



Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

March 2008

Check out our website: www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk

Please feel free to print and distribute this Newsletter.

Children with Special Needs

When Mike researched for "Building Family Friendly Churches" he realized that the churches he visited tended to have higher number of children and adults with special needs than would normally be expected.

He became convinced that the things a church did to welcome children and families were also things that permitted a church to welcome adults with special needs.

The trust has recently received an article from Jenny Robinson, the mother of 2 autistic sons. The article describes her typical day, expresses her own feelings and the response of others to her and her sons.

It is too long to reproduce in this newsletter, but the whole article can be seen on the web site at: www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/autism.pdf

Here are some of Jenny's observations:

"The trouble is that autism is normal behaviour that is exaggerated, so imagine when ever your children being naughty and times it by about ten - then you get an idea of an autistic child!"

"Often autistic children can be touch sensitive, my two oldest boys don't like showers - it feels different to them - they feel like it hurts, they don't like having fingernails cutting and like my oldest they can often not like wearing something, for what ever reason unknown to us"

"I think for me the hardest thing about having autistic children is not the kids but the sheer ignorance and criticism that is out there, mainly from people who don't know a thing or know a little about autism from what they have seen on the TV or read somewhere."



The trust feels that this is a good time to have a debate around how churches can help to support such families. For this reason we have made our web site available for a moderated debate on the subject. You can join in the discussion at: www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/special.htm

We would value comments from the parents of children with special needs and in particular comments from the children themselves.

Advanced Multimedia Courses

These courses are designed for people who have some expertise but would like to develop this to include using it effectively and seamlessly with sound and video. The day courses are being held at:

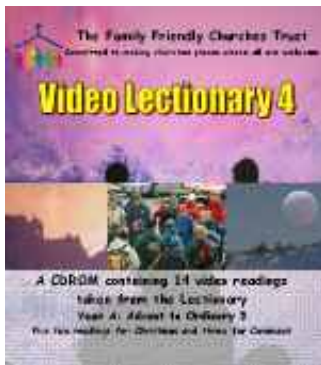
March 15	Crowthorne Methodist Church
April 5	Winchcombe Methodist Church,
April 12	Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington.
April 26	Heartsease Methodist Church, Norwich
May 3	Sudbury Methodist Church, Suffolk

The day costs just £20 and can be booked through the web site at:

www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm

Video Lectionary 4

We have just launched the 4th CDrom in our series of Video Lectionaries.



This covers the period from Advent through to Ordinary 3 and also offers extra readings for Christmas and Covenant. This makes 14 videos in all.

All the videos have already been on the

web site and a new video from the lectionary can be downloaded each week for use in worship from:

www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/videos.htm

These CDroms are designed to give preachers and worship leaders access to "backcopies" of the videos. It is surprising how often previous readings come up again in the lectionary. It is also possible to use the CDroms to build a library of Lectionary Readings.

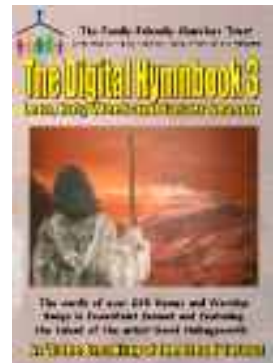
These are now proving to be very popular and are widely used around the country. The Lectionary Video 4 costs just £9.99 + £1pp and can be ordered through the web site:

www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/VL4.htm

This month's offer

Two resources for this time of year.

Digital Hymnbook 3 focuses on Lent, Easter and Holy Week and provides the words of Hymns and Worship Songs in PowerPoint format. The backgrounds utilise the talent of Christian artist David Hollingsworth. These can be easily incorporated into your own presentations.



As someone brought up in Cornwall, Mike always thinks of St Piran and the Celtic Saints in March (St Piran's Day is March 5th). So we are offering Just Worship 3, which focuses on Celtic spirituality and Lindisfarne. The DVD features some insights into these, resources for worship, music and some amazing photography.

Together they would normally cost £39.98 including postage, but for the month of March we are offering them for just £27 including postage.

www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/offer.htm

Mike's Diary

Below is a list of Mike's commitments for the next couple of months. Please do pray for him. You can see all Mike's bookings on the web site.

March

- 3rd PowerPoint Course at Histon Methodist Church, Cambridge
- 8th-9th Multimedia Weekend for the Chester Methodist Circuit
- 15th Multimedia Advanced day at Crowthorne Methodist Church
- 25th-30th Mike and his family are attending ECG in Llandudno

April

- 5th Multimedia Advanced day at Winchcombe Methodist Church
- 12th Multimedia Advanced day at Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington
- 26th Multimedia Advanced day at Heartsease Methodist Church, Norwich

Book the above at www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm



Voe, on the Shetland Islands.

[You can download this picture from the web site as wallpaper for your PC.](#)

Published by 'The Family Friendly Churches Trust', Wesley Manse, Town St., Upwell, Nr. Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9AD.

The Family Friendly Churches Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales no. 5222088 and a registered charity no. 1106193. Registered Office: The Old Forge, Corner St., Cromer, Norfolk.

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