



# Kidswork

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

Issue 17

November - December 2006



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

My name is Clare MacLaren, and I work part-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 part-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.

## Sunday School? Junior Church? Sunday Club?

What's in a name? Well, I guess "Sunday School" suggests that the children are primarily there to learn... "Junior Church" might suggest that the children are primarily there to worship? And "Sunday Club" - to have fun?

What we call our children's groups - whether or not they're on a Sunday - isn't crucial, but surely it is important for us as leaders to be clear about what our aims are for the children who attend? I would hope that all of our groups include some element of learning (or we might as well be a babysitting service), worship (or we might as well be a secular youth group) and fun (or we might as well have sat through the sermon J!!)

There are some great "pick'n'mix" resources around to help us with our weekly groups, but I sometimes wonder whether the choice they offer leaves us open to the danger of "missing the point" in our work... Do we sometimes miss out the worship to focus on the learning, or miss out the learning in favour of the fun?

As we approach Advent, and the beginning of a new Church year, maybe it's time we sat down with our fellow children's workers to review our practice, and see if we're getting the balance right. We are entrusted with a precious care as we nurture these youngsters in the Christian faith... and they deserve our very best.

With my love and prayers for your ministry, *Clare*



## ADVENT IDEA

The people of St Stephen's Moortown had the fantastic idea of giving a Christian Advent Calendar to each class of their local primary school so that they can follow the Christmas story during December.

Wesley Owen bookshop in Leeds will have plenty in supply soon, but why not have a look also at Scripture Union's new sticker design (£3.99) which has lots of suggestions for activities - [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk) – or try [www.dayone.co.uk](http://www.dayone.co.uk) (01568 613740) for 2 lovely bright calendars with doors, at only £2 each.

For a breakdown of the Christmas story into 24 short texts (which could be used with any advent calendar, or put into "pockets"), and other useful resources, why not have a look at [www.kidswork.org.uk](http://www.kidswork.org.uk)

## "MAKING LINKS"

- Keen to build up links with your local primary school?
- Want to know more about the RE curriculum and how your Church can contribute?
- Wondering how "extended schools" might link in with "fresh expressions"?
- Looking for ideas and resources for sharing the Gospel in schools?
- Interested to find out more about innovative projects already taking place in Leeds?



"Making Links" is a training day suitable for teams of clergy, readers and lay people who want to build up work with schools. There will be plenary input from the Diocesan Education Team plus a choice of workshops.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10am – 3pm at the new Diocesan Offices in Leeds.

Booking leaflet enclosed, and available from the Kidswork website: [www.kidswork.org.uk](http://www.kidswork.org.uk)

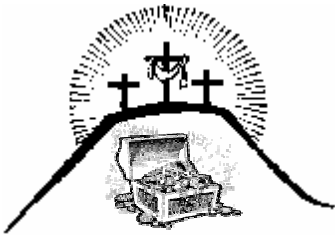
## "Safe & Sound": Child Protection Issues

Our Diocesan Child Protection Officer, Sue Booth, is working with Methodist and URC colleagues to offer a "foundation course" on this important topic for all who work with children and young people in our churches.

If you haven't been on one – or if you have new leaders working with groups at your church – please do book in and attend:

- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January (10-12.30) in Harrogate or
- Weds 21<sup>st</sup> March (7.15 – 9.30) in Tingley

Details and booking forms from Viv Morrissey –  
0113 268 7267 [vivmorrissey@btconnect.com](mailto:vivmorrissey@btconnect.com)

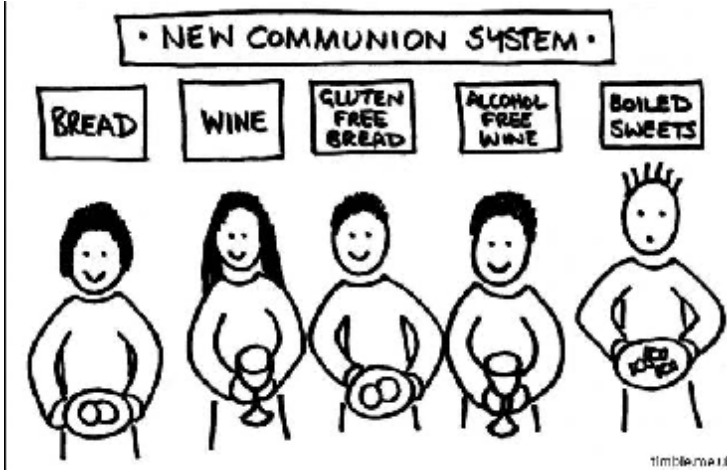


"EASTER TREASURE" the next in our popular series of ecumenical opportunities offers ideas and inspiration for Lent, Holy Week and Easter with children.

Choose from the following venues:

- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan – Headingley, Leeds
  - Weds 17<sup>th</sup> Jan – West Wakefield all 7.30 - 9pm
  - Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Ripon
  - Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Horsforth, Leeds
- Booking forms available soon on the "Kidswork" website.

## Children & Communion?



### 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 !

### CONTACT ME:

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

from 6-8pm at  
St. George's Church, Leeds  
on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
(and then next on 20<sup>th</sup> January.)

Children and adults can find out more by visiting [www.xsite.uk.net](http://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



The next "Create" for 11-15's is our "Christmas Crafts" event  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

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 !!