

Hello!

It's amazing to think that 'Year of the Child 2009' is coming to an end. What a busy year it has been, both in Wakefield Diocese and around the country.



There have been many activities, days and events to celebrate Year of the Child. As you probably know we collated and presented the feedback on 10 topics to Diocesan Synod, following this a C.D. Rom was put together and sent out to all P.C.C.'s. As part of this we asked for a response, of how they plan to address the 5 recommendations in their parish. (It is not too late to reply if your parish has not yet returned the form). We also held a fantastic celebration on September 19th at Silcoates School with a range of games and activities for people throughout the afternoon with a BBQ and people teaching circus skills. It was great to see people of all ages doing activities together! The day concluded with a Eucharist led by Bishop Stephen.

2009 has been a tremendous year and we hope that the things that have happened this year will have a lasting effect on children's' lives and the parishes they are part of.

We hope and pray that people continue to listen to children and young people, who have shown us they have a lot to say, and have made suggestions of how things could and should change and hope that these changes will have a lasting legacy for generations to come.

With every blessing
Richard, Liz, Ellie and Ann



Christmas



I can't believe it's the end of October and we already have Christmas cards in the shops! However it is timely reminder that we need to start thinking about our preparations in church.

Christmas, and advent leading up to it, perhaps more than any other season in the church's year, gives us a brilliant opportunity to connect with our local communities.

Christingles, carol services, crib services, midnight communions, school and toddler nativity plays - the list goes on. In parishes we often hear people talk about how their local communities pack the Christmas services and how they wish they would continue worshipping after the Christmas season. Maybe it's worth spending a few minutes considering why Christmas can be such a good time for people to come in...

- Consider how we often explicitly invite people to come to Christmas services.
- In addition, we purposely make the services appeal to all ages and actively encourage children to take part.
- We use the wonder and mystery of Christmas to engage people with what is happening during the service.

Compare this with what happens at other times in the year.

- I wonder how we invite people to join us at anything in church?
- Or how we seek to engage all ages in worship?
- Are children and young people really welcomed or simply tolerated?
- Can we cope with a bit of noise and disruption in order for our children to experience the awe and wonder of communion?

Sometimes it can be very difficult to come out of our comfort zone, especially if the regular Sunday worship suits us where we are. However, there are lots of opportunities to engage with our communities throughout the year in worship, if we dare to take a first step.

So, if you'd like to explore the possibilities for the rest of the year, why not join us for the Multigenerational Worship Day at All Saints Pontefract on 24th April 2010 - to book a place contact Ann Hall at Church House.

*"Praise God in heaven!
Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."*

Luke 2:14



Resources

“To festivity and beyond ...”

It's that run up to the festive season and here are a few places to get some good ideas!

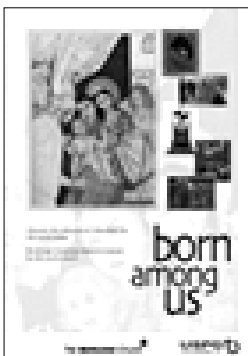
Christmas Times

This is a day at Cannon Hall in Barnsley for young and old people to wonder about God's Gifts through craft, activities and reflection. It runs from 11am to 3pm on Saturday 19 December and admission is free. Ideal to pop in with family and friends for half an hour or more to enjoy the run in to the Christmas festivities.

Resources to borrow

As you walk in the newly laid out resource centre at Wakefield, turn left and you will see a whole section on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Within it there are lots of resources to use. Here are a few:

Nativity Sets: We have wooden ones, knitted ones, plastic ones, bean bag ones and Godly Play ones - there really is a set for every occasion! If you have never done a Posada, travelling crib before, then make this your first year - borrow a set and have a go!

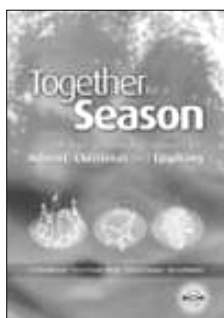


Born among us: Postcards with images of the Christmas story from around the world. If you have seen the “Christ we Share” pack, then this is a Christmas version. Great to use with groups of all ages in worship or prayer.

Big Book “Good King Wenceslas”: Wonderful book for telling one of the Christmastide stories to groups of small children.



“I can make starry things for Christmas”: A book full of Craft ideas to fill the weeks before Sunday with expectation and wonder.



“Together for a Season, Advent and Christmas”: Material for those who wish to add a sparkle to worship in the Advent and Christmas season. Liturgy and worship ideas for all who lead worship at this special time.

“Nursery Rhyme Nativities”: If you are looking for a new nativity play, or a simply drama for your Christmas services then this may well be the answer. Simple storytelling, and using songs set to the tunes of well known nursery rhymes - couldn't be easier!

“The Advent Alphabet” & “Advent Angels”: These are two books with activities for every day of Advent. The Advent Alphabet creates decorations to make for your Christmas tree, exploring the nativity story and Advent Angels enters the wonderful world of the angelic host!



“Christmas Wrapped Up!”: This resource is filled with drama, craft, songs, stories, games, recipes ... It is fantastic to find one book which will enable to have all your needs for Christmas ideas “wrapped up!”

“It's a boy!”: This is a DVD which is great fun. Featuring Don Pasquale, Canon & Ball and Stephen Berkoff (an amazing combination!) it is a beautiful and fun retelling of the Christmas story. Great for parties or for use in worship.

wakefield.anglican.org/childrenandyouth

On our webpage there are some further ideas for Christmas. The twelve days of Christmas, some recycled stars and a Christmas Tableau. And if you are still short of idea, give us a call or drop us an email!

Communications

The Children & Youth Team are:

Richard Burge: Co-ordinator and Children's Adviser 5-11

Ellie Wilson: Under 5's Adviser

Liz Morton: 11-18's Adviser

Ann Hall: Team Secretary

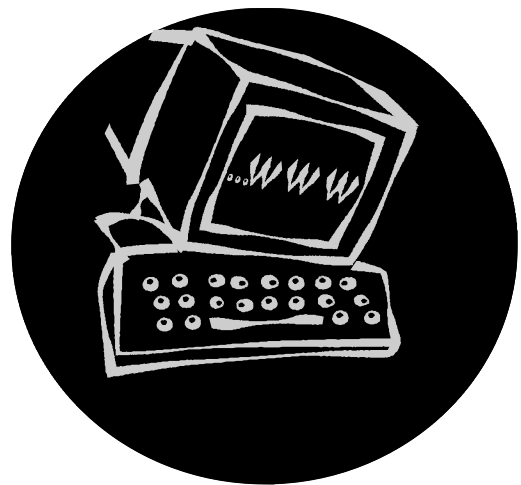
Keep in touch with what is going on:

www.wakefield.anglican.org/childrenandyouth






Find out all the up to date information!

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