

the big E newsletter

aiming to equip, enthuse and energise children's workers across the Diocese

Issue 30 January 2011

Nick writes

Hello and Happy New Year! I wonder how many of you are still wondering where December went...it was tough coping with all that snow and ice, and the disruption it brought. On the other hand, it is good to know that there are some things in life that are beyond our human control!

2011 marks 200 years of the National Society, and 400 years of the King James Bible. It is also my 10th year in this role....doesn't time fly!! There's more about all these things later, as well as a look at some new resources, and some events to plan for in the coming year.

In 1 Corinthians 1:4 Paul writes:

"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."

In this issue of Big E Newsletter there's a bit of a focus on giving thanks – God is good to us, and often He blesses us through the work and support of others.

So **thank you** for all you do in your ministry with children – it is a vital work, and a special calling!

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Big Diary Dates

Lighting up Halloween! On the late afternoon and evening of Monday 31st October there will be a lively, active, fun family event based on the theme of 'Light' taking place in and around the Minster at Southwell. Full details are currently being worked on, but we do know that the **special guest** will be The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu!

This is something to get in your diary now, and encourage your church to support. More details will follow.

Big E Day 2011 After careful evaluation we have decided to continue with the annual Big E Day, and provide the large range of subject and resources that makes this one of the foremost training events in the region. The Big E Day will be on Saturday October 22nd at Southwell Minster School. If you have any suggestions for workshop subjects please let us know within the next month, and we will see what we can do!

Please get the date in your diary, mention it to your teams at church, and pass the word on to other churches (of whatever denomination) in your area.

Support Service

Nick says 'One of the best things about this role is to travel around the Diocese and take part in services in many different churches, particularly for special events such as Christingle, Harvest, and so on'.

Bookings are now open for the year including next Christmas, so contact Nick if you'd like a visit.



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Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

www.southwell.anglican.org

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Anniversaries

Candle on Tour

2011 sees the 200th year of the National Society, which founded and supports all of our Church Schools. To mark this date a candle is going around the Diocese and visiting all church schools. At each school there will be a special service to mark the occasion. This may be a good way



to reinforce your church's links with your local church schools. For more information on dates and where the candle is going please contact Alison. 01636 8154504, alisonj@southwell.anglican.org

Thank you Nick!

Nick has been the Children's Ministry Advisor for the Diocese for 10 years now.



I think he also deserves our thanks for the time, effort, energy and enthusiasm he has given to Children and Children's Workers across the Diocese. There are various initiatives such as 'Fun without Walls' and the 'Big E Training Days' that are all down to Nick's vision and energy.

I'm sure lots of you can think of ways that you have been helped or encouraged by Nick, maybe you wouldn't even be involved in Children's work at all without his encouragement - why not take time to email him and tell him!
nick@southwell.anglican.org

"Thank you for the wonderful day last February when you invited children and leaders to take part in Bishop Paul's installation service. It was a special and meaningful day which will be remembered by us all. Linda"

Thank you Alison—Superstar!

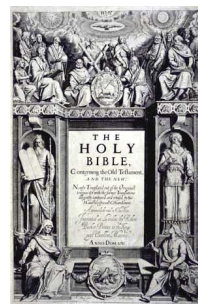
Many of you have met Alison Jacobson, and others will have e-mailed her or spoken to her. Alison supports our work and often goes 'the extra mile' to make sure that Nick keeps up with everything and events are well-organised. **Thank you**, Alison! Alison is available most days 9am-3pm on 01636 8154504, alisonj@southwell.anglican.org

400 Years of King James Bible

As I'm sure you will know, 2011 commemorates the 'Year of the Bible' in recognition of the fact that we have had the King James Bible as part of church and national life for 400 years. For many older people it is the translation they know and love and have memorised. It is only in recent years that we have had so many different translations to choose from including the New King James Version.

The 'Year of the Bible' is about encouraging us all to READ the Bible more, investing in TRAINING to help the whole church to understand and apply the Bible more. Raising money for TRANSLATION work to continue and promoting different ways of EXPERIENCING the Bible.

All of these websites will give you ideas and resources to adapt and use in your setting:-
www.biblefresh.com
www.kingjamesbibletrust.com
www.bigbible.org.uk
www.thegoodbook.co.uk
www.e100challenge.org.uk



The King James Bible Trust website gives interesting history and background to the original translation, including a digital version of the 1611 translation.

The Biblefresh website has lots of ideas for experiencing the Bible and hearing Bible stories in every medium. In the biblefresh.tv section there are lots of video clips. Look out for Friends and Heroes video clips, What's in the Bible? - new animated series by veggie tales creator and Bible Translation and Chocolate - a visual and thought-provoking illustration of how few people have access to the whole Bible in their own language and of how many still have no translation in their own language.

If some of these seem a bit complicated and technical perhaps I could share some advice given to me many years ago at a Scripture Union Training Event? Even if you are using notes to retell Bible stories to children, always put the notes inside your open Bible and make sure the children know that it is a Bible story they are hearing.

Linda Rigg

Big E Newsletter

Another big **Thank you** goes to Linda Rigg, who has been carefully compiling and designing the Big E Newsletter since it began. Linda is looking to step down from the role, so if you are interested in supporting the work in this way please contact Nick.

