

Mustard seeds



THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

'Working for children, young people, schools and parishes'

Salisbury Diocesan Children and Young People's Newsletter

Tuesday Morning Fellowship with Barbara Meardon in Broadchalke School, November 22nd 2011

The morning started at 9.15 with the second story from 'Open the Book' for this term 'David the Giant Killer'. As well as the dedicated team of actors from the fellowship group, there were also more than a dozen children involved. They came in just before registration to practice and were all very eager to don costumes and play their parts. The king looked very regal in his own home-made armour and glitz and goliath's 10ft spear was very imposing. The team were a real credit once again and the audience absolutely captivated.



After assembly year 4 remained in the hall and led by Barbara Meardon in an advent craft activity. The idea was to be able to take advent back into the children's homes and certainly this message, not to mention the beautiful artifacts definitely met its objectives.

Barbara used a child trying to catch a ball that they couldn't see, as it was being thrown behind them, to describe the 'anticipation' of Christmas.

The children were then introduced to the 'Jesse' tree with all its colourful symbols, one for each day of advent, to represent Old Testament events from Creation to the Birth of Jesus.

The children were shown a 'Chrismon Tree'. Chrismons are "Christ-monograms", or symbols of Christ or Christianity, such as crowns, crosses, stars, butterflies and angels. These are white,

Inspiring Under 18's

On Saturday the 4th Feb people from churches across Dorset and beyond gathered at St Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen for a day looking at Inspiring Under 18's. The day started off with worship led by the St Nicholas Church youth band and participants then spent the day in workshops led by people from churches across the local area sharing their ideas and experience. Topics included working with Dad's and under 5's, storytelling, building links with school, all age conservation project, sharing faith in families and engaging young people in worship. There was a great atmosphere throughout the day and many people left keen to look into developing their work with children and young people.

www.salisbury.anglican.org

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Training

Godly Play

Westbury Leigh,

WILTSHIRE 2012, July 25,26&27th

(school holidays)

A non-residential course in a

Godly Play room set up for the course at the Westbury Leigh Community Hall

BA13 3SQ. Cost: £280 non-residential

(to include lunches and refreshments)

Led by Rebecca Nye and Peter Privett

Each day will start at 8.30am and finish at 6.30pm on 25th & 26th and at 5pm on

27th

Bereavement Part Two

Wednesday, March 7th 2012,

09.30 -12.30, Diocesan Education Centre

Intended Audience: Teachers, Headteacher's, Clergy, LPA's, Children's, Family and Youth workers, Volunteers.

Purpose: Explore best practice when you have a bereavement in the school and/or parish whether a child, young person or parent or other adult.

Course Leaders:

Lizzie Whitbread Adviser for work with Young people, Barbara Meardon Adviser for work with Children.

Cost: £10.00 + VAT. For more information or to book a place please contact :Anna Tucker , 01722 428428 or email dbeadmin@salisbury.anglican.org

Help the Children are Becoming Teenagers!

Wednesday 25th April 2012, 09.30 -12.30, Diocesan Education Centre

Intended Audience: Clergy, LLM's, LPA's, children, family and youth workers and volunteers

Purpose: To look at transitions in parish work with 9-13 year olds

Course Leaders: Lizzie Whitbread Adviser for work with Young people, Barbara Meardon Adviser for work with Children.

Cost: £10.00 + VAT. For more information or to book a place please contact : Anna Tucker , 01722 428428 or email dbeadmin@salisbury.anglican.org

Safeguarding training:

The new diocesan safeguarding policy is now available to download from the www.salisbury.anglican.org website.

There are also templates of forms that you may need when running groups for children and young people so please do make use of these.

There will be safeguarding training days running across the diocese over the coming year...

CYP Strategy

Diocesan Children and Young People Strategy Update

The first phase of implementing this strategy is now under way.

In the first instance we are working closely with Blackmore Vale, Calne, Chalke, Devizes and Purbeck Deaneries to support them in building on and developing opportunities across the deanery with children and young people.

We plan to work alongside people in their local situations to develop and support them in the work that they are doing. From this we will be better able to share good practice across the diocese. This will be a regular slot on this newsletter to keep you informed of what is going on in the delivery of this strategy

Children and Young People

Summer Camps

As the cold weather begins to go (we hope) and the evenings are very slowly beginning to get lighter it is the time to start thinking about the Summer holidays. There are a huge number of Christian summer camps that happen all over the country and beyond for young people. We cannot list them all here but would like to draw you attention to 2 opportunities in particular:

Hilfield Friary Youth Camp: 12th -19th August 2012.

A true alternative to large mainstream Christian youth events, offering young people aged 13 to 17 a chance to explore their Christian faith. Organised together with the **Anglican Society of Saint Francis**, the radical Franciscan spirituality of following Jesus is explored through a theme and our life together in community.

Because the camp is between 30 and 50 people, everyone has a chance to join in, and no one is lost in the crowd. Groups or individuals can book on. The camp costs £120 when booked before May 1st 2012 (£150 after). For more information contact Lizzie Whitbread.

Trip to Taize: This is being organised by St Thomas' Church Salisbury for those aged 16 – 24, they have a small group going from the church but are keen to welcome other young people, either individuals or groups, to make up a group. The provisional dates are Saturday 28 July to Tuesday 7 August 2012 (this gives 1 day to get there and 2 to come back). These may need to be tweaked as the logistics are worked out. If you are interested or would like more information get in touch with Belinda Davies, the curate at St Thomas belindajdavies@gmail.com by **27th February, 2012**

Resources

As you plan and work through Lent and Easter with your families and children here are some ideas you might like to consider using. We hope you find them helpful.

