

Lent, Easter and Pentecost 2011 Adviser for Children's Work

I hope that all your hard work over Lent and Easter goes well, as always do let me know if I can help in any way or if you'd like to share any of the brilliant things you do. It's lovely to be able to introduce you to Lizzie our new Youth Adviser. In the future we hope to make these occasional newsletters children's, family and youth work. Do pass this on to anyone you know who might be interested and get them to email us if they'd like to be added to the mustard seeds list for further communication including training and courses. Do email me:

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New Adviser for Work with Young People

Hello, I'm Lizzie Whitbread and I have taken up the post of diocesan adviser for work with young people. I am available to offer support, advice and ideas about working with and reaching out to young people. I would love to hear from people about what they have going on for young people and help to support and resource you in this vital area of church life. I will work closely with Barbara. Future issues of this newsletter will be a joint youth and children's resource so please do forward this on to anyone in your church, who is involved in working with young people, or let us know a name and email contact for someone in your church involved in working with young people. My email address is lizzie.whitbread@salisbury.anglican.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lent

1. Love Life Live Lent www.livelent.net

Since 2007 over a quarter of a million people have taken part nationwide.

Love Life Live Lent is a new way of marking Lent. Instead of going on a detox or giving up chocolate, it encourages people to undertake a simple act of generosity each day. The actions are small and easy to do but can have a major impact on families, communities on the wider world.

- Small group study materials
 - Children's group materials
 - Youth group materials
 - Collective worship material for schools
2. Redemptorist publications www.rpbooks.co.uk publish a number of activity books for Lent and Easter
 3. More Ideas for children
<http://www.suite101.com/content/lenten-activity-for-kids-a43409>
 4. Lenten prayer pots
http://www.ehow.com/list_7484309_lenten-activities-crafts-children.html
 5. Crafts and activities
Some ideas from Christian mums on mumsnet
http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/philosophy_religion_spirituality/1140211-Family-lenten-activities/AllOnOnePage
 6. Canterbury Diocese have produced a children's and young people's course in parallel with a grown-ups lent course called Confident Discipleship:
www.canterburydiocese.org/247liveit
 7. Roots - FREE LENT CALENDAR download a PDF in colour or black and white
<http://www.rootsontheweb.com/Lectionary/52March-April/Lentcalendar>

Mothering Sunday

Several talks, and near the end some intercessions

<http://www.sermonsplus.co.uk/Mothers%20Day.htm>

Two Mothering Sunday Talks from Martyn Payne

<http://www.brf.org.uk/pages/data.asp?layout=page.htm&Type=&Id=977>

<http://www.brf.org.uk/pages/data.asp?layout=page.htm&Type=&Id=554>

Ideas from the Mothers' Union

http://www.themothersunion.org/features_motheringsunday.aspx

Downloadable Mothering Sunday talk + Lent ideas for children from Christian Aid

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent-2011/download-resources.aspx>

General sites for Lent/Holy Week/Easter

The Church Year section has plenty of links for the season

<http://www.going4growth.org.uk>

Lots of ideas for the season from Barnabas in Churches

<http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/pages/483s.htm#ChristianYear>

You'll need to register (free) but then Scripture Union's Light Live will give you plenty of ideas for the season : <https://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/123553.id>

Families: engaging from Lent to Pentecost

- Make a calendar of the six weeks of the season from Lent to Easter or from Easter to Pentecost and plan something to do in each one as a family
- Rediscover the meaning of Easter
- Explore new Easter customs – from different cultures.
- Create eco-friendly Easter crafts. Volunteer over the Easter weekend
- Cook new Easter recipes that involve the whole family
- Find your baptismal candles and talk about the meaning of baptism, what happened at theirs, godparents etc
- Go to church when it's *not* a service and talk about it, explore....

Holy Week

1. Easter and Pentecost Experience, also Easter Experience Outside
These are schemes with six stations following the story of each festival, they work best when churches set them up, man each station and invite schools to visit. Parishes have also had success with evening events inviting the parish and/ or families also using in the services of Holy Week

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish/>

I have written and trialled an extra station to represent the Tomb – e-mail me if you would like me to send it to you.

2. Easter Journey www.easterjourney.org.uk
Similar to Easter Experience but uses gazebos as stations and volunteers dress up as characters in the story to lead children through the experience.

3. Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms with children

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/01/year-the-sixth-sunday-in-lent.html>

A simple PowerPoint retelling of Palm Sunday from a child's point of view

<http://www.max7.org/resource.aspx?id=743f6ab7-b0dd-435f-b23b-5cb7fb1bdf6f>

4. Good Friday

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/02/year-good-friday-april-22-2011.html>

How one church used Good Friday Stations with children

<http://spiritualchild.co.uk/goodfridaylw.html>

5. Easter Sunday

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/02/year-easter-sunday-april-242011.html>

6. Resurrection Eggs

Buy plastic eggs from Amazon or Baker Ross. Put a symbol or the real thing for part of the story of Holy Week and Easter if you Google resurrection eggs there are lots of examples on the internet.

