



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF RIPON & LEEDS

Kidswork

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHURCH CHILDREN'S WORKERS IN THE ARCHDEACONRY OF LEEDS.

Issue 18

February - March 2007



Hello, and welcome to "Kidswork" – a newsletter for those working with children in the Anglican churches of Leeds.

My name is Clare MaLaren, and I work half-time as Children's Work Advisor to the Leeds Archdeaconry. This is a post funded by the 4 Leeds deaneries – Armley, Allerton, Headingley and Whitkirk.

I am also half-time parish priest of Whinmoor in the Seacroft Team Ministry - where we worship in St. Paul's C of E Primary School – and mother of teenage twins – hence cartoon below!!!.

Happy New Year! As I write, we're half way through the ecumenical series of "Easter Treasure" training events which was advertised last autumn. Each evening has been packed with ideas and inspiration for those working with children during Lent and Eastertime and those who have come along seem to have found them both useful and enjoyable too! If you missed them, I'm planning to put as many of the resources as I can on the Kidswork website in the near future. Why not have a look there, and see what's new? www.kidswork.org.uk And, of course, if I can support you in your own work in the parish, I'll be glad to hear from you! With love and prayers,

Clare

"The Best Story of All"

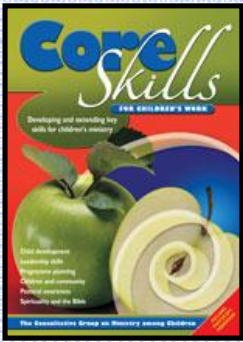
Julie Upton, from St Margaret's Church, Bramley sent me this photo of the service that took place at the end of their Christmas activity day on December 23rd. 39 children came along to prepare for the next day's Crib Service with craft activities, baking, decorating, writing prayers, games and refreshments. Julie challenged them to transform the modern multi-purpose church building into a magical place, ready to celebrate "The Best Story of All".

Julie based the Crib Service on an idea in "Roots" Children and Young

People magazine, and the people of St Margaret's were overwhelmed and delighted to be able to welcome 136 children and families into church for the service on Christmas Eve! Julie writes, "The Crib Service was indeed magical, although we can't get rid of the glitter!" She and the team at St Margaret's hope to build on this first successful event, with more activities reaching out to the children in their community.

If you have a similar "good news" story to share, why not drop me a line!?





Core Skills for Children's Work

Leeds North East Methodist Circuit are planning a "Core Skills" course for children's workers, which is open to people of all denominations and will take place in the Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Chapeltown area.

The course is suitable for those with lots of experience and relatively little. It will give you an opportunity to reflect on your work with children in a church context and covers spiritual development, leadership skills, programme planning, cultural and pastoral issues, spirituality and the Bible.

You will find a booking form with more details in this mailing – or you can download one from the Kidswork website.

Surf - Zone

... some web-sites you might like to explore!

www.ci2eye.co.uk Fed up of ransacking your drawers to find the scrappy bit of paper with the recipe for **play-dough** on it? Find recipes for this, plus "sand mousse", "gloop", "slime" and more on the resources page of the "Christian Initiatives in Early Years Education" website. Now there's no excuse not to get messy!!

www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk Just came across this treasure store of ideas and activities from the children's wing of the Bible Reading Fellowship. Just click on the "ideas" tab.. Here you'll find inspiration for junior church, all-age worship, assemblies, pre-schoolers, praying at home – you name it! Indexed by theme and season – and all free, this is a real gem of a resource!

www.upperroom.org/pockets/childrenspirituality.asp For a bit of spiritual and intellectual nourishment, have a look at this page from an American website, which links to a series of articles on children's spirituality. Haven't had time to read them all, but what I've seen has been interesting, thought provoking and profound.

KEEPING IN TOUCH:

You are receiving this newsletter because you are on my contact list.

Please let me know if there are other folk I should send it to !

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The next "Create" event
for 11-15's is on
Saturday 24th February

3-6pm

at **St Richard's Church, Seacroft.**

"Create" is an ideal event to bring a small group of young people to!

Planned, organized and run by young people, the "Create" team aims to model their participation alongside adults, in the creative life of our churches...

Inspiring - Challenging - Fun!



a "Praise
Party" for
children
(7 - 11)

from 6-8pm at
St. George's Church, Leeds
on **Saturday 17th March**
(and then next on 12th May.)

Children and adults can find out more
by visiting www.xsite.uk.net
Cost: £2.50 per child

Why not bring a group of children to
the next X:site?

You can stay and watch from the
balcony if you wish.

If you want to get involved, we are keen
to recruit more team members both
behind the scenes and working in small
groups with the children.
(CRB check required)

Contact: Mark Scrimshaw 01423 867761