Training Events and Resources

Safeguarding Children

Are your leaders up-to-date with Safeguarding (Child protection) Training - Nick Harding and Barbara Selley are providing a number of training events throughout the year at different times and different venues:-

Tuesdays 25 January and 1 February
St George's in the Meadows Church Hall

Thursdays 31 March and 7 April
Venue to be confirmed (North Newark and Southwell Deanery)

Thursdays 23 and 30 June
Likely venue: Clifton

All sessions will run from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm
This is a detailed course over two evenings for clergy and all children's leaders (must attend both evenings).

Bookings please contact Jean Griffiths at Family Care 0115 9603010

Leadership Skills

Working with Boys

Wednesday 2 March 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Venue: To be confirmed

Why do boys struggle with church? What makes them tick? How can we reach them?

Led by Nick Harding.

Bookings Alison on 01636 814504 or alison.jacobson@southwell.anglican.org

Godly Play Training Course

Tuesday 10 May 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Venue: To be confirmed

Godly play is an approach based on Montessori principles - we respond to the child's request to 'help me do it by myself'. It promotes knowledge, skills, empathy and spiritual growth.

Led by Jane Lewis.

Bookings Catriona Gundlach 01636 817232 catriona@southwell.anglican.org

Resources Room

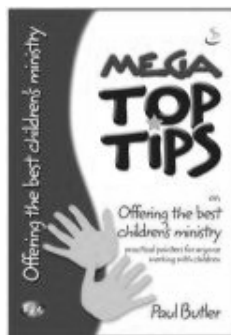
The Resources Room at Dunham House is open whenever the office is open. It contains books, DVDs and other resources on children's ministry, youth ministry, urban, rural, pastoral, music and worship, faith development, Alpha and Emmaus, Bible, prayer and reflection, Reader ministry, preaching, schools and RE, and so on.

Marlene Shrive comes in for at least half a day each fortnight (and sometimes weekly) to keep things in order, and has been doing so for 20 years! She is usually in on Thursday mornings – check with Alison if you want to be sure to catch her.

Our thanks to Marlene for her dedicated work! If there are any key books and resources that you know about that we don't have in stock please let Nick know the details, and he may be able to purchase them from the limited budget the room has.

If you are starting **New Things** in your church such as messy Church, clubs, Open the Book, Godly Play or anything else!! Please let me know. I often get asked for information about local churches who are doing good things, so it helps me to have an idea of what you're up to! Thanks - Nick

New 'Top Tips' Book



You may already be familiar with the 'Top Tips' range of books offering tips and training about various aspects of children's ministry. The latest is just out and is written by Bishop Paul. It offers great and focused advice on children's work, and is written in an easy-to-read style.

Mega Top Tips on Offering the best in Children's Ministry - Practical Pointers for anyone working with children.

It is full of practical advice and real-life stories to help you offer the best children's ministry. Includes ideas on how to build great ministry - in churches, in families, in the wider community and in the world, as well as Biblical insights into how we view and treat all children.

Order direct from Scripture Union www.scriptureunion.org.uk, the Living Oasis Bookshop in Nottingham centre, the Minster Bookshop, or any other local Christian shop.

More Ideas, Websites and Resources

Going for Growth

Title of a report to General Synod in February last year.

The report **Going for Growth** challenges the Church of England to:

- work towards every child and young person having a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ
- recognise and welcome the capacity of children and young people to transform the church and the world
- provide support and development for all those working with children and young people.

The **Going for Growth** website provides resources to support these challenges so that children and young people have the opportunity to grow in faith, knowledge, understanding, discipleship and service.

Website is well worth a look. Although you may not find direct advice on these pages the website does bring together in one place resources, ideas, links and information which will support children & youth leaders in their ministry.

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

Holiday Clubs

Mission Rescue is the 2011 Holiday Club resource published by Scripture Union.

The stories and teaching come from Exodus 1 - 15 and are based around a Spies/ Secret Agents theme.

As well as the main programme book there is also a DVD featuring the stories and a small 'Secret Files' booklet which contains all the memory verses and small group activities for the week.



It would be suitable for a Holiday Club week or for a series of mid-week club meetings.

Details from Scripture Union or browse through a copy in The Resource Room.

Bye Buy Childhood

The Mothers' Union believes that children should be valued as children, not consumers.

Giving children the message that they are what they own, rather than being valued for who they are, can negatively affect their wellbeing. Nearly three-fifths of parents believe that advertising seen by children can be harmful to them.

The **Bye Buy Childhood campaign** aims to empower families to challenge the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood through positive action.

The Mothers' Union has launched this campaign in the UK. Find out more at www.byebuychildhood.org



LectionaryLive!

LectionaryLive! New resource from Scripture Union. This is a new strand on the LightLive! Website for those who use the Common Worship Lectionary. Each week there will be an All-Age service and helpful extras for when everyone is meeting together. Although the Bible passages do not always coincide exactly, there are many times when there is an exact match or a close overlap. LectionaryLive! can be accessed via Scripture Union website—as with other LightLive! materials access is via subscriber/login passwords.

www.scriptureunion.org.uk

Health and Safety

www.churchsafety.org.uk

Helpful and informative website concerning all aspects of health and safety.

Risk Assessment should be part of the church's safeguarding policy and an important part of planning children's activities. Lots of information and downloadable forms on this website.

Mothering Sunday Resource Pack

Mothering Sunday
Sunday 3 April

Mothers' Union has produced a resource for Key Stage 2 classes in your local school. As well as a service resource for your church with service framework, prayers and liturgy, talk notes and children's resources.

Contact Mothers' Union 020 7222 5533
mu@themothersunion.org
www.themothersunion.org