

the E newsletter

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

Issue 27 April 2010

Nick's Notes ...

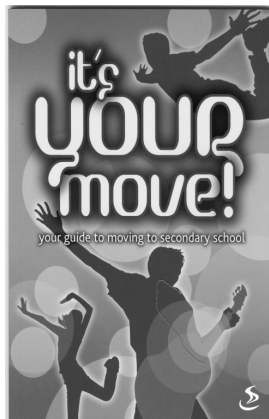
Reading back over copies of Big E Newsletter I am reminded that I always seem to be writing about how busy I am! The truth is that this job is a busy one, especially with some of the changes in legislation, the wider demands of involvement in the Diocese, and the arrival of Bishop Paul. But is it a great job, and one that I really enjoy...most of the time!

Many of you are involved in children's ministry as well as doing many other things, and facing the juggling act of work, family, other church roles, and time for yourselves. So as you think about the next event you're doing or the future plans you have, I want to THANK YOU for all you do. Please don't give up....Church and Children can and should go together!

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Resource book for all Year 6's

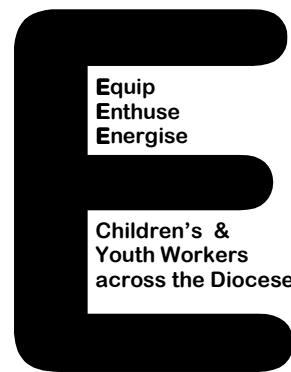


This is a wonderful resource to help children over the difficult transition from primary to secondary school. Newly revised in full colour, it is attractive and practical, with a little bit of 'faith' stuff thrown in!

The aim of this is to open up or enhance relationships between churches and schools, with churches buying copies for all Year 6 pupils in their local (church and community) schools and

offering them. Many churches have done this, and since first publication of It's Your Move well over a million copies have been given to young people. Check it out at www.scriptureunion.org.uk. Nick has some sample copies – e-mail him for one to take a closer look.

Big



Day!

**Saturday 23 October 2010
The Minster School**

- Keynote Speaker Bishop Paul Butler
- Range of workshops
- Booking £10 - free lunch!
- Look out for booking forms - out in May

Nick Harding Diocesan Children's Officer

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

www.southwell.anglican.org

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

News from around the Diocese

Bishop Paul's Installation Service

When we were asked to take part in Bishop Paul's installation the 4 girls from St Lawrence's in Mansfield were really excited. Sixteen children accompanied by 4 adults arrived early on Saturday, and practised in the Minster. The flags were quite big and it took a while to get used to carrying them without waving them too hard (but with enthusiasm!!) The welcome itself was soon word perfect. After lunch (thanks to Clare) we practised again and took our places in the bread pews. By this time the adults were feeling like mother hens with their chicks. We felt so proud of them as they 'did their stuff' The four children who helped with the quite complicated prayers were so confident and did fantastically well.



Afterwards, as we took the children to have tea and cakes (well cakes anyway!) it was good to hear people thanking them for adding something really special to the service.

Maybe we should think about our expectations of children to participate in and understand 'grown up' services. I don't know what they were expecting but I know that they enjoyed themselves and felt lucky to be there. I think the Easter eggs helped as well!

Tessa Baines

Belfast and Back!

Nick is doing a little bit of consultancy work with the Diocese of Connor in Northern Ireland as they look at developing a coherent strategy for their children's ministry. The convenience of East Midlands Airport and the no-frills flights of a certain Irish operator means that he can pop to Belfast once a term much cheaper and quicker than more regular meetings in London!

'Little Fishes' Mansfield

Wow, what a morning! Up early to bake cakes and make play dough, leaving enough time to buy fruit, prepare crafts, clean loos, try to find spaces in a full car park ... the list goes on. What do I do? I work in God's garden – its hard work, but rewarding.



Let me explain. A few years ago I was in a group praying for women when God revealed to us His breaking heart for families in our area. He also spoke to us about the power of prayer for those who bring their children to Jesus, sit them on His lap and let Him bless them. Soon after this I was asked to organise the toddler group and 'Little Fishes' began. Although it was for toddlers, the vision was for family and God was at work, reaching out ready to transform them. At the beginning God told us that each session would be like a garden, the Garden of Eden, beautiful. He promised He would always be there, reaching out to, dwelling with and healing those who walked in the garden. This was to be His work and we were to serve. We made relationships with everyone; providing a warm welcome and high quality activities.

Many commented on the 'feel good factor' - now they realise what that 'feel good factor' is! Tentatively at first, we sang 'God songs', shared stories about His love and when appropriate, we prayed. We were amazed. God brought people in and He never let us go-it alone. We have seen answers to prayer, some mega that are now the topic of many conversations. Now parents ask us about God as they seek the truth, the best for their children.

The work has grown . We have just moved into a beautiful, purpose built area. We run four sessions a week, including a Pray and Play session (worship and bible study). On average, 75 families come each week. Once a month Little Fishes in the evening meet to enjoy worship for the whole family. Adults meet for nights out, parenting courses and other fun activities. Several people have become Christians and whole families are now coming to church. God is doing mighty things here in Mansfield among young families. He calls us to pray, serve and to work faithfully in His beautiful garden.



