



Mustard Seeds
Newsletter from
the Salisbury
Diocese Adviser
for Work with
Children and
Families

Upcoming Courses and Conferences

Open the Book Conference October 14th £12 which this year includes a sandwich lunch (no need to bring your packed lunch)

It's not too late to book a place and is great whether you've started Open the book this term or you've been doing it for years. Meet up with fellow open the bookers, pray for our work and meet the national trainer to learn about new ideas and developments. Find out about great ideas for deepening and expanding children's experience of Advent and Christmas. This will include how to set up and run an Experience Christmas Day or Christmas Journey Day, using Open the Book Christmas stories in the church and community, how to explore and celebrate St Nicholas's Day, how to share a posada with school and more.

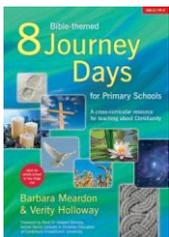
If you are coming, please bring any great props you've used in previous years when telling the Christmas and Epiphany stories.

Save the Date - Advance notice about two conferences with exciting national and local speakers next year:

Prayer Spaces and Space for Prayer March 4th 2015

Sacred Space – Sharing Faith With and In Families May 21st 2015

New Resources from us



8 Bible Journey Days by Barbara Meardon and Verity Holloway

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/by-category/publications/journey-days>

Eight story-based workshop days to help primary schools deliver high quality cross-curricular RE supported by their local churches. If you are interested to find out more or to have support delivering the days with your local school contact Barbara or Verity who would be delighted to hear from you.

barbara.meardon@salisbury.anglican.org verity.holloway@salisbury.anglican.org

Other publications include an updated **Festival Matters** teaching resource to promote progression in understanding key Christian Festivals, and **Food for Thought** nourishment for the soul in a bite-size format.

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/by-category/publications>

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Conker Prayers

From a great website for families and work with young children by Victoria Beech

<http://www.godventure.co.uk/news/conker-prayers/>

I love the idea that you pray a prayer when you find the conkers, then keep praying the prayer until one last unopened conker opens up.



Ideas with Loom Bands



Make a Colours of the Church Year Loom Band on the Going for Growth website:

http://www.going4growth.org.uk/growth_through_the_year/colours_of_the_church_year

Suggestions for using loom bands as a way of praying with children

- Buy some loom bands - from basic colours to glittery, scented, glow-in-the-dark varieties, available in single colours or multi-packs from a wide selection of shops and on the Internet.
- Choose a prayer focus from the list below.
- Choose the colours for your prayer focus - each colour of band can represent something different for your prayer focus no matter which style you create.
- Choose the style of loom band you want to create - from a simple single-linked band that only requires two band colours and two fingers and is quick to do, to the more creative fishtail, diamond and railroad styles (see the Internet for instructions and other ideas, or ask the children).

God and Me

Choose two colours of bands - one colour to represent you and another to represent God: for example, purple for God and white for you.



Use the single-linked method to make a band with alternating colours (as shown above). Add the link to make a bracelet and wear it as a reminder that God is with you wherever we go - in front and behind as in the bracelet.

Praying for our friends and family

Choose three colours of band - one colour to represent you, one to represent your family and friends, and one for those who need God's help.



Using the single-linked method to make a band with alternating colours or with a block of each colour (as shown above). Add the link to make a bracelet and use it as a prayer bracelet - praying for each person or group as you move from colour to colour around the bracelet, or block of colour to block of colour.

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You could sit down as a family or with friends before you pray to talk about what you want to pray about and who will lead the prayers.

Praying for the world

Choose three colours of band - one colour to represent you, one to represent your country and one to represent the world.



Using the single-linked method to make a band with alternating colours or with a block of each colour (as shown above). Add the link to make a bracelet and use it as a prayer bracelet - praying for each person or group as you move from colour to colour around the bracelet, or block of colour to block of colour.

You could sit down before you pray to talk about what you want to pray about - for example:

Pray for you and your family and your place in this world - caring for the people, animals and environment.

Give thanks and pray for those in authority who make decisions to keep your country safe.

Thank God for his amazing world. Pray for countries where there is war or sadness.

God, you and me

Use the three-colour alternating band method to pray for children who struggle with being away from a parent/carer/sibling/school/group and so on. The three colours represent God, the child and the parent/carer/sibling/school/group. As you make your band, the colour representing the child should be in the middle of the other two colours.

These ideas were originally published on the [Faith in Homes](#) website by Jane Butcher.

Harvest

There are some excellent resources from Church Urban Fund based on the biblical ideas of gleaning and sharing. Resources include sermon notes, prayers and children's activity NB do share the gleaning idea with children not just adults as it will help them understand why Christians celebrate harvest not just the secular value of sharing. http://www.cuf.org.uk/harvest?dm_i=5DF,2PUR8,4UJJ8F,9WQ3B,1

A short video about how sharing can make a difference – you could use this as a discussion starter or something to think about during church or school worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghU5JEd-XRo>

Bible Sunday 26th October

Resources from the Bible Society (& Roots) can be found here including an All Age Worship

<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/bible-sunday/bible-sunday-2014/>

If you already have an Open the Book team ask them to share a Bible Story on Bible Sunday and in the service pray for their work in your local schools sharing the Bible with children.

