pictures for display in the gallery, read an animated storybook, or explore 'the Methodist Story' online. It can be found at:

www.methodistchildren.org.uk

Holiday Clubs

Once more Mike's amazing holiday club, JERSALEM TV has attracted the interest of a real life TV company.

This time it was Anglia TV and the resulting clip from their local news programme can be seen on the web site. Just click on '[HOLIDAY CLUBS](#)' under '[QUICK LINKS](#)'



Mike has run two clubs this summer and they have done very well.

However it is becoming clear that the school holidays are not always the best time to run holiday clubs. In some areas this can be because most of the children are away. In some it may be that those that would volunteer to help are themselves away.

To counter this from September 2006 Mike is willing to run the two holiday clubs in after school format during term time. We can be assured that in these weeks children will largely be present.

In such a set up, it would seem wise to start fairly soon after school and probably provide some kind of tea. Check out Mike's diary to see when he may be able to lead an after school club.

Don't forget that the nomination stage of our online poll SONGS KIDS LOVE closes on September 24th. Time to remind youngsters to nominate their favourite Christian song on our web site. There is a keyboard at stake for the winner.



The Catholic church has been running a huge consultation concerning family life.

The result of this work is now available as a report: "Not Easy but Full of Meaning". It is a very helpful read as it explores many areas which will have echoes for other churches.

The report can be downloaded from:

www.catholic-ew.org.uk/listening2004

Mike's Diary

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

September

- 3rd - Trustees' Meeting at Haslingfield
- 4th - All Age Service and Family Friendly Lunch at Histon Methodist Church.
- 10th - Leading workshop at Sheffield Methodist District Synod
- 15th - Leading Southampton Methodist District Youth Leaders' Day
- 24th - Family Friendly Churches Day at Loughborough Trinity Methodist Church.

October

- 1st - Family Friendly Churches Day at Deanshanger Methodist Church
- 4th - Family Friendly Churches Evening at Huntingdon Methodist Church
- 6th - Cambridge Section Network Service
- 8th/9th - Family Friendly Churches Weekend at Rayleigh Methodist Church
- 15th - Speaker at 'Everybody's Welcome' run by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales
- 17th - Building a Web Site Course for the NCH
- 22nd/23rd - Multimedia Weekend at Brighton Trinity Methodist Church.
- 25th-30th - Carnival Mission.

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Website: www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk

Email: Mail@FamilyFriendlyChurches.org

Tel: 01945 772456