



Youth and Children's News Update

To: All Churches, Ministers, Children's and Youth Workers, Safeguarding Co-ordinators Sept 2015 Issue 22

From Nicola Briggs:

It has been my privilege to serve the Churches and Circuits of the Southampton District for the past 12½ years in my role as Youth and Children's Officer. During that time I have visited all of the circuits and many of the churches, building relationships with many of you. I would like to thank you for journeying with me.

I have enjoyed travelling around our District (we must live in one of the most beautiful Districts in the country!) by road and rail. Goodness knows how many miles that has been but it has been worthwhile. Working with you to continue, develop or create new ministries with children, young people and families has been enjoyable, rewarding, exciting and challenging – sometimes all at once.

There have been highlights of District participation events, the election of two of our young people as Youth Presidents of the Methodist Church, vision casting meetings, seeing our District Synod work towards fuller participation of all its members, the Zambia youth exchange and representing The Methodist Church in the wider voluntary sector particularly in Hampshire and more recently Dorset; to name a few. There have been times when we've journeyed together struggling with issues but it has been a partnership.

Journeying with others is something we all do every day, be it with families, friends, in our churches but especially with the children, young people and families of the communities we represent.

We are often the salt and light that people have not experienced before because we take the time to walk at the pace of the slowest person. Sometimes it is enjoyable, rewarding, exciting and challenging.

Why do we do this? Perhaps it is because we are jolly decent people? Probably it is because that is the example Jesus set us. He journeyed with people. Think for a moment of Jesus' journeying in the Gospels – sometimes it was enjoyable, rewarding, exciting and challenging. Jesus did it and so do we. Sometimes we journey with others for a short time, sometimes it seems an eternity, some people fall away, some people move away and journey with someone else. Yet we continue to journey.

I would like to thank you for journeying with the children, young people and families of your community. Please continue to do so. If you can no longer do that physically then please continue to do it prayerfully. At the start of this new academic year please pray for the children, young people and staff in your local schools as they start new journeys together. Please also pray for those children, young people and families who are journeying across the world, escaping persecution, war and terror. The recent news stories of the World Refugee Crisis will have touched many of us as we see and hear stories of people journeying in the hope of a new start.

Thank you for the privilege of serving Christ alongside one another over these years.

Nicola

OneSound in Concert



OneSound were formally known as the MAYC Orchestra and Singers. They will be performing at **St James Road Methodist Church, Southampton**, on Saturday 31st October at 7.30pm.

This will be an excellent event of high quality. As this newsletter went to press ticket details were still awaited. If you would like to know more please contact Deacon Brian Purchase by email: deaconbrianpurchase@gmail.com or telephone: 02380 321303.

Role of District Youth and Children's Officer

The Southampton District are undertaking a review of the DYCO role and a small group will be making recommendations to the District Policy Executive.

If you have any enquiries regarding ministry with children, youth or families after the 12th September please contact the District Administrator Sarah Potheary by phone: 07969 679580 or by email: sarahpotheary@virginmedia.com.

Resources for work with children, young people and families

Tea Time Church



now have two years worth of material for Tea-time Church and in September move into their 3rd year.

Tea-time Church is their development of Lucy Moore's Messy Church, though the resources could easily be used in a Messy Church or Cafe Church setting. The ideas for this have been tested at the Deepings Methodist Church where it has run for a couple of years with some success.

Tea-time Church is designed to be run on a Sunday afternoon, leading into Sunday evening worship which can replace the evening service on that particular Sunday. However it can also be run midweek. It starts with time for games as children arrive. This leads into a short time of energetic worship which includes a bible-bop, action songs, prayers and an introduction to the theme using a video.

After this everyone is encouraged to take part in the craft activities and then enjoy a Sunday tea together. This can be a cooked meal but we find sandwiches, pizza, crisps, jelly and ice cream and cakes work really well and are less labour-intensive. This can also be a way of including others in the congregation, who might not come to tea time church, but who would be willing to make a cake.

After tea we move into the second part of worship. This time the bible is used for the reading and there is a short talk, prayers, some slightly less lively songs and we finish with a "song for the adults".

FFCT provide readings, songs as PowerPoint files and Videos, suggestions for games and craft, prayers and talks. You will need to purchase some DVDs and/or online videos. To see more about Tea Time Church visit: <http://www.ffctideas.org.uk/TT - Introduction.php>

The Family Friendly Churches Trust provides other resources (including training) to help churches explore new ideas for their work with children, young people and families; lectionary based resources and can offer holiday clubs. Find out more at: <http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/>

From now on, all *Premier Youthwork* and *Premier Childrenswork* resources will be available to download for FREE online! **That's right... FREE!**



Young people are leaving the Church at an alarming rate. We want to help stem this loss by better equipping the amazing people working in youth and children's ministry...people like you!

Anyone who registers on the site will get free access to all of the resources from the magazine (all-age service plans, games, schools work, etc) as downloadable PDFs. We've backdated all resources from the last year (with more to come!) and will obviously be uploading new resources every month. The magazine will continue to exist with the resources in sweet-smelling paper form and the rest of the articles and content that you know and love. So tell your friends, enemies, cousins, or anyone interested and passionate about children's ministry.

<https://www.premierchildrenswork.com/> or
<https://www.premieryouthwork.com/>



is now available to download for FREE! What are you waiting for? This groundbreaking game is an amazing opportunity for children you know to discover the incredible adventures of the Bible for themselves!

Guardians of Ancora is a new digital environment for 8 to 11-year-olds that combines the excitement and creativity of a high-spec online game with an immersive experience of Bible content and faith formation. Delivered initially via app and free of charge, *Guardians of Ancora* aims to provide a fun and positive social space where children can explore their relationship with God and the Bible. Available for Apple, Android and Kindle Fire devices



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

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