Hallowe'en and All Saints Reclaim this time of year with lots of ideas here:

<http://www.going4growth.org.uk/growth-through-the-year/saints-and-special-days/halloween>

Remembrance Explore the Pinterest board I made about remembrance for lots of ideas:

<http://uk.pinterest.com/barbameardon/remembrance-with-children-and-families/>

... if you'd like more ideas for services etc email me and ask for a handout.

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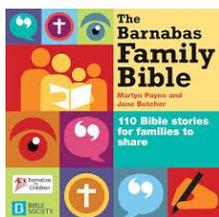
Wall of Remembrance, Salisbury Cathedral Cloisters, daily, free 27 October – 21 November

A wonderful opportunity to see 10,000 crosses made by Wiltshire schoolchildren to commemorate each individual lost in the county during WWI. The whole display is a fitting and poignant reminder of the scale of loss locally and has provided a human connection for our modern-day generation.

Also at the cathedral a WW1 children's half term event -

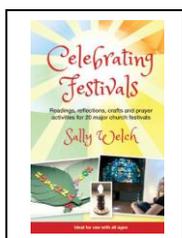
<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/teddy-time-travels>

Latest from Barnabas



Jane Butcher and Martyn Payne who write this book were inspired by current research on faith development which affirms that if faith isn't passed on, lived out and nurtured in the home, we can't then reasonably expect children and grandchildren to catch that faith. If you are looking for ways to help families in your church share faith within the family here is an excellent resource. The Barnabas Family Bible developed by Barnabas in Churches and the Bible Society is designed to equip parents, grandparents and carers to look at key Bible passages with their children in a structured way. Unlike the usual children's Bible support is given for families to explore the Bible together.

Each of the 110 sections include: commentary on the passage, questions to discuss, visual aid, activity idea, prayer idea, key verse, Old or New Testament story link. Also included are guidance and support for sharing faith as a family, a family-friendly overview of the Bible story, a selection of best-loved Bible passages, further resources to support families and family Bible study.



Faith is caught not taught/exploring faith as generations together is a recurring theme of mine...In *Celebrating Festivals* Sally Welch has provided material that allows all ages to enter into a creative exploration of festivals and faith for 20 festivals from Advent through to Christ the King. This book includes a range of ideas that will resource children and adults as they explore why and what we are celebrating at the festivals. Sally looks at how churches can use the buildings available to them to develop an awareness of sacred space and the way it can feed into our everyday lives.

£8.99, ISBN 978 1 84101 711 2

I know, I know, it is very early but Advent and Christmas

In the same style as the very popular Love Life Live Lent and likely to sell out we now have Love Life, Live Advent, the Real Advent Calendar 12.50 for a pack of 10

<http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715144428/love-life-live-advent-pack-of-10>



There are also fantastic and very reasonably priced resources from Redemptorist Publishers

http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/categories/1_37/advent-christmas/children

including, advent chains, calendars, sticker books and more, perhaps you could ask people in the parish to buy one for every child in your group



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Christingle Resources

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-appeals/events-and-activities/christingle>

Christmas Bible Comic by Scripture Union – a reasonably priced (£1.99) comic-strip retelling of the Christmas story. Through the high-quality illustration and text, children will encounter the true story of Christmas, together with quizzes, puzzles, facts and information to help them engage with the story more fully.

<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/122462.id#.VCZY3hYQONM>

Barnabas has resources to help you engage in mission and outreach at Advent and Christmas listed here - <http://www.brffonline.org.uk/adventwrappedup>

Roots have an Advent calendar that takes you on a journey with the Gospel readings for the four Sundays of Advent. We are encouraged to look about us, in our everyday world, to spot things which link to the Gospel writer's message. There is also a 'things to spot, find or hear' sheet.

http://www.rootsontheweb.com/Adventcalendar2014?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Roots+For+Churches+Limited&utm_campaign=4608976_Marketing+%28Gatekeeper%29+enews_September2014&utm_content=Advent%2520Calendar&dm_i=1C7U,2QSB4,6SRXSB,9ZSJG,1

Job Adverts

Children's Adviser Ely Diocese

Closing date 3rd October

http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/VacancyDocs/ChildrensAdviserInfoPack.pdf

Holy Trinity Southwell is looking to appoint an experienced Youth and Children's Ministry Team Leader with either a specialism in Youth or Children's work. This will be a fulltime post and will oversee all 0-18's ministry and mission and recruit and develop the team of paid workers and volunteers to deliver this important Ministry. Further information and application packs will be available in due course. However, if you are interested feel free to contact the Vicar, Andrew Porter (01636 919706, andrew@holytrinitysouthwell.co.uk), <http://www.holytrinitysouthwell.co.uk/jobstrinity>

It just remains to say thank you for all your hard work on behalf of and with our children, families and young people across the diocese. If I can be of any help do get in touch.

In the meantime do have a look at our children's, families and young peoples' pages on the website. Currently being redesigned - a work in progress as and when time allows - so any comments about layout, ease of use or suggestions for material you would like to see/find helpful on the page would be much appreciated.

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/cypaf/>

Blessings

Barbara

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