



Family Friendly Churches Trust

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

August 2008

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

Please feel free to print and distribute this Newsletter.

The Work of the Trust

August is a quiet month and so is a good time to remind you of the breadth of the work of the Family Friendly Churches Trust.

Family Friendly Days and Weekends

Mike regularly leads days and weekends at churches of all flavours helping them to focus on their work with children, young people and families.

Mike's research when writing "Building Family Friendly Churches" led him to the conclusion that the style of worship was at the heart of the issue. For this reason time is spent exploring models and styles of worship that can help a church become more inclusive.

Recently Mike has teamed up with his daughter Sally who can now lead an optional parallel programme for children and young people. She uses the creativity of young people to help them express what they feel about their church.

Multimedia Days and Weekends

Many churches are now investing in data projection. However this investment is wasted, even negative, if it is not used well.

The trust now leads a range of courses to help churches make the most of their investment.

The Operators Course is designed to train those who will operate the equipment Sunday by Sunday. It is vital that churches build up a team of people to do this rather than rely on one person all of the time.

The Basic PowerPoint Course is designed for those who will create the presentations. This is particularly good for Ministers, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.

The Advanced Multimedia Courses explore using music, sound and video with presentations. This is designed for those with some experience of using PowerPoint.

With a degree in Computer Science, a lifetime's experience of using IT and ten years experience of using projectors no one is better placed than Mike to run these courses.

Residential Multimedia Courses

For those who want to learn quickly we run 3 day Residential Multimedia Courses at Willersley Castle in Derbyshire.

We restrict the number of people on the course to just 8 people. This gives Mike plenty of time to give individual tuition.

Willersley Castle is the ideal venue for these courses, the rooms are comfortable, food good and lovely walks can be had without leaving the grounds.

In addition ministers and deacons can use their CDIM budget to pay for these courses.

Open Courses

Most Multimedia Courses are booked by churches, circuits, districts and dioceses, but occasionally Mike runs Open Courses around the country.

Individuals can book a place on one of these and in order to encourage people to come the fees are set very low.

The next one is at Market Rasen, in Lincolnshire, on September 6th. There are a few places left.

Resources

The trust publishes a host of resources and sells resources produced by others.

We have a number of books available including those written by Mike.

The Digital Hymnbooks are a range of CDroms containing the words of hymns and songs in PowerPoint format. The backgrounds to the words are designed to complement the words rather than distract from them. The words, very importantly, are designed to match the words found in different hymnbooks. Where there are variations there are different versions of the hymns

The Video Lectionaries contain videos of readings from the lectionaries with images designed to complement

the words of the lectionary. These can very easily be downloaded and used in worship.

We also sell the Just Worship range of DVDs which again contain videos that can be used in worship.

Through the web site we also offer a range of resources, including the latest lectionary video, midi files of the music of hymns, a few background photos and PowerPoint files of out of copyright hymns. At the moment these are offered free of charge.

The Future

We have some exciting projects at the moment which will be launched as new products in the Autumn

We have been very concerned about the lack of liturgies designed for all ages and so over the last 10 months we have been developing and testing "All Included"

"All Included" is a range of all-age Communion Liturgies. There will be one for each month of the year, plus Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. We believe that the calendar months have more relevance to children than the liturgical seasons (though these are not ignored)

"All Included" will be available on a CDrom which will contain PowerPoint slides and PDF versions of standard and large print booklet for each liturgy.

We also have developed and tested a new Worship Leaders Course. This course is designed to equip and encourage Worship Leaders to play a much greater role in the planning and leading of worship.

We believe that this is a very important part of becoming a family friendly church.

The course will be available on a CDrom which contains PowerPoint Slides and PDF handouts that can be printed and given out.

The Trust Itself

The Family Friendly Churches Trust is both a registered charity and a limited company. We produce each year a formal annual report and this can be seen on the web site. Each year, so far, we have been in surplus.

It is important to understand that the trust is completely self sufficient. We receive absolutely no grant funding from any other organisation and so we rely completely on what we charge for weekends, courses and resources.

If you feel that the work we do is important, and we certainly feel it is, then one of the best ways of supporting us is to become an individual member of the trust.

The fees are just £15 a year and these help the trust earn a steady base income.

In addition members often have the opportunity to try out, test and influence our products before they are released.

Churches, too, can become members and this allows them to fly the flag and announce that they are a Family Friendly Church.

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.

August

9th-16th SPIES Holiday Club at Perranporth
26th-31st SPIES Holiday Club at Sevenoaks

September

6th Multimedia PowerPoint Course at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire
To book a place see
13th / 14th Family Friendly Weekend for South Derbyshire Circuit
20th / 21st Multimedia Weekend for Altoft Methodist Church
23rd Family Friendly Day for the Truro Diocese
24th PowerPoint Day for the Truro Diocese
26th - 28th Family Friendly Weekend for Woodford Methodist Church @ Ditchingham



Kynance Cove in Cornwall – Mike's home county

You can download this picture from the web site from www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/Photos/calender.htm

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