



# Family Friendly Churches Trust

**Committed to making churches places where all are welcome**  
The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust May 2008  
Check out our website: [www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk](http://www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk)  
Please feel free to print and distribute this Newsletter.

## Family Friendly Impact

**I was reminded today why I run the trust. Ann and I have been staying at Willersley Castle and went over to the May Day well dressings at Tissington.**

The wells are blessed by the local clergy and we all paraded around the village to each of the six wells – and very enjoyable it was too.

The final well was the children's well. The local children had made and dressed this well (see picture). As it was being blessed I become acutely aware that we were blessing the children's well in the complete absence of any children! Not even the children who had made it were there.

I found myself asking the question; "How is this wonderful custom going to be passed on to the next generation if they are excluded from it?" I find myself asking the same question of our churches.



The main aim of our Family Friendly Weekends is to explore a range of models and styles of worship that may help make a church more appealing to the younger generations. For many churches this would mean attracting young people under the age of 55!

The trust has been getting some feedback now about the difference that previous weekends have made.

The Methodist Church at Whitby in the Wirral (not Yorkshire) now has a regular Tots Praise on Tuesday mornings, a Tots space in church and some space for disabled people in the body of the church.

In addition their parade services are led by local teams and they are now looking to leaders for a faith slot in the secular youth club. Along with this they are having a church youth and church away day soon.

Finally they have recently interviewed for a full time children's and family worker. They see the weekend led by the trust as the catalyst for all these things.

At Brierley Hill, in the West Midlands, a small group of people had established an all age worship style beginning to each service.

Following the weekend, more people came forward to offer their talents in this way. Each volunteer now only needs to lead worship once a quarter and the variety, vibrancy and originality with which the team presents God's word, is engaging all members of the congregation, from the youngest to the oldest.

From this initiative has grown an all age worship planning group, which consists of people aged from eight to eighty with a huge variety of skills. There are musicians, dancers, actors, artists, orators, poets, computer experts, writers, organisers, performers, comedians and presenters. Their first venture was to plan and present our harvest festival service, which was very well received. The secret ingredient...? the involvement of all ages and groups within the congregation.

At Chesterton, in Cambridge, they have gone for a pick and mix approach, serving breakfast at 10:00am, the Sunday School for all ages at 10:30, all together worship at 11:00 before the preacher takes over at 11:20. People can come and go whenever they want.

They found within weeks that the Sunday School had grown from just 3 children to about 20, and not much later some of the children's parents were coming along.

A similar pattern has been established at Broomfield in Chelmsford following a weekend. The Sunday School has started again and is just starting to attract new children. They too have a worship time and a worship leader has come forward for training.

Finally, the tiny village chapel at Manea, has adopted café style worship for every Sunday morning. The congregation has grown from around 3 or 4, to now at least 10 and on occasions up to 20. There are also a number of children who attend regularly. Without this change the chapel would now be shut.

**All these have developed in their own ways because the trust offers a range of ideas at its weekends, rather than offering a one size fits all solution.**

# Digital Hymnbook 4

We are launching this new CDrom which contains the words of around 280 worship and children's songs in PowerPoint format. Rounded off by a few traditional hymns.

We have scanned the CCLI lists to ensure that we have the most used songs available and have also included many of the songs nominated by children and young people for "Sings Kids Love". We have also used songs that are sung in assemblies so that there is a connection with songs that might be already familiar to the children.



The words match 10 different hymn books including Hymns and Psalms, Songs of Fellowship, Mission Praise and The Source.

The files are compatible with PowerPoint, Impress and other hymn projection software. The backgrounds use stunning photography from around the world

You can pre-order a copy now for just £16.49 + £1 postage and packing for delivery by June 1st.  
[www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/TDH4.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/TDH4.htm)

# This month's offer



Just Worship is the original DVD supplied by amp publishing. It contains 30 short videos for use in worship.

Like all amp products you can copy the video files off the DVD onto your hard drive and then insert them directly into PowerPoint or other software.

The clips include Rob Lacey reading passage from his Street Bible. There are other readings, prayers and then some silent video sequences.

This DVD normally costs £19.99 + postage, but for April we are offering it for £14 including postage.  
[www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/offer.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/offer.htm)

## Advanced Multimedia Courses

May 3rd	Sudbury Methodist Church, Suffolk
May 31st	Woodley Methodist Church, Stockport Sorry –Course Full.
June 21st	Barnes Methodist Church, London

The day costs just £20 (we've seen equivalent courses advertised at over £100 a day!) and can be booked through the web site at:  
[www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.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.

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Multimedia Advanced day at St John's Methodist Church, Sudbury  
Book at [www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm)
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Family Friendly Weekend for The Drive Methodist Church, Sevenoaks
- 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Family Friendly Weekend for the Hull East Circuit.
- 24<sup>th</sup> PowerPoint Training Day at Sutton Coldfield Methodist Church.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Multimedia Advanced day at Woodley Methodist Church, Stockport  
Course now full.

### June

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Residential Multimedia Training @ Willersley Castle  
Book places on future courses at [www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/residmm.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/residmm.htm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Family Friendly Day at Maldon Methodist Church
- 14<sup>th</sup> Preparation for Holiday Club @ PerranPorth
- 21<sup>st</sup> Multimedia Advanced Day @ Barnes  
Book at [www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/mpdspec.htm)
- 28<sup>th</sup> PowerPoint Training at Norden Methodist Church



Ingleton, North Yorkshire

You can download this picture from the web site from [www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/Photos/calender.htm](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/Photos/calender.htm)