Book reviews:

Creative Communion
Margaret Withers and Tim Sledge
BRF 2008
This original book fills a gap: it would be ideal for those who want to help their whole church explore the Eucharist. It provides a good basic introduction to the shape of the Eucharist based around the idea of family meal. It then gives some workshop ideas and a 6-week course for young communicants. Useful for those thinking about admitting children to communion before confirmation or who want to refresh their thinking.

From the ground up:
Kathryn Copsey BRF 2005
Kathryn explores the world of the child starting with the child. Although her experience is largely in urban contexts, her book provokes us to think seriously about how we see children and their spiritual life. It also contains some practical insights as to how we might create child-centred churches and communities. This is not so much a how-to book, but rather a challenge to pause and think.

Footsteps to the Feast: *Martin Payne Barnabas 2007*
Contains 12 2-hour children's programmes which would be great for activity mornings on Saturdays, school holidays or mid-week clubs. The themes are based on major festivals, but also include more unusual ideas like the Trinity or the early church. They have every -thing you need in the order you need it – opening activities, ways to tell as story, crafts, drama, music, reflection and all is clearly linked to the central theme.

Crafts for creative worship: *Jan Brind and Tessa Wilkinson*
Canterbury Press 2004
This is a book to help churches run all-age workshops that prepare for worship. It begins with the planning process, before giving ideas for the different seasons of the church year It has ideas for banners, altar frontals, music and community action as well as prayers, puzzles and more. Worship leaders and all looking for imaginative ideas will find something in this original resource

*All these and much more are available from the **Resource Centre**. Carolyn Wright and the other friendly staff can also give advice. Call in or phone 01452 835560*

Heart 4 children

News from the Diocesan Children's office… March 08

Hello! Welcome to Heart4children – an update of news and events from the Children's office. In this issue you will find:

- Looking back: Something about what has been happening
- Coming up: Information about dates for later this year
- Looking ahead: later this year
- Way ahead: advance news for next year!
- Meanwhile… help for parishes
- Some book reviews

Looking back:

It has been lovely to meet many people across the Diocese at the well-received workshops for Easter and Christmas – both of which will be repeated. It has also been very good to work with individual parishes in different ways, particularly through localised training. Read on to find out how you can also benefit from this kind of support..

We are still trying to find the best way of communicating with the hundreds of people who work with children across the Diocese: so please keep forwarding details to us and passing this newsletter around..

And thank you for all the amazing commitment and enthusiasm you show in being alongside children in our parishes and communities. Please keep letting me know the wonderful things that you are doing – however big or small.

Diocese of Gloucester

Coming up:

"School's out, school's in" : this workshop will present

"**Resourcing Summer**" – a pack of lectionary based all-age worship for August [when children's groups often stop] plus a summer activity morning and a special service to start the new school year. It will also look at ways in which parishes can be involved with their local school..

Workshop dates:

Tuesday June 3rd at Chipping Campden 10.00am – 3.00pm
Tuesday June 10th at Tewkesbury, Holy Trinity 10.00am–3 .00pm
Saturday June 14th at Cirencester, Watermoor 9.30am –1.00pm
All events cost £5, bring your own lunch

To book contact Dave Bennett – see end for contact details
Publicity material is also available for local display

If none of these dates or places work for you, then why not get a group together locally? I will happily come and offer this training to groups of 10 or more on an evening or Sunday afternoon – contact the office to talk about possibilities.

Theology think tank Tuesday April 29th 7.45pm – 9.45pm

At St. James' church, Upton Street, Gloucester
A meeting to think and reflect about the theology of childhood, child theology and related issues. Come along and share some of your experiences and explore not just what happened but why. Open to everyone. Please contact the office if you would like to come.

Looking ahead:

- **Were you a Reader in Children's Ministry**?
  We are holding a Reunion Day on September 13th at Christchurch, Cheltenham. Whatever form your ministry now takes, why not come along and share some of your experiences, reflect on children's ministry today and meet old friends… details to follow.

- **A Quiet Day for children's leaders and helpers**:
  Not another 'how to.." but a space for you to build your own spiritual resources.
  Led by Revd Catherine Williams, Diocesan Vocations Adviser 8th November 2008 at Nympsfield, Stonehouse– cost to be confirmed. Places will be limited to 20 so contact us to express interest.

- **Resourcing Christmas** workshops will be held in the first part of October – look out for details..

Looking *way* ahead… 2009 is the Year of the Child in the Church of England, so look out for lots of events.. but make a note of Saturday 4th July 2009 when there will be a fiesta and procession based at Gloucester cathedral.

Meanwhile..

Alongside all these exciting special events and training opportunities, the Children's Adviser, Revd Dr, Sandra Millar, is available to help at a local level. That could be visiting a PCC or a Deanery, talking to children's leaders, preaching on a Sunday, helping you plan a special event..

but especially

- Thinking about children receiving communion before confirmation
- All-age and family worship
- Training for helpers and leaders based locally

If you would like detailed publicity e.g posters for any of these events please get in touch…

Contact details:

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