

FIRST December 14



CF Youth and Children's Newsletter



Thank you, John

John Brown, the Federation's National Youth Enabler, finishes in post on 15th December.

By providing high quality training and support, John has helped a new generation of Congregational young people become effective leaders – both nationally in CF-XTRA and locally in their own fellowships.

He has also been a good friend to churches looking for direct practical support, for example in Bible Holiday Clubs and youth sessions.

We wish John happiness and fulfilment in his new role as Children and Families Worker at Altrincham United Reformed Church.

In the short term Stephen and Kathryn will be sharing the youth enabling role, so that Youth and Children's Group has time to consider future needs and strategy before recruiting afresh.

Mini Grant Scheme

The **Mini Grant Scheme** is a chance for churches to be awarded sums of up to £250 to help start or develop work with children or young people. For example:

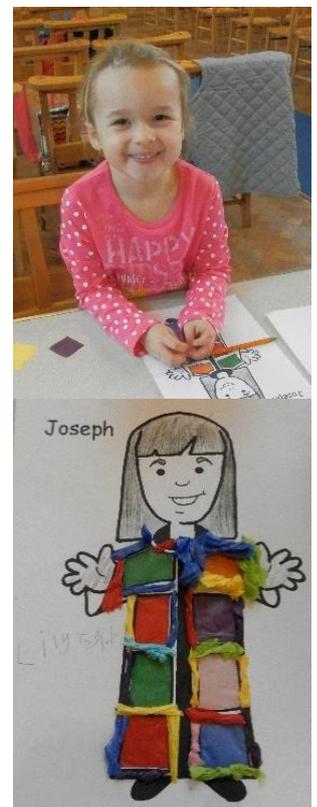
Timperley Congregational Church received a grant to help them buy supplies for their Messy Church events, which take place on a regular basis and with a good number of families in attendance regularly. I went to visit one of these sessions recently and saw what a great atmosphere the church had created.

Crediton Congregational Church received a grant to help with the running of a mid-week group for children aged 5-11, linked with their Fusion Sunday School. Wendy Heale Añez reports "it gave us a good supply of resources in order to get Mid-Week Fusion up and running and it has been going ever since."

Upper Killay Congregational Church received a grant to support them in setting up a mid-week group for children aged 5-11. Mair Woolston has reported back that "The grant money has been used wisely and in the best possible way to help the Children enjoy the "Tuesday Club" and hopefully learn something about Jesus."



If you would like to apply, please contact the Youth and Children's Office or visit the Youth and Children's pages on the Federation website, where you can download a form. **Becky.**



Above: Messy Church at Timperley Congregational Church

Child Friendly Coaching

130 people from 43 churches have taken part in a Coaching Day this year. In 2015 we re-visit two areas where people have asked for a second day, and also go to three new venues. These events are for anyone who wants to make their church a better place for children and young people to belong. Each day is from **10.00 am to 4.00pm** and - if booked in advance - places are £10 including a meal, refreshments and a pack of resources. More details are on the Federation website, where you can also book and pay online.

Region	Date	Venue
England North West	Saturday 28th February	Stalybridge Cong Church, Stalybridge, SK15 2JZ
England South East	Saturday 14th March	Dundonald Rd Cong Church, Wimbledon, SW19 3QH
England East Mids	Saturday 25th April	Ashby Cong Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, LE65 2FQ
Scotland	Saturday 5th September	Ebenezer Cong Church, Airdrie, ML6 6BN
England South West	Saturday 14th November	Crediton Cong Church, Crediton, EX17 3LB

Looking Forward with CF-XTRA



After this year's successful Summer Camp where **46** young people from **17** Churches (one in Hungary!) were inspired by **2** guest speakers supported by **3** staff and encouraged by the CF President, we are already looking forward to next year.

Summer Camp 2015 will be held at the Kings Park centre near Northampton from Monday 3rd August to Friday 7th August. In April we will also be providing Young Leaders Training which will equip young people with the skills to serve other young people within the National programme, but more importantly within their local Church. At the centre of all the developments have been the Core Team and the young leaders support group. They will continue to meet and plan during the early months of 2015. Ongoing prayer is needed for all the young people involved and encouragement can be given on the CF-XTRA facebook page.

Preparing a space for Christmas

Many of us will have a Christmas crib in our home: carved in olive wood from near Bethlehem itself, or perhaps knitted by someone we know from left-over wool. During Advent, why not put a basket in the space where the crib will be? Children – and others – can put in notes and drawings to say what they are hoping for themselves, for others, for the world. Because it is into the space of longing and faith we make for him that Christ our Saviour can come.

Congregational Federation Youth and Children's Work Department
Director: Stephen Haward; Youth Enabler: John Brown;
Youth Ministry Assistant: Kathryn Young; Intern: Becky Leggett
www.congregational.org.uk ycadmin@congregational.org.uk
CF Youth and Children's Office, Heaton Park Congregational Church,
Bailey Street, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 1HQ. Tel. 0115 959 6330

