

Children's Youth & Families Newsletter Nov 23

Advent is a time of waiting. I have been enjoying the growing number of lights that brighten the shorter days and longer nights, beacons of hope and joy that keep me focussed on what is to come - because I'm not very good at waiting!

I enjoy being busy, running from one thing to the next to fill the time. For me, waiting can feel passive and inactive – but it's not meant to be. To wait is to “remain in readiness for a purpose”.

In biblical times, watchmen vigilantly guarded the city. They watched for enemies who might attack at night, and they waited for the sun to come up. They were alert and obedient, ready to respond when needed. When called upon, they sprang into action.

But on the other hand, watchmen didn't make things happen. They didn't control the rising of the sun. They couldn't speed up the process of the dawning of a new day. A watchman knew the difference between his job and God's job.

We are to be “watchmen” - to be ready, be alert and obedient.

Perhaps knowing that we celebrate the first coming of Christ each year on December 25th means I forget that I, too, need to be prepared - to be ready, to be alert and obedient.

In the midst of the busyness, I am called to wait. To remember God's faithfulness, his promises fulfilled, and to look for what is still promised, what is still to come.

This year I want to wait well. To slow down and to prepare my heart - to be ready, be alert and obedient.

I pray that Advent will be a time for you to do the same. I hope that you have a blessed Christmas too - when it comes.

God bless you,

Micki Carey-Slater
CYF Enabler

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New Choir Network

Do you have a Junior Choir, or have children or young people in your choir? Or are you planning to have?

We recognise the role that choral music plays in worship and mission in a number of churches across the Diocese, and we would like to create a network. The Revd Canon Nick Brown has outlined his hopes for the group:

- Articulating in the wider Church the potential (and reality) of choral music as a vibrant contribution to the worship and mission of the Church
- Providing a means of brokering co-operation and collaboration by sharing good practice and mutual encouragement
- Promoting a pattern for churches to engage in choral music to encourage others to engage with choral music as a resource for worship, tool for mission and means for growth
- Organising events for choirs to sing together

However, any agenda is open, so any ideas that could be usefully included gratefully received!

Please do get in touch with myself, or Nick; we hope to have our first meeting early in the new year.

Online Networking

Everyone is invited to these zoom meetings to connect with and share with others in CYF Ministry. Bring a cuppa, your questions, your ideas and your stories.

**3rd
Feb**

Easter Swap Shop

Gather, pray & share ideas
9.30am-12pm

Growing Faith

Bringing Churches, Schools & Communities together, Growing Faith seeks to put children, young people and families instinctively at the heart of mission and ministry.

How can we get involved?

9.30am-12pm

**16th
Mar**

Look out for more networking dates coming up - in person and online!

Resources

Our Advent & Christmas **Padlet Board** has been updated and is full of ideas for this season - for schoolwork, Christingles & Crib services, trails, videos and songs:

<https://padlet.com/DioceseofLincolnCFY/christmas-advent-6qu9h84dkdpb8iz0>

Holy Squiggles on Facebook will be releasing a Bible puzzle each day of Advent. “They are perfect for 8+ years and fun to work out as a family.” They are also being released on Youtube, which is great for groups and and you can use them for free!

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Jy2LBZEzKrw>

The Resource have shared an Advent devotional for Young People - you can find it here:

[https://theresource.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Adventure-Devotions-for-YP-Final.pdf?](https://theresource.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Adventure-Devotions-for-YP-Final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0mLxCFmaiRilUv_YMkox7qVs6z6ccpeum_zjn8XlZoM4m1mQVkBv3o58E)

[fbclid=IwAR0mLxCFmaiRilUv_YMkox7qVs6z6ccpeum_zjn8XlZoM4m1mQVkBv3o58E](https://theresource.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Adventure-Devotions-for-YP-Final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0mLxCFmaiRilUv_YMkox7qVs6z6ccpeum_zjn8XlZoM4m1mQVkBv3o58E)



Made by Joel have some beautiful paper nativity crafts:

<https://www.facebook.com/madebyjoel>

Spiritual Child Network have a range of seasonal resources seeking to “add depth to children's experience of Christmas”.

<http://www.spiritualchild.co.uk/christmas.html>

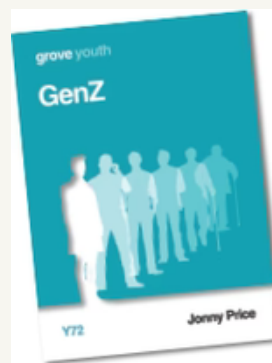


The latest book from **Grove youth** is Y 72 GenZ

“It is increasingly common to hear references to ‘Baby Boomers,’ ‘Generation X,’ ‘Millennials (Generation Y),’ and ‘Generation Z,’ labels used to refer to people born in particular periods of time since the Second World War. What is the ‘Gen Theory’ underlying these distinctions, and what does it offer in helping to understand the social values often shared in these groupings?”

This booklet provides an introduction to Gen theory and particularly to GenZ, the young people comprising youth groups today. Critically aware of the limitations of Gen theory, it identifies important characteristics that older adults may not fully appreciate, and discusses the implications for more effective youth ministry today.”

