



Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

March 2006

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

Jerusalem TV at Springdale

Half term was a great week for the children of Springdale Methodist Church in Penn. In that week they set up their own TV station and 'broadcast' a five minute news bulletin each day to their parents next door.

This didn't just happen - a lot of hard work went into each morning. After some games the young TV reporters watched the footage they had to work with for the day.

They met to analyze what they had seen and pulled the main stories out of the day's events. They were then allocated their tasks. Each day they had something different to do.



The journalists (above) had to edit the video material of the day to pull out their own particular angle and then provide their own commentary to the events.

Whilst they were doing that another team were preparing and then filming eye witness accounts of the day's events. This film was then edited down and made available to the producers of the team.

The final group were the studio crew. They had to plan the whole news bulletin and prepare the script for the newsreaders. In overall charge was the producer who decided on the stories and their order.



In the last few minutes there was the usual panic to get everything put together and then after a rehearsal they were ready to go live (below). There was, of course, the odd error and technical hitch, but real life TV companies have these too.

This holiday club requires a huge amount of technology to work. The trust usually brings 7 laptops, 3 video cameras, a sound and video mixer, studio lights and a data projector. All this equipment is operated by the children themselves rather than for them by adults.



Members of the local church are always amazed at how naturally children take to using the equipment and how they work enthusiastically to prepare the material.

Jerusalem TV is very different to other Holiday Clubs as it is task orientated rather than time orientated. In other words the children are given

a task and left to get on with it rather than having a highly structured timetable.

And, finally, the news story is a big one - we follow and comment on the events of the first Easter!

The Minister of Springdale, Rev'd Phil Summers said, "This is an inspirational way of bringing together modern technology and the stories of Jesus."

There are still a few free dates for Holiday Clubs for this coming summer. You can check these on the web site.

Residential Courses

We have some bookings for the 2 residential courses that we intend to run at Willersley Castle, but we need a few more people if these are to really work well.

There is a course to help churches think about using Multimedia projection in their church and also to give some basic training in using the equipment. This is a great way to explore before you commit to purchasing. This is running from the 19th to the 22nd of June.

The Family Friendly Course is also at Willersley Castle and runs from the 2nd to the 4th of October.

Details of both are on the web site.

Spring Offers

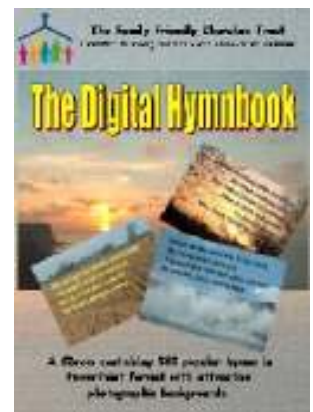


Throughout March AMP have a special offer on their 'Just Worship' range of DVDs.

They are offering Methodist Churches a 30% discount on any of these DVDs. This will reduce the price for each DVD from £19.99 to £14.00 and the 'Sketching the Gospel' CDrom is now available for £10.50.

The trust is pleased that it will be able to pass these offers on to its customers too.

Whilst in the mood for special offers the trust is making an offer on 'The Digital Hymnbook'. This will be available for £14.99 instead of the usual £24.99. Buy now while these offers last.



All our books, DVDs and CDroms can be ordered through the web site and we try to get all orders in the first class post by the next working day.

Mike's Diary

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

March

- 4th - PowerPoint Training for the York and Hull Methodist District
- 9th - Methodist Lay Workers' Conference
- 11th - Family Friendly Day at Holmfirth Methodist Church
- 18th - Family Friendly Day at Wolstanton & Audley Methodist Circuit
- 25th-26th - Family Friendly Weekend at Crosby Methodist Circuit

April

- 1st - PowerPoint Training in South Shropshire
- 5th-9th - Easter People Torquay
- 22nd - PowerPoint Training East Anglia District
- 29th - PowerPoint Training Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District



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