



# Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

May 2006

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

## Pick and Mix at Chesterton

I want to share with you the amazing things God is doing at one of the churches where I am the Minister

Chesterton was a typical Methodist Church on an estate in Cambridge. Although it had strong Boys and Girls Brigades very few of the children were seen on a regular basis in worship.

With some guidance from me using the principles of the trust the congregation has adopted a 'Pick and Mix' approach to Sunday morning worship.



The morning starts at 10:00am for breakfast. Nothing fancy, just cereals and toast. We felt that to do more, each and every week, would eventually be a rod for own backs. Then the children go into their Sunday School group (they are all voting for a new name)



And so do the adults!



Then we have an 'altogether time of worship' led by a worship leader. This part of the service is designed for all ages. This part uses our new worship band. It is amazing that a church which hasn't had an organist for years and had to sing from tapes was able to produce a worship band.



At about 11:20 the preacher appointed for the day takes over and we have a more traditional sermon and hymns. The style is called 'Pick and Mix' because people can choose to which bits they come.

In a matter of weeks we have seen a huge influx of children, young people and families - in fact a dozen children turned up on the first morning, so much so that up to now we have been cautious about advertising our new pattern of worship.

For me it shows the truth of what I say when I travel the country for the trust. You do not need to worry whether children will come to church, get things right and God will send them.

Mike Bossingham.

## Children at Worship



Mike was pleased to be able to attend a seminar by Rev'd Caroline Fairless.

Caroline outlined the basic assumptions she worked with in 'Children at Worship: Congregations in Bloom'. They are:

- 1) Young People have just an urgent claim on the space, content, style and structure of worship as any adult.
- 2) If our content, style and structure of worship do not serve the whole community, then we are obliged to redesign them until they do
- 3) A community is diminished when it is missing the voice of children and young people.

These seem to summarize the theology and philosophy behind the trust. You can find out more about this work at: [www.childrenatworship.org](http://www.childrenatworship.org)



## New Workshop

Mike has added a new workshop to the choices available on a Family Friendly Weekend.

Called 'Your local situation' the aim is to explore with you what is happening in your own church and what ideas may work where you are. Before this workshop it will be helpful to have completed the 'Church Audit' form supplied with the Membership Pack.

If you already have a weekend booked and would like to have this workshop added to your programme, please let Mike know.

If you are thinking of booking Mike for a weekend this autumn, then you would be wise to act quickly as free dates are disappearing quite quickly.

## Residential Courses

We need to know numbers for the Family Friendly Worship residential course at Willersley Castle on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> of October.

This is an ideal opportunity to get away and explore the principles of Family Friendly worship with Mike. Ministers should be able to use their CDIM allowance to fund the cost of the course..

If you are thinking of booking please do contact us as a matter of urgency.

## Mike's Diary

Below is a list of Mike's commitments for the next couple of months. Please do pray for him. You can now see all Mike's bookings on the web site.

### May

- 6/7<sup>th</sup> - Multimedia Weekend at Whalley Methodist Church
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Buying an LCD Projector at Pocklington Methodist Church
- 13<sup>th</sup> - PowerPoint Training at Robin Hood's Bay
- 19<sup>th</sup> - PowerPoint Training for the Lincoln & Grimsby Methodist District
- 20/21<sup>st</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend at Sage Cross Methodist Church

### June

- 10<sup>th</sup> - PowerPoint Training in Cambridge Circuit
- 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend in Kendal Circuit
- 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> - Residential Multimedia course at Willersley Castle
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Day at Wolverhampton URC
- 30<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend at Whitby (Wirral).



Published by 'The Family Friendly Churches Trust', Wesley Manse, Town St., Upwell, Nr. Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9AD.

The Family Friendly Churches Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales no. 5222088 and a registered charity no. 1106193. Registered Office: The Old Forge, Corner St., Cromer, Norfolk.

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