Observing Lent and Celebrating Easter

Most congregations work hard to include children in Advent and Christmas celebrations. Lent and Easter are another story. Often the children are not expected at and not even wanted at these worship services. The hope is that they will hear the stories in church school or at home and join the congregation celebrating the stories when they are older and understand them more fully. I think that is a mistake.

The Lent-Easter stories are the key stories of our faith and the worship services of Lent, Holy Week and Easter are our high Holy Days. Children need to be part of them with the entire congregation.

Children CAN hear the passion and resurrection stories

*From an early age they can be told that people who were angry with Jesus killed him on a cross, but that God would not let Jesus stay dead and made him alive again on Easter. Over the years they add the details. The younger the children the more they follow the emotions of the story rather than the facts. For that reason it is important to always tell the whole story. Even on Good Friday, mention the surprise that we know is waiting. Try the **Easter Bible Storybook** from Scripture Union*

Exploring the stories in the sanctuary in worship gives them more power for children.

For example, a palm parade with other children in a classroom may be a kid thing, but a triumphant parade in the sanctuary with people of all ages communicates that this is indeed an important parade. Hearing the story of the Last Supper is one thing, but celebrating the Last Supper on the “anniversary” of very night that Jesus invented it with the whole church brings the story to life. It’s the same with hearing the crucifixion story on Good Friday or getting up before sunrise to hear the story outside on Easter Sunday morning.

Make a big deal about changing the colours in the sanctuary

Do it together on either Ash Wednesday or the first Sunday of Lent. This can be fairly formal with people carrying out the white or green cloths and banners and others processing in with the purple ones. Or, it can be more informal with worship leaders inviting worshipers to help change the altar frontals and explaining in the process the meaning of Lent and the purple. Describe the changes in the sanctuary that will come on Good Friday and again on Easter.

Hide the ALLELUIA!

Many congregations ban the use of the word “Alleluia!” in the congregation’s worship during Lent. To highlight this, create (or get young or older artists to create) a beautiful poster of the word, show the poster at the beginning of the service on the first Sunday of Lent, then put it in a box and tuck it somewhere in the sanctuary. Leave it there until Easter where young children can check on it, if they wish. On Easter morning, bring it out, shout it, sing it and enjoy it.

Encourage a Lenten worship discipline for children and their families. Because Lent is basically spring training for disciples, it is an opportunity to encourage children to grow as worshipers.

If you tend to use historic prayers of confession and assurances of pardon or repeated sung responses during Lent, introduce and explain them to the children during worship and encourage them to join in on praying and singing them. (Many adults will listen appreciatively.)

Web links

Encourage households to pray together and take action at home each day during Lent.
www.themothersunion.org/Count_your_blessings_2012.pdf

www.livlent.net/

count your blessings www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent-2012/index.aspx

www.earthministry.org/programs/waipi/waipi-lenten-prayer-reflection-guide

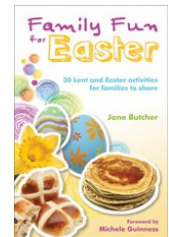
www.tearfund.org/en/get_involved/campaign/campaign_updates/campaignnews/cc_201111_carbon_fast_2012/~/_media/Files/Main%20Site/Campaigning/ClimateChange/CarbonFast/Carbon%20Fast%202012%20actions.pdf

Engage young people in Lent through Creative Youth Ministry Ideas for Lent:

Engaging Teens on the Journey to Easter and Beyond. This 34 page ebook is free and available for download www.dropbox.com/s/db8h6poa9poezax/YM%20Ideas%20for%20Lent.pdf

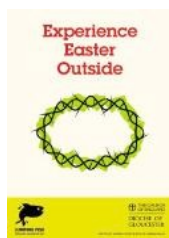
As you plan services that include children, be sure to invite them and their parents repeatedly. One “children are welcome” will not do the job. You will have to say that children are not only welcome, but are encouraged to attend. Be sure to set the times of weekday services with children and families in mind, i.e. before bedtime on a school night. Explain to the whole congregation why it is important that children participate in these services.

Family Fun for Easter - 30 Lent and Easter activities for families to share by Jane Butcher from www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk



A new version of the very successful Easter Experience which is designed to be used outdoors £11 www.experienceeaster.org

The brilliant new, **Experience Easter with Families** Packs has been written by Rev Dr Sandra Millar can be ordered via experienceeaster@mail.com at a special introductory price of £9 plus p&p. It is designed to be used once a week at home during Lent then every day in Holy Week.



Experience Easter with Young People, with Adults and with Older People can all be downloaded from the Gloucester Diocesan website www.gloucester.anglican.org

Eggventure Beads This year give them something that lasts longer than chocolate! £3 + p&p www.experienceeaster.org



Help children and young people learn about the meaning of Easter with this educational egg containing beads and thread that can be made into a trendy wrist-band or necklace.

Together with a calendar, stickers and a folding guide which takes children on a journey through the events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, these eggs are ideal for use in schools, after school clubs, holiday clubs, church children's groups and youth groups. Suitable for children age 5+.

Mothering Sunday ideas, all age talks etc www.going4growth.org.uk/growth_through_the_year/lent/mothering_sunday/

Make a Mother's Day

Welcome to Make a Mother's Day 2012

Mothers' Union is working through a grassroots membership of 4 million people to support families and communities around the world.

This Mothering Sunday, as you remember your mother, we are asking you do something a little different. Instead of flowers or a box of chocolates why not buy her an ethical gift that will support another mother? Will you give an ethical gift this Mothering Sunday and change a life? Each gift represents part of the work that Mothers' Union is funding this year.

www.makeamothersday.org

Mothering Sunday ideas, all age talks etc www.going4growth.org.uk/growth_through_the_year/lent/mothering_sunday/

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