Either use eggs to tell the story, **or** sort the story into the right order **or**

Make a labyrinth of activities where the children collect a symbol for each part of the story as they move around activity areas or tables.

7. Real Easter Egg

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity and development projects - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums here at home, to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa.

8. Share the story through Reflective Storytelling this is a brilliant way to engage children and adults in the story.

Bible Storybags by Margaret Cooling has Easter Sunday and Godly Play has many stories about Lent, Easter, Maundy Thursday etc (some are in Godly Play Vol 4 Spring stories)

www.barnabasinschools.co.uk www.godlyplay.org.uk

9. Making Banners or Altar Frontals especially in intergenerational or children's workshops is a very good way of exploring the story and what it means to us now, using the colours and symbols of the season

Ideas for banners and so much more can be found in - Crafts for Creative Worship by Jan Brind and Tessa Wilkinson pub., Canterbury Press

10. Journeys – a series of 10 cross curricular days for the church and school to run together. There will be days for Easter, the Road to Emmaus, Pentecost

and Paul's Journeys. The first units have been trialled in a number of diocesan schools and parishes with great success. We are still writing but are planning to release the first book to coincide with the launch of the new RE syllabus in both Wiltshire and Dorset.

Written by Verity Holloway and Barbara Meardon

If you want to know more please book 24 May, 2011 from 03:30 PM to 07:00 pm at the DEC see the website for details – you will receive a unit with everything you need to run one theme day as part of the pack.

Liturgy and Collective Worship

Obviously many of the above ideas could be used or contribute to worship in school or church e.g. story/banners/activities.

1. Easter Shout!

Divide into 4 groups. Each group has a practice then the leader conducts bringing each group in, repeat each over and over gradually getting louder until leader raises hands and all groups shout together- it's Easter!!

1. Jesus Christ. Alive today !
2. Hot Cross Buns !
3. Good news !
4. Eggs !

Together : "It's Easter !!" (c) Don Stott, <http://www.Eliab.com> , 2004

Also on the same website - an Easter Chant

2. Candles

Light a candle for everyone who appears in the stories each week as the news of the resurrection spreads. Each week add another candle and reflect back on the previous witnesses (you'll need a few lighters to keep up, have different people every week not just children).

It started with one rising from the dead, then there were two running from the grave
now add Mary first to see him alive and then the 10 waiting in that room
now Cleopas and companion on the Emmaus road
and Thomas the doubter witness at last
And now there is Tabitha a widow alive who never saw the man but is renewed in his spirit
The light is expanding the truth is moving the news is growing
the word is spreading the Spirit of Jesus is doing this thing called resurrection among us.

By Pentecost people carry lit candles down aisle to the communion table where there is a bowl of flammable gel. The candles light the gel.

It started with one Just one a single person who broke open a tomb and gasped with life again
But one became two and two became four and four became a group and a group became a crowd and the light spread and gathered and lit up the world
the light grew the light became a spark the light became a flame the light became... ..a fire that spread through the disciples and followers questioners and seekers and fire is spirit burning with indignation at what is wrong and burning with hope for what can be transformed
Gather round the fire the spirit and breathe the life, gasp with justice, be infused with the longing of God for the world here is the energy of heaven and we celebrate it

3. Easter to Pentecost Net/Blanket/Treasured Memories Box

Add symbols each week to represent the next part of the story and show you are building up a net/blanket just like God was building and is still building a community. Each symbol should tell the children/young people/congregation something about the story then and now.

4. The Feast is Ready to Begin and The Year in Colour by Rachel Nicholls www.kevinmayhew.com.

Ascension and Rogation

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/ascension.htm>

http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/pdf_lib/27.pdf

http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/multimedia/040x_ascension.php

Pentecost

Pentecost is observed in churches across the world, but customs differ from country to country. Italian celebrations feature rose petals; the French blow trumpets to simulate a mighty wind; horse-racing and Whitsun ales used to be a major element in England. In Poland people decorate their houses with green branches. In the Eastern Orthodox Church the whole week is regarded as an ecclesiastical feast and celebration.

- Birthday party of the church
- Decorate with flames, balloons, wind <http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/5221>
- Decorated birthday biscuits, cake or cupcakes
- Ideal festival for a parish picnic or tea service
- Have people from the congregation/school speak one phrase in different languages all together then separately, ask if anyone knows what was said.
- Workshops or activity tables: make prayer bunting, bubble printing, blow painting (with straws), make doves with pleated wings, windmills, baking, make a flame poster by drawing round hands on different 'flame' coloured paper and cut out, stick on a dark background to really show up.

And lastly in this year's Richard Dimbleby Lecture, Michael Morpurgo explores the increasingly urgent issue of children's rights, and investigates the wrongs that children and young people have to endure. One of Britain's most popular children's authors, Morpurgo has written over 120 books and more recently he has become a campaigner on behalf of children, both at home and abroad.

<http://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/read-michaels-dimbleby-lecture/>

Some of you might find this blog from <http://www.nurturekidsfaith.org/> useful if you have children with special needs in your church.