



Youth and Children's News Update

To: All Ministers, Children's and Youth Workers, Safeguarding Co-ordinators April 2013 Issue 17

WELCOME

Last year it would have been difficult to miss all the excitement that London 2012 created. Whether you visited an Olympic venue, or you managed to visit the Olympics or Paralympics or just watched bits and pieces on the television you will have witnessed some amazing things. Both the Olympics and Paralympics were full of incredible moments.

Eight months on is your mind still excited by the spectacles you experienced or do you find you have forgotten most of it? The catchphrase of London 2012 was "Inspire a Generation". Were you and others you know inspired? Did you take up a new sport or recommit to one from the past?

Perhaps you are thinking of the legacy of London 2012. Perhaps you would be interested in volunteering when the Commonwealth Games come to Glasgow in 2014. I can put you in touch with More Than Gold's Methodist representative if that is helpful.

A report out this week from the London Assembly's Economy Committee has criticised London 2012 for the cost of tickets. They argue that there were not enough affordable tickets available and more people could have been inspired if this had been the case.

How do we inspire others as individuals and as "Methodists"? Or perhaps I should ask do we inspire others? Personally I feel that we have good news to share with all around us and this good news should inspire us to inspire others who then go on to inspire others.

Sometimes though we feel demoralised, numbers of people attending church on a regular basis are less than they were.

The number of children, young people and families connected with our churches is less than it was. We have a choice to keep looking back demoralised or to look forward with hope. In this Easter season I think God clearly calls us to look forward with hope.

Above my desk I have some words of Mother Teresa. They say: "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin!"

So let us begin to inspire not just "a generation" but all the generations who live in our communities. Let us begin to reach out in new ways with the love of God to people who may feel unloved or unlovable.

Let us begin to make changes in our ministry to and with children, young people and families that inspires them to inspire others.

Soon we will be celebrating Pentecost when God sent his Holy Spirit on the first disciples. The Holy Spirit inspired them to share the Good News of Jesus with many more people.

Charles Wesley instructed that the following hymn be sung before one read the scriptures: "Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire, Let us thine influence prove; Source of the old prophetic fire, Fountain of life and love".

Yet it also reminds us that the Holy Spirit of long ago is the one who inspires us still through reading the scriptures but also by working through the human heart.

So let us begin, inspired by the Holy Spirit whatever God is calling us to do to inspire others by and with his love.

Nicola Briggs

Sleepover Event for 8-17s

"The BIG SleepOver!"

The District is holding a 24 hour sleepover event for anyone aged 8-17* in our churches. It starts at 6.30pm on Friday 28th June through to 6.30pm on Saturday 29th June and will be held at St James Road Methodist Church in Southampton.

"The BIG SleepOver" will cost only £12 for 8-17s and £10 for leaders which includes all food throughout the event. We have a great team who are putting the event together and it will include Games, Workshops, Activities, Craft, Worship and hopefully lots of fun and laughter.

*Aged 8-17 years old on the 31st August 2013.

For more information or to book places contact Nicola Briggs by phone on 07858 192996 or by email nicola@briggsworld.co.uk.

3GENERATE

15th – 17th November 2013

3Generate is the Children's and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church. It is a weekend event to change and challenge the church, the world and ourselves.

SPECIAL OFFER

The Southampton District will pay for one young person from each circuit to attend this year's 3Generate!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PTO for more information.

3GENERATE will be held

at the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

<http://www.actioncentres.co.uk/pioneer-centre>

3Generate is for anyone aged 8yrs – 23yrs. There will be 3 age streams each with age appropriate activities: 8-11s (Yrs 4-6), 11-18s (Yrs 7-13), 18-23s.

What can children/young people expect at the event? There will be opportunities to:

- spend time with friends and make new ones
- take part in activities both indoors and outdoors e.g. sports, music, games, outdoor challenges
- explore issues affecting you, the world and the Methodist Church
- worship together in different ways
- speak out and have your say including voting in elections

It's a time for fun, faith and friends!

What is there for workers/leaders?

3Generate – children and youth assembly is just for young people. Workers/leaders/parents can drop them off at the event, where they will then be looked after by members of the Children and Youth Team. There is an event for workers/leaders running alongside 3Generate, which will include training and reflection to help you take the essence of 3Generate home to impact your work in your local setting. The venue for this is nearby to the venue for 3Generate.

SPECIAL OFFER

Before Standing Order 250 was changed each District Synod elected two representatives to attend Youth Assembly and covered their ticket and travel costs. As we all get used to the new look Assembly our District Treasurer has been very generous. From District funds he will support one person (8-23 years old) per circuit with their ticket and travel costs!!!!!! This means instead of paying for 2 people the District will support up to 23 people to attend Assembly and have their voice heard!!!!!!!

It is your job to find someone aged 8-23 in your circuit to fill the District supported place. If they don't want to attend alone perhaps your circuit or church treasurer will support a second person to attend.

"Working together to change and challenge the church and the world."

Visit <http://www.southamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/youth/newsletter> to download this newsletter as a PDF document

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OVERSEAS WITH TEARFUND?

Do you know a young person who would like to go overseas with Tearfund?

International Citizen Service (ICS) is an amazing 10-week government funded overseas placement that will give you the chance to connect with communities and make a difference to those living in poverty.

- Want to make a difference but don't know where to start?
- Introducing International Citizen Service (ICS), an amazing 10-week overseas placement that will give you the chance to explore beautiful countries, learn new skills and meet incredible people.
- Are you 18-25? We'd love you to apply for a placement.
- Are you over 23+? We'd love you to apply for a team leader position or find out more about taking on this role.
- Where will I be going? Tearfund ICS teams work in Bolivia, Burundi and Rwanda and depart four times a year; January, April, July and October.

For more information visit

http://www.tearfund.org/en/get_involved/go_overseas/what_is_on_offer/international_citizen_service/

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Accredited 3-day Godly play Residential Training Course- 25, 26 & 27th June 2013

<http://www.godlyplay.org.uk/3daycourses.html>
or contact Sheila.rogers@talktalk.net .