



Spring is in the air!



Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2017
Summer Edition

Hello and welcome to this edition of 'Building Blocks' where I hope you will find information and top tips for Children's workers across the Synod.

As I begin to write I dare I say today feels very Spring like, sunshine, the temperature although crisp feels warmer and birdsong can be heard. However I am very much aware that we are still in the grip of winter as I de-ice my car some mornings.

As our minds become focused upon Lent

and Easter I hope you find this edition packed with some helpful suggestions to enthuse your groups as we prepare for our journey to the joy that is Easter Sunday.

We also have 'Mothering Sunday' to celebrate so this really is an edition jam packed with suggestions and ideas to wet the appetite of groups large and small and of all ages.

As always I look forward to visiting your groups and hearing your stories first hand so do not hesitate to invite me

along.

Let's look forward to Spring with energy and a smile as we continue to support and promote our Christian values with those we meet both in church and beyond.

Blessings

Hannah



- Spring is in the air
- How will you spend £50?
- How to deal with Kids at that difficult age
- Resources
- Over to you!
- Dates for your diary



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How will you spend £50

Knowing how shrewd many children's workers are I feel you could do very well indeed with an additional £50. Just think of the paint, glue and glitter not to mention card and paper you could obtain! For churches gaining the



Children Friendly Church Award in early 2017 this is your reward from the Synod. This award really places your church on the map as a church that cares for all its family members.

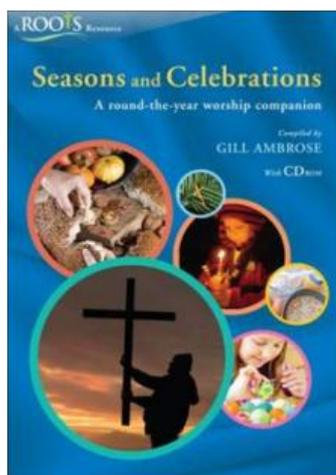


Synod Children's worker Gathering

We shall be holding another great event where we shall share ideas and resources together and have some very interesting workshops that will allow you to take fresh new ideas back to your own Churches. One frequently asked question is...How do we support 'Tweenagers' kids at that difficult age? We shall

be tackling the issue head on to see which way we can best serve all our groups.

Please note the date
Saturday May13th 2017
St. Andrews URC Monksea-



ISBN: 9781848256811

Publisher: Canterbury Press. £28

If like me you already use Roots as a main source of children's teaching or may be you simply want to have something you can use for special

services throughout the year with fresh ideas then this book is for you. It offers complete service outlines and imaginative worship ideas for every season from Advent Sunday to Christ the King including

Pancake day, Mothering Sunday and Fathers Day, Harvest, back to school and Christingle. All texts can be downloaded or projected with the included CD-Rom.

Planning Ahead

It is unusual for me to promote particular craft outlets but here are a few that offer some great deals at the moment. Baker Ross has huge discounts on Easter stock well worth planning ahead. Don't forget if you are a Messy Church group to use your 10% discount code BRF10. The 'Works' has a vast array of very reasonably priced Easter

crafts some of the wooden craft range would make excellent templates if used with card. They also have a lovely range of Bible story books 5 for £5 which is excellent value for money and could be snapped up now for Junior Church / Messy Church prizes or early Christmas presents. Don't worry if you

cannot easily reach a Works shop you can order on line www.theworks.co.uk

Keep at look out in Poundland and Poundworld they have some great Easter foam shapes too.

If you have a particular outlet or website that you find useful please let me know and we can all share.

Lent Journeys

Lent can be a long and lengthy process for young people to tackle those 40 days often seem never ending especially if you have decided to give something up! It's always useful when you find a resource that works for young people. 40acts is a great way of encouraging and nurturing all ages through lent. It's a website that sends a

bible passage each day along with traffic light tasks green being the easiest, red required more time and energy. Can you really offer 40 acts of kindness to others? Well that's the challenge allowing you opportunities to share your skills, time, or consider the needs of others what do you really need to keep and what could you pass

on—could you pass a skill onto someone, pass on your unwanted clothes, books to a charity. Younger children could help in the home, young people or adults may wish to offer to help a neighbour, or the local community. Just type in 40 acts to your search engine and get started it's never too late.

Resources

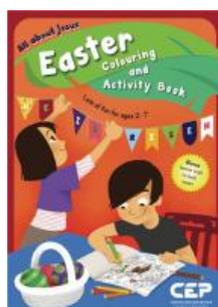
“ Learn more about Jesus life, death and resurrection ”



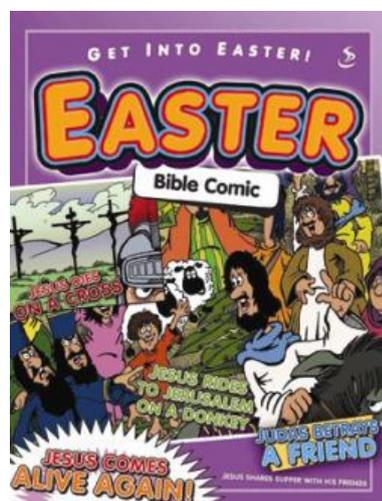
A

possible Easter gift for Messy Churches, or church families to use at home over Easter. This mini-book aims to transfer the core values of Messy Church to the home and family context, encouraging families to talk together, be creative, be hospitable, be Christ-centred and celebratory, and including activities for all ages. Books £1.99 available from CPO publications.

Easter colouring and activity book
ISBN: 978-1-92-200059-0
 Lots of colouring pages, mazes and fun puzzles, this delightful activity book for Easter teaches kids aged 2-7 all about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. £2.99 Christian Education Publications.



This is a great idea for children who enjoy comics through the high-quality illustration and text children can encounter the real story of Easter, together with quizzes, facts, puzzles and information to help them engage in the story more fully. Suitable for children up to 11 years. available from Scripture Union—cost £1.99 discounts for larger orders.



Contact the Editor



I look forward to sharing your news and views in the next edition please forward them to

Hannah Middleton Synod Children's Advisor— Email
hannah.middleton@urcnorthernsynod.org
Or write to me care of the Synod Office
Thanks



Dates for your Diary



Saturday 13th May 10.00-12.30.

St Andrew's Church Monkseaton

'Tweenagers'- kids at that difficult age. Synod Children and Youth team

workshop all welcome—if you want to book places please contact Hannah .

Staying live 2017—An event for all young people from school age year 7. At Seahouses Hostel

10-13th August see what young people say check out the promotional material visit

<http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/whatson- staying alive>. You may even see some familiar faces and what our young said at Synod about this great event. More information will follow but start thinking, praying and encouraging your young people to join in this fantastic event.

From the Mouths of Babes!

Spring customs...

Valentines day...

'If we all loved everyone there would be no wars'.

'Jesus said love your neighbour does that include your brother and sister?'

Pancake day is...

'A day to watch daddy cook'

'I like pancakes with strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and syrup'

'I don't like pancakes so I eat the filling and give my pancake to my brother'.

Easter is...

'When Jesus showed us how much he loved us...it's amazing'

' Making an Easter Garden and thinking about what Jesus did'.

A simple yet effective Easter craft one that could engage all ages bringing the picture to life and showing that your church is very much alive!



Grab your card and tissue paper and just look at what can be done, these would look great on a church window

