

Transforming Lives; Transforming Communities

Year of the Child 2009

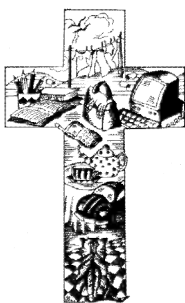
Celebrate

Review

Challenge



What you said about
God's World



Children on God's World

What is the amazing thing about God's World?

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 😊 Animals | 😊 Chocolate | 😊 Food | 😊 Love |
| 😊 People | 😊 Computers | 😊 Sport | 😊 Fun |
| 😊 Life | 😊 Grass | 😊 Celebrities | 😊 Laughter |
| 😊 Hospitals | 😊 Holidays | 😊 The Body | 😊 Angels |
| 😊 Dinosaurs | 😊 Mummy | 😊 Nature | 😊 Me! |

Do you have any issues or concerns about the world?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 😞 Children getting dead | 😞 War and Murder |
| 😞 Little kids swearing | 😞 Pollution |
| 😞 Bad people | 😞 Global Warming |
| 😞 Famine | 😞 Bombings |

What damages God's World?

- | |
|----------|
| 😞 People |
|----------|

What do you do to look after God's World?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 😊 Recycle | 😊 Cycle and Walk |
| 😊 Help People | 😊 Make people happy |
| 😊 Be energy efficient | 😊 Smile |
| 😊 Get a better Prime Minister | 😊 Talk to others |

Reviewing God's World

- 😊 The Children and Young People found it very easy to come up with a huge list of amazing things about the world we live in.
- 😊 There were some who felt God is still happy with his world today. The majority feel God is unhappy or disappointed with it.
- 😞 Suggestions for what God might like to change were big issues: No killing, water for people, Global warming, No wars or shootings. One person saw a simple focus for what God might like to change as "humans."
- 😞 The Children and Young People shared God's concerns for the world and saw problems in two main categories: Environmental issues and "People created" problems.
- 😞 The answers for what damages God's world were many and various, though all could be attributed to human beings.
- 😊 When it comes to the things we do and the things we can do to look after God's world, the two areas of Environmental issues and "People created" problems return. The children and young people's actions already make a difference in both these areas
- 😊 The vast majority of answers were to solve environmental issues and children clearly know the value of recycling, saving resources and looking after the planet. Politicians did not seem to be doing enough.
- 😊 Children and young people felt there was less they were able to do to make a difference to the issues relating to people. Although some felt a difference could be made by simple actions such as talking, smiling and good relationships.

Challenging the Church

What could the Church do to look after *God's World*?

"Be energy efficient"

"Use less paper"

Don't use the light"

"Solar Panels"

"Be kind to children"

"Get more children to come in"

"Give more money to charity"

The Church has two clear challenges from the children and young people on this topic:

- ? Do we do enough to look after the planet and deal with the environmental issues which face *God's World*?
- ? What more can we do to make the world a better place for the people who live on the planet to make a difference in the people created issues of the world?

I guess the question is whether we practice what we preach.