



Youth and Children's News Update

To: All Churches, Ministers, Children's and Youth Workers, Safeguarding Co-ordinators May 2014 Issue 19

From Nicola:

Society has changed.

In the Southampton District May Synod Sir Al Aynsley-Green, the first children's commissioner for England and Wales, spoke on the theme of **COURAGE, COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT - WHAT DO THESE MEAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY?**

The very fact that he posed the question "what does this mean for children and young people today?" reinforces the fact that changes in society impact on younger as well as older.

It was not so long ago that the phrase "children should be seen and not heard" was used to ensure that younger ones knew that they had a place in society and they were very firmly put in it. Actually some argue that this phrase is a proverb that goes back to the 15th century and originally was applied to young women, 'a maid should be seen and not heard'.

It appears there have always been those who are voiceless in society. But then we know that, don't we? The May Synod was seeking to make the point that we need to make space for all to be included and for all voices to be heard with a particular emphasis this time on children and young people.

We do not want Synod to be the token homage to this theme and therefore I invite circuits and churches to build on the work and vision of this Synod by constantly challenging ourselves to grow and develop methods and means of participation for younger voices in our daily life and decisions.

There are lots of things you could try, some ideas might include:

- Redefining how church councils and circuit meetings work to

make them more accessible for children and young people.

- Looking at representation or having youth councils.
- Circuit and church officers visiting groups where children and young people meet in our churches and asking for their views.
- Suggestion box scheme where children and young people can put their ideas for church activities etc
- Involvement in appointing workers and invitation process for ministers.

The important thing is not to feel pushed into doing something just because others are – their ideas may not work in our local context but rather to be challenged by the principles and practice of participation.

If I can be of assistance in developing your church's youth participation or any other area of ministry with children, young people and families please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nicola Briggs

3GENERATE

14th – 16th November 2014

At the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire.

Open to anyone aged 8-23 linked with The Methodist Church

Cost £90 plus travel

Last year **33** young people attended 3Generate from churches in the Southampton District. This was many more than any other district in the connexion.

8 of these young people received district grants to cover their ticket and transport.

Why did the district sponsor children and young people to attend? Because, we believe we should practice what we preach. We want to see as many children and young people being able to attend 3Generate and coming home to their churches enthusiastic about REAL youth participation.

So this year we are again offering every circuit one district supported place for 3Generate. This will cover their £90 ticket and their travel.

Bookings open online on 7th June:

www.3Generate.org.uk

"Generate Plus" runs alongside 3Generate and is an event for leaders and workers. A *Time and Space* for training, fellowship, networking, Bible study, worship and finding out how to connect with 3Generate in your own settings during the year. The cost is £55 which includes meals and accommodation but excludes travel.

Creating Safer Space for All

A One-Day Opportunity for children, youth & family workers, ministers, church/circuit safeguarding reps, parents, pastoral visitors, church members and professionals to listen, learn and discuss

Saturday 18 October 2014

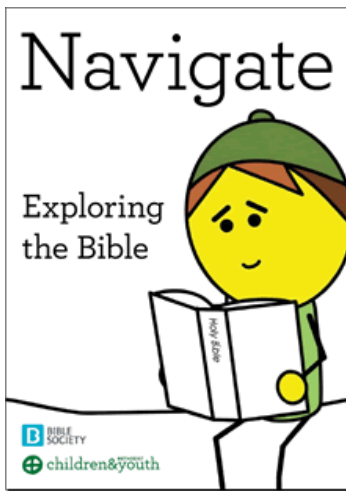
Chandler's Ford Methodist Church
10.30am – 4.00pm

Keynote speaker: Natasha Jetha - Policy Assistant (On-line Safety) NSPCC

Workshops (we hope to offer some or all of the following)

- Protection of Vulnerable/Elderly Adults
- Domestic Violence
- Safeguarding & Pastoral Visiting
- Positively Working Together
- Self harm
- Trafficking/Child Sex Exploitation

£5 to include a sandwich lunch.



Helping young people navigate the Bible

Why bother with the Bible? Can we trust it? What difference does it make to life today? Navigate is a free resource designed to help teenagers explore these questions and engage with the Bible.

Produced in partnership between the Methodist Church and Bible Society, Navigate is designed for

youth leaders to use with 11-15 year-olds as a basic introduction to the Bible.

“As Christians we take for granted that we should read the Bible, but we often don’t ask why or consider the challenges it presents,” said Methodist Youth President Tamara Wray. “This course is a fantastic introduction for young people to the most world-changing, exciting and significant book the world has ever seen.”

The five interactive sessions, each with an easy-to-use session plan, contain discussions, quizzes, creative and reflective activities as well as five short animations following the journey of Bob as he asks questions about the Bible.

The Bible Society recent research showed that 80% of parents – 'religious' or not – thought it was important for their children to know Bible stories and 65% of parents thought that Sunday school teachers or church leaders should read Bible stories to their children. However, a third of 15 year olds indicated that they have not read, seen or heard the Nativity story.

James Catford, Group Chief Executive of Bible Society, said, "Our research indicates that the Bible’s brilliant and engaging stories could be lost to future generations unless people take action. The Bible’s contribution to our culture – language, literature, the visual arts and music – is immense. It doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from. The Bible enriches life, and every child should have the opportunity to experience it. The Navigate course is a great way of doing that."

Available to download for free, each session outline contains all the information and resources needed and are accompanied by short videos.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/deepening-discipleship/scriptural-discipleship/resources/navigate>

For those working offline, a DVD (priced £2.50 plus postage) of the resources can be pre-ordered from Methodist Publishing [online](#) or by phoning 0845 017 8220.

Family Ministry Update

Bookings are open for 'Walk & Talk': the event for those working with families taking place at Felden Lodge, Herts, from 18th-20th July. There will be input from Engage

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

Produced By: Nicola Briggs, Youth and Children’s Officer, The Methodist Church, Southampton District

The Manse, 44 Wakeham, Portland, DT5 1HN, 07858 192996 nicola@briggsworld.co.uk

South Hants Bible Camps 2014

Fun in the sun for 9-20 year olds!
(maybe a little rain – this is England!)



friendship
entertainment
games
relaxation
fab food
worship
swimming
Bible teaching
crafts
day trips

Seniors (16-20's)
July 19th – 26th

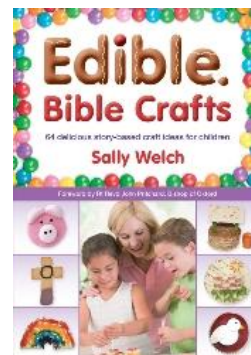
Inters (13-15's)
July 26th – August 2nd

Juniors (9-12's)
August 2nd-9th

Only £140
per week



www.southhantsbiblecamps.org
Registered Charity Number 286425



Edible Bible Crafts

A new book immersed in a refreshingly light shell of ideas.

£11.99 from brf online.

Get Messy! May - August now available

Each issue of *Get Messy!* contains 4 session outlines (1 per month), including planning sheets and take-home handouts, together with information on the latest resources and events. Sessions in this issue:

- May: God's power to change
- June: The Philippian jailer
- July: The fiery furnace
- August: The woman at the well

£4.25, annual subscriptions from £15.99

Worship, Lucy Moore and Care for the Family as well as the sharing of expertise and experience from colleagues. The theme is discipleship, with a focus on discovering ways to encourage everyone to follow Jesus together, step by step; parents, carers and their children. The weekend is designed for all those supporting, walking alongside, sharing and growing faith with families.

Come and learn, share experiences and be refreshed! Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment. For more information contact Gail Adcock (07817 749626).