Ruth Young.

Opportunities to be involved ..

Training Events

Holiday Clubs

Monday 17 May 7.30 - 9.15pm
Rolleston Village Hall

A forum and discussion opportunity for churches to share their experience and learn new things. Led by Nick Harding.

Leadership and Teams

Thursday 17 June 7.30 - 9.15 pm
St Jude's, Mapperley

How to work with your children's team, how to develop a team approach and how to be leader. Led by Nick Harding.

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

Newark Show

The Diocese will again have a stand (with a tent) at the Newark Show on May 8-9. The focus this year will be on children, and there will be lots of seaside-themed decorations and activities. On Saturday 8th Bishop Paul will be telling stories to children as an added attraction! Nick will be there on Sunday 9th. If you are planning to go to Newark Show, or know anyone who is, ask them to drop in with children to the tent to have some fun.

Ideas for training?

Nick will soon be planning the training programme for 2010-2011, and putting together details for the Big E Day on Saturday October 23rd. If you have any particular training needs or subjects you think it would be good to include please e-mail Nick nick.harding@southwell.anglican.org or leave a message with Alison.

Changes in Checking CRB, Vetting and Barring, and ISA

You will be aware that Nick and Barbara Selley have been doing a roadshow around the Diocese for clergy and CRB checkers on the new legislation linked with the Independent Safeguarding Authority 'Vetting and Barring' scheme. The issues are complicated, and we do not yet have full information about how the new system will work in July. Full details are available from the Briefing Paper (currently number 2) on the Diocese website or from Alison

(alison.jacobson@southwell.anglican.org).

The new system begins in July. After that time if you have recruitment decisions to make on new workers (volunteers or staff) and you're not clear please send me an e-mail and I will try to give you a clear answer!

Nick Harding

The Support Squad

As you know, the Education Team at Dunham House is there to support you. You may need support in your churches in connection with schools, links with teenagers, and so on. These people work in the team as 'field staff' with Nick and Alison, and may be able to help:

- Angela Brymer Heywood is Nick's youth equivalent, helping churches develop and sustain work with young people 11-25. She is skilled in good appointment and employment practice, and can offer tons of good advice.
- Maureen Collins is Church and School Links Officer, working to help churches build creative links with any schools in their parish or area. She is part of the Church History Project team, and is also involved in training for School Governors.
- Jane Lewis and Anne Lumb are schools Religious Education Advisers, working closely with our 72 church schools and the staff in them. They are also experienced in Godly Play and have wide interest in children and spiritual development.
- Alison Jacobson supports Nick and Angela with their organisation and administration. If you want to know anything it is worth talking to Alison first...she knows where people are, and when they may be available. 01636 814504, alison.jacobson@southwell.anglican.org

Reviews and Resources

One Generation from Extinction?

At a recent event in Southwell Minster, Mark Griffiths outlined the current situation regarding children:

- Most have little understanding of Jesus or the bible, neither do their parents or grandparents.
- 60% of churches have no children.
- In one generation there will be few children in church and the generation after there will be very few adults.

Result - **DISASTER!** Or is it?

15-20 years ago, the story of David and Goliath would have been familiar to most children. Tell that story in school now and there is a real "Wow!" factor. The canvas is blank. The fields are ripe for harvest. Good speakers who love the Lord Jesus Christ are usually welcome in their local schools to lead assemblies. Some children will want to come to an after school club.

We must take the opportunity now!

Helen Lewis

Local church, Local school

A number of churches across the UK are asking questions about how to relate to local primary schools. The new Local Church, Local School website at www.localchurchlocalschool.org.uk is the result of collaboration by a number of organizations including BRF, The Stapleford Centre, The Girls' Brigade, Viz a Viz and Scripture Union, and aims to provide practical and varied suggestions on how churches can engage with primary schools. The site also provides information for schools so that they can understand how churches operate and the kind of contributions they can make. Do visit the website and pass the web address onto those in your church with an interest in children's and youth ministry, your church council or church leadership team.

Creating mutually beneficial relationships will also play a part in strengthening the cohesion of the local community.

For further information contact Sue Fulford on 01865 319708 or sue.fulford@brf.org.uk

Web and Net!

The Children's Ministry Pages on the Diocese website are updated regularly, and it is worth a look to find out what is going on and to access other resources and agencies.

Find the pages at www.southwell.org. Click the tab 'All about us' follow the links to 'departments', then 'education' and from there you will find the Children's Ministry pages.

You will remember that in the last Big E Newsletter we asked whether you can receive the Big E and other info by e-mail. If more people sign up to this we will work on a more regular e-mailing with ideas and suggestions. If you have an e-mail address but have not let us have it yet please contact Alison.

alison.jacobson@southwell.anglican.org



Invite you to

**Better than OK,
Let's be Outstanding.**

Wednesday May 19th
10am—3pm
St Alkmund, Kedleston Rd, Derby

A day of training for all those
who as volunteers or clergy
deliver assemblies or run
Christian Clubs in Primary Schools.

Keynote Speaker Christ Hudson

More details and booking form from
HelenProudfoot@ddbe.org