

OTLEY DEANERY YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S NETWORK

January 2012

Happy New Year!

Christmas is almost packed away into the cellar at the Chestnuts and thoughts are already turning towards the season of Lent. How quickly we move on from one event to another.

As we start a new year it's a chance to pause and reflect on our work and pray about the things we have planned.

Plans include the newsletter going bi-monthly. We hope to have more news of resources available and save time on the production that a monthly mailing takes.

Secondly, we are hoping to raise the profile of the Network amongst the parish congregations, by coming out to Sunday services with a team 'roadshow'! Four Sundays are booked between now and the summer when the three of us will be sharing in worship, talking about the network and showing resources. We also hope to encourage those who have weekly responsibility for working with children and young people. The first visit is to All Saint's, Ilkley on 26th February.

Thirdly, the youth ministry is taking on a much more enabling role, working with the youth leaders, rather than the young people themselves.

Finally, we are pleased that Bishop Nick is coming to visit the Chestnuts in March, to meet the team on a 'normal' working day!

Lots to think and pray about. I do hope you will join us in continuing to pray for the ministry that goes on in each parish with our children and young people - we want them to have the best opportunities to hear the gospel message in our churches and schools.

With best wishes, *Anne*

Opening Times:

Please note that the Chestnuts is open every Tuesday from 10am until 12.30pm. Please feel free to call in for a coffee, browse through resources or ask for advice. Mandy also works Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and help with resources can be given then by appointment.

During school half term (w/c 13th February) the Chestnuts will be open **mornings only**.

On Wednesday January 25th, the Chestnuts will be closed from 11.45am as we will be attending a Diocesan meeting.

Easter story chains



Our unique story chains will be on sale from mid February at £1.50 each. Used in our schools project 'What's the Story about Easter?' they can also be used as part of all age worship, or for a messy church event. Order from Anne.

Training for What's the Story will take place on Tuesday 13th March (eve) or Wednesday 14th March (am) in the Youth Loft at St John's, Yeadon. More details in the March newsletter

Looking ahead to LENT

A chance to look at resources and share ideas for journeying through Lent and celebrating Easter



Drop into the Chestnuts on:

Wednesday 8th February 1pm - 3pm and 7pm - 9pm

Thursday 9th February 10am - 2pm

If you would like to talk about resources but cannot attend this event please contact Mandy to book another time



Meet Craig!



Are you involved with young people in your church?

Have you met Craig yet?

He is keen to meet all those who are working with youngsters in the parishes, to pass on information and generally encourage you in your role. He loves meeting for coffee and cakes! Email him to arrange to meet up.

Prayer requests can also be sent to him to enable us to pray for the issues that affect your group. As the leaders network grows these could be sent to other youth workers as well.

Knitters needed



We would like to extend our collection of Bible story bags to include some Old Testament stories. To do this we are looking for people who are willing and able to knit the story figures. (Wool and Patterns provided)

The current collection of bags are well used and really valued and we are excited about extending this great

resource. If you can help or you know someone who knits - please get in touch with Mandy

Training and Planning Opportunities

If you would like help planning or rethinking any aspect of children's ministry (all age events, Sunday school schemes, holiday clubs etc) you can book a session with Mandy either as a team or individually.

Please do get in touch and make the most of the resources available to you.

Youth and Children's Network Team: Contact us at The Chestnuts, Burras Lane, Otley LS21 3HS Telephone 01943 465927

Anne Cayton Network team Leader / Primary Schools Project Co-ordinator (Open the Book & What's the Story?)
anne.cayton@otleydeaneryac.org.uk

Mandy Thorlby Children's Ministry Enabler (0-11yrs, all age worship, resources) mandy.thorlby@otleydeaneryac.org.uk

Craig Mullen Youth Ministry Enabler (10-13's & 14-18's networks, discipleship group) craig.mullen@otleydeaneryac.org.uk