<https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/y-72-genz>



Training

Have you seen the CofE Vision & Strategy webinars?

You can catch up with the series:

- “Getting started with children and young people’s ministry” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fz85GDsvg4>
- “Prioritising and adapting for growing a children and youth ministry” <https://youtu.be/2Jsu3OuoVfw>
- “Resources for successful children and youth ministry” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLMqeLrw5og>



Keeping Young People Safe in Private Dwellings

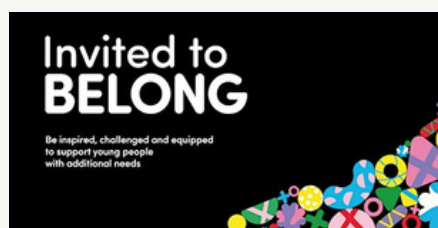
Advice and guidance for the use of private dwellings for Christian youth work/ministry

Churches Together in England have published a document “Keeping Young People Safe in Private Dwellings: Advice and guidance for the use of private dwellings for Christian youth work/ministry”

https://cte.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/11/Youth-work-in-private-dwellings-DIGITAL.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1RBVMTB3NUIM-6ri4vRxOPunkBwvfV_FUzt5vCbLpmnhdGQXCz_-l_ITA

The Additional Needs Blogfather is holding a series of webinar sessions:

- **All Inclusive? How to Include Autistic Children & Young People in Church**
Tue, 9 Jan 2024 19:30
- **'All Inclusive?' - Disability Equality**
Mon, 22 Jan 2024 19:30
- **'All Inclusive?' - Supporting Families**
Wed, 24 Jan 2024 19:30
- **'All Inclusive?' - Supporting Children & Young People With Additional Needs**
Wed, 7 Feb 2024 19:30 GMT
- **'All Inclusive?' - Invited to Belong:2U**
Mon, 12 Feb 2024 19:30 GMT



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/mark-arnold-the-additional-needs-blogfather-30541746080>



Joined Up Conference

Victoria Hall, Sheffield
£15 per person, including a Subway lunch
15 workshops plus key note speaker.

Book online at

www.joinedupconference.com

Training

GODLY PLAY RETREAT AND TRAINING

26 - 28 April 2024

Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

£560 (bursaries available)

Trainers: Eona Bell and Andrea Harrison



This special three-day residential course combines elements of a retreat with accredited core training in Godly Play, led by members of the College of Trainers of Godly Play UK. This training enables you to use the Godly Play method and understand its principles. The training follows an action/reflection model of learning, through hands-on experience and reflection, rather than lectures. A certificate of completion is awarded at the end of the course.



We work in a model Godly Play environment, with the opportunity to use a comprehensive set of resources. Each day focuses on a different kind of presentation (sacred stories, parables and liturgical action/church practice) to help you begin to understand how different genres of Christian language support spiritual exploration.

- *Three-day Godly Play core training*
- *Tours of the Anglican and Roman Catholic shrines and a history of Walsingham*
- *Sprinkling (receiving the holy water)*
- *Socialise or access Shrine Prayers/Evensong and other liturgies as available in the evening*
- *Single room accommodation in Pilgrim Hostel with shared facilities*
- *Refreshments and three cooked meals a day*

"It was a wonder to see God working through the oral tradition and to see that the art of storytelling is not lost. The visual style is entrancing and I think it speaks to what we do much need today especially for our kids – a way of play and teaching that is faith-based, analogue, interactive and driven by the compelling narratives contained in God's word." - *Recent participant*

'So much good has sprung from the three days I set aside to learn how to do Godly Play properly. I'll always be grateful.' - *Rev. Dr. Sam Wells*

Godly Play UK is committed to using 10% of its annual gain to provide a small number of bursaries to help people undertake a three-day course.



For bookings and further details please contact admin@godlyplay.uk or book online at www.godlyplay.uk



Follow our Facebook Page for more resources & training opportunities www.facebook.com/lincolnyouthandchildren/

Warm Space at St Matt's

Warm Space at St. Matthew's Church, Sutton Bridge, began last winter in response to the rise in the cost of living. It seeks to support families with a chance to be warm, to be fed and for the children to be entertained.

Jackie Hutchinson, who, with Kevin Wheeler had the vision for the project said, "God provided a shelter where this could take place. Many people in the village struggle in all aspects of their lives; financially, emotionally, socially and mentally. We hoped to give a few hours relief to their everyday lives."

Running after school on a Wednesday, once a month, the project feeds an average of 25/30 people - unless it's a party, with a BBQ and a bouncy castle, where the numbers increase!

Each session has a theme, such as fairground, puppets and music and as well as a warm meal there are crafts, games and activities - and someone to talk to, too.

The Warm Space has been supported by church members, including their young people - support that the team say they could not do without.



Share your stories with us

We want to hear from you about what exciting projects you are working on and what God is doing across the Diocese.

It could be a new group, church service, family event, youth outreach, messy church, holiday club whatever it is we want to hear about it.

Send us a couple of 100 words and some photographs and we'll share it to celebrate, inspire and encourage each other.

How can we pray for you and your ministry?
micki.carey-slater@lincoln.anglican.org