

Learning Together

As I travel across the East Midlands and meet people from many different circuits and churches, all sorts of requests and ideas come my way. It seemed like a good idea to try to put them together in one place helping people to get access to resources and material.

So here is our first edition of "Learning Together". The theme for this edition is working with Children and Young People. Hopefully you will find something of interest here to "tickle your tastebuds" and tempt you to explore further.

Much of the material available is now obtained through the internet but if you do struggle with this please contact me and I'll try to help.

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Ideas for workers with Children

Working with children in Sunday School or a church setting

The main basic training for children in Methodism comes through an ecumenical course called Core Skills (<http://www.coreskillsforchurches.com/index.asp>) This is widely supported in Methodism and there are plans afoot to run one or two courses across the region in 2009/10 It is a 6 module course which covers

- Leadership skills
- Programme development
- Pastoral awareness
- Child development
- Spirituality and the Bible
- Children and community

Remember if you are embarking on work with children and young people you must be up to date on Safeguarding matters. If you need help please contact the Safeguarding officer in your circuit or get in touch with the Safeguarding team for your district through Sara Chadwick in Nottingham and Derby or Linda Dowson in Lincoln and Grimsby.

Exploring and sharing new ideas across the East Midlands

If you would be interested in knowing more or could help with running a programme of training please let me know.

Linked to this is a website called barnabas in church which has lots of ideas <http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/pages/483s.htm> In particular it has lots of ideas in the Barnabas Bible section relating to dramatised stories and the details are all laid out in terms of equipment required, how to tell the story etc. There are also some lovely ideas for worship with children present which are simple but different enough to hold the imagination.

Messy church has its own website <http://www.messychurch.org.uk/> which has lists of special training events or examples of churches where the idea is working that you could visit.

Godly play is another area you may wish to explore <http://www.godlyplay.org.uk/> they run courses in Sheffield amongst other places.

And now a list of idea type sites for Sunday school
<http://www.goteach.org.uk/index.htm>

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/free_printable_certificates.htm

<http://www.sundayschoolprintables.com/>

<http://www.biblequizzes.org.uk/Sunday-school-resources.php>

<http://www.coloring.ws/noah.htm>

<http://www.duggiedugdug.co.uk/>

(note some of the above have an American base but may be adaptable by changing spelling etc)

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You might also want to have a look at worship for all ages and there is an event being held in Melbourne Derbyshire on 7th November run by Big Ministries which is taking a look at All Age Worship ideas. More info can be found at the N&D Website <http://www.methodist-nd.org.uk/> on the events page.

On the same theme you may want to look at Family Friendly Churches Trust <http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/> (They can help with ICT training too.)

Working with Children in schools

There are few strong ideas below which have proven very successful in individual communities. Two of them REinspired and Open the Book have given many churches links with schools not just through the minister but through the outreach of members of congregations sharing the bible and their faith regularly with children in their communities.

Open the Book - <http://openthebook.net>

REinspired - <http://fletcac1.memsites.com/~fletcac1/>

You could also look at the Barnabas in Schools website which has loads of ideas <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk>

Or if you need to meet certain criteria then why not try % Teachers Dozen+ books from Twelve Baskets which integrate SEAL(Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning criteria) and Christian teaching together in one package. <http://www.twelvebaskets.co.uk>.

The team there also have lots of worship resources which could make your regular Sunday Worship more interesting for people of all ages.

Exploring and sharing new ideas across the East Midlands

Working with Young People

Every year a Conference is held for workers with Young People. This is aimed at both paid workers and volunteers and it takes place this year in Eastbourne from 20-22 November <http://www.youthworkconference.co.uk/>. There are some fabulous speakers so take a look.

Or if you wanted to try some new and innovative worship why not try out the U2charist held in churches across Lincoln. Their next event is on Saturday 17 October with a Harvest theme <http://u2charistlincoln.wordpress.com/october-2009-harvest-u2charist/picture-18/> They also carry some PowerPoint resources for prayer times.

You might also take a look at Enliven . a project from the URC which has events in our region looking at spirituality with young people. <http://www.urc5.org.uk> An event looking at coffee shop spirituality is coming up on 3 November at Swanwick.

The Lincoln & Grimsby District has a website dedicated to MAYC in their area <http://www.youthlincs.co.uk/>

I do hope you have been given some inspiration by this newsletter. If you have even more ideas then get them on your district website so we can all share them. The next edition of this newsletter will focus on Worship. If you are interested in training and development, maybe you do this kind of work in your day job or have Methodist accreditation, and are willing to help with work across the district please contact me.

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