

CF Youth and Children NEWSLETTER

New Appointments

At the end of July, Kathryn Young will be joining our national staff team as Youth Ministry Assistant. Her role will include both programme activities and office administration. Kathryn is currently serving as Youth Ministry Intern.

The East Midlands Area has appointed its first paid Children and Families Worker. Rebecca McDonald trained in youth and children's ministry at St John's College Nottingham and began working for our churches in February.

CF-XTRA

14 young people spent Easter week training for leadership at *Keruchard*, the Federation's new property in Brittany.

Duties included keeping the unseasonal cold at bay by feeding three hungry wood-burning stoves and working on a range of team-building challenges.

Some moving testimonies were shared; many croissants eaten; and snails-for-tea inspected and rejected.

What was the verdict?

"It encouraged me to take more opportunities for leadership in my church, and definitely encouraged me to be more committed to my faith" (Louise, 16)



COMING EVENTS

- 7th to 9th June **SE Area Event**, Wimbledon
- 20th to 27th July **'Starpoint' Youth Festival**, Hungary
- 29th July to 2nd August **ICF Youth Event**, Uxbridge
- 3rd to 7th August **Summer Camp**, Northallerton
- 14th to 24th August, **CWM Europe Exploration Project**, Caernarfon
- 13th to 15th September **E Mids Area Event**, Narborough
- 20th to 22nd September **Young Leaders Weekend**, Northampton

For more information contact John Brown at the Youth and Children's Office john.brown@congregational.org.uk or the Core Team xtra@congregational.org.uk or visit the all-new Federation website www.congregational.org.uk

CHILD FRIENDLY COACHING

Ed Jones, from the 'Today ... not Tomorrow' all-age church initiative, is the key-note speaker at our national coaching weekend: 4th to 6th October 2013.

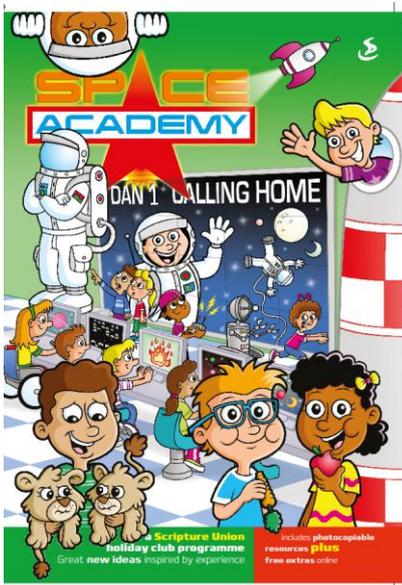


This takes place at King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton and is fantastic value for those who book early.

Contact Stephen at the Youth and Children's Office stephen.haward@congregational.org.uk or download a booking form from 'children first' at www.congregational.org.uk

To infinity ... and beyond?

The national team are more and more involved this year in local churches' outreach programmes for children and families. 'Space Academy' is the new Holiday Club resource from Scripture Union, so Kathryn had a look at it before the countdown began.



Have you ever tried to explain life as a Christian to someone but to them it sounds like life on another planet? That's exactly the way Scripture Union's holiday club material for 2013 describes life as being like for Daniel.

The holiday club material, aimed at 5-11 year olds, takes you through the whole process of putting on a Bible based holiday club for the first or fiftieth time. If you've wondered about a holiday club, but not sure where to start, Scripture Union's material will help you prepare for this outreach to children whether they are churched or unchurched, from other faiths or with additional needs.

It may be fair to say this is Bible-based but space themed. The resource book affirms the point of some of its more space-based activities, reminding leaders of the connection to the story of Daniel. The DVD "deals with" some of the big space questions so don't worry if you're not a physicist!

The holiday club programme book provides ideas for follow-on interactions in one-off events, or weekly clubs.

Expect the Unexpected

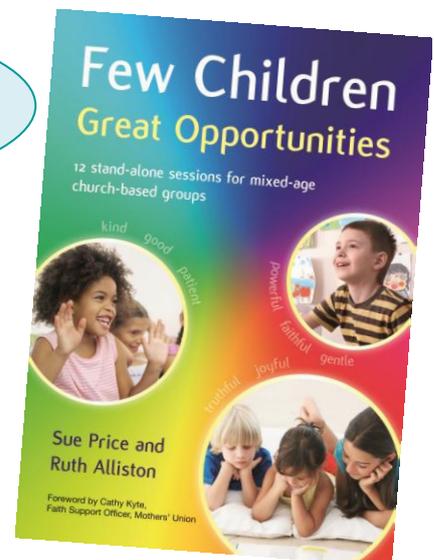
"We never know how many children to expect on Sundays. One week we may have two 7 year-olds, and the next a group of eight aged from 2 to 15 years."

Does that sound like your church? We have been looking at two sources of weekly learning material for children in small churches. The material is undated and easy to adapt, so leaders can feel ready for whoever comes through the door. These resources are especially suitably for leaders who cannot be sure they will have a group at all some weeks, but are committed to being ready with much more than a downloaded word-search and a hopeful smile!

Space Academy Resource Book
 Holiday Club Programme for 5 to 11 year olds
 (DVD and activity packs also available)
www.scriptureunion.org.uk £12.99

Few Children Great Opportunities
 12 stand-alone sessions for mixed-age church-based groups
www.barnabasforchurches.org.uk £8.99

Mosaic: God is Good / God with Us
 Small group material for churches with limited resources
www.scriptureunion.org.uk £11.99



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