



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
RIPON & LEEDS

Kidswork

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

Issue 13

January - February 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 13-year-old twins.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

So much to fit in to this issue - no space for an "editorial" as such! Please read on for details of some of the opportunities coming up in 2006 - and do remember that I am always glad to chat on the phone, or come along and meet with you or your PCC just to talk about your church's work with children in general, or to help you think through a specific piece of work - contact details overleaf.

A Leeds "Resource Centre" in 2006 ?

As some of you will already know, the Diocesan Offices in central Leeds are in upheaval at present, as an extension is being built, which will include a large meeting/training room, and also a room which can be used as a resource library. It is very early days yet, as far as all the practicalities are concerned, but I very much hope that this library will be a place where you will be able to come to borrow all sorts of resources for use in your work. I hope it will also become a handy place to hold training events. The aim is to open for general use in September 2006... I'll keep you posted !

TAKING IT DEEPER

I know that many of us who work with children would love to have the chance to learn more about the theory behind what we do, but struggle to see how we could fit a course of study into our busy lives... I wonder whether "**Leading Children**" – a distance - learning course where you can study at your own pace, is worth looking into? With the support of a tutor from St John's College, Nottingham and a "mentor" based locally, you would receive study tasks and assignments which would help you to understand the issues facing children today, and explore their spiritual growth. You would develop your skills in children's work, and discover new ideas and inspiration to build your confidence – and become a resource for others! The course costs £295, which includes one residential week-end (presumably at Nottingham) There may be financial help available, so do contact me if you would like me to send you more details – or see www.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk in the "Faith for Life" course section.

Activities on a Budget...

Where else but "Replay" can you just turn up, and fill a poly-bag with fabrics, foil, cardboard, string, paper, wire and no end of other bits and bobs for only £1 ?!! "Replay" stocks and recycles business left-overs for use in craft-work with children. They also hire out costly equipment such as badge-making machines, parachutes, and resource kits for children with special needs – brilliant for activity days or holiday clubs! Find it at:

Belle Isle Workshops, Enterprise Way, Middleton Rd LS10 3DZ.

Tel: 0113 271 0715 Open Mon + Weds 9.30-2.30 and Tues 1-4pm.

GODLY PLAY MATERIALS

Finding myself with some budget surplus in 2005, I have ordered 2 sets of each of the following:

- The Holy Family (inc.. Risen Christ)
- Lenten Cross Puzzle
- Good Shepherd & World Comm.

These will soon be available to borrow if you contact me in good time to "book them out".



Around 40 young people and their accompanying adults had a whale of a time at "Create" Christmas Crafts back in December. Amongst the comments on the graffiti board was : "best time I've had in ages!" and "Create rocks!!!!"

At the next "Create", we'll be learning how to communicate Gospel truths by sleight of hand (how do they do that?!!) as a Christian Conjurer lets us into the secrets of the trade, and equips us to amaze and astound the folks back in our own churches!

There are details of the next event in this mailing, and a web-page at www.createleeds.me.uk where you can download more booking forms. It would be great if you could pass these details on to a youth leader... or if you want to bring some young people yourself, we look forward to seeing you there!

CREATE

"Christian Conjuring"
Saturday 11th February, 3 – 6pm
St Richard's Church, Seacroft.
LS14 1BX



goes from strength to strength. With 170 children at the last event, it really feels as if God is blessing us and them! Our theme was, "Jesus is our Light", and each child cracked a "glow-stick" in the darkened church as we prayed to be light in the world – a truly awesome moment of reflection and wonder! We'll be welcoming Bishop John to the January event. If you haven't been before (or if you have!) we'd love to welcome your group too!!

Well, the ecumenical "Advent Treasure" training events last year were so popular that we had to lay on an extra one in Leeds!! Apologies to all who didn't get their first choice of venue, but we really did need to limit numbers for everyone's sake.



There were lots of requests for a Lent/Easter Treasure, but this hasn't been possible for '06. Instead we plan to offer "Saintly Treasure" – ideas for exciting alternatives to Hallowe'en to mark the season of All Saints. Two events to choose from in early July – details t.b.a.



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

from 6–8pm at St. George's Church, Leeds

on Saturday 21st January
(and then next on 18th March.)

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 kids.
 (CRB check required)
 Contact Mark Scrimshaw 01423 867761

Can Children and Adults truly Worship Together?

This is one of the questions to be addressed when Rev. Caroline Fairless visits Wakefield on March 25th, to share her vision of a fully inclusive worshipping community, born of her ground-breaking work in the USA on "Children at Worship". If you are a worship leader with a concern for these issues, this is a "not-to-be-missed" opportunity. For more details, ring Rev. Richard Burge – 01924 371802
 Numbers are limited, so book as soon as you can!

Other Training Opportunities in the Region:

"Godly Play" Taster Day
 25th February at Wakefield
(Details: 01924 371802)

"Challenging Behaviour"
 4th March at Wakefield
(Details: 01924 371802)

"Liquid Worship & the All-Age Church" – CPAS training day.
 4th March at York.
(Details: 01926 458458)

"Pyramid Rock" – check out Scripture Union's latest holiday club outline – training evening.
 13th March at York.
(Details: 01908 856044)

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:

Rev. Clare MacLaren,
 St. Paul's Vicarage
 58 Whinmoor Crescent.
 LS14 1EW

Tel: 0113 294 0398

Email:
claremac@bigfoot.com

Website:
www.kidswork.org.uk