Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

October – December 2024

News and Resources for Term 2 for School Staff and Parents!

We do hope you have had a good start to the school year, whatever you are doing and wherever you are in Downend. There has been so much to be grateful for this harvest time and more to look forward to before Christmas. Here is a look at some resources and events for term 2.

Christmas at Christ Church Downend

The Christmas services at Christ Church Downend are as follows. All are welcome.
Services that specifically include children are as follows:
Christingle: 8th December 4.00 pm – Celebrate the light of Jesus! We make a Christingle for you.
Carol service: 15th December 6.30 pm – Sing the Christmas message with us – adults and children.
Crib service: 24th December 4.00 pm – Celebrate Jesus' birth into the world, God with us here on earth. Dress up for the nativity scene.

For more information, please contact harriet.jolly@christchurchdownend.com

Volunteer with Christ Church Downend Primary Schools' Chaplaincy Team

Here at church, we are building on our provision for local primary schools in Downend through reflective space workshops and puppet assemblies in schools and Experience events in church already in place for this year. The more people willing to help occasionally, the more support we can offer.

If you would like to join our schools' chaplaincy team and volunteer with us in your child's primary school, please contact the schools' chaplain for details: julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com

Bubble Church, Quaker's Road Church Centre – 1st Sunday of the Month at 4pm



Especially for children aged 0-7 years, this is a half hour of puppet packed worship with stories, songs with actions and simple prayers especially for young families. Older children welcome, too.

No charge, but donations appreciated for food and drink that appear at the end!

Scan the QR code to sign up each month so we have enough refreshments!

Families at Christ Church Downend

Would you like to explore the Christian faith with your children at church? If so, there are various activities during the week that you can come to as well as our Sunday morning groups.



Jigsaw – Fridays during term time. A free, relaxed toddler and parent group for children aged 0-4 years. We meet at 9.45-11.15am for playing, singing, worship time, refreshments, and crafts. You will be most welcome to join us – come and meet Monty Mouse!



Tea and Toast - Tea and Toast continues on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall, North Street at 15:15-16:30 (in term time). A free drop-in for primary school children and their families. Feel free to come and visit! Parking available, shared with the doctors' surgery.

To find out more, please contact our children's lead on harriet.jolly@christchurchdownend.com

Shine On, Luxmuralis at Bath Abbey, Bath – October 4th – 26th



Experience Bath Abbey in a new light this month. Its windows, ceilings and walls are illuminated with an inspiring soundtrack, merging history, art and technology to inspire awe, wonder and reflection.

You are invited to engage deeply with the Abbey's heritage and explore its spiritual ambiance.

See the details here: https://www.bathabbey.org/shine-on/

Half term activities for children and families at Bath Abbey:

https://www.bathabbey.org/whats-on/category/children-families/

Gaia at Bristol Cathedral, Bristol – October 15th – November 9th.



An exhibition from artist Luke Jerram that explores our awe-inspiring earth and our responsibility to care for it. See the earth in scientific level of detail, suspended and awaiting your gaze!

Schools' visits information: https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Advert.pdf

Families' information: https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk/

Wondering about Halloween?

As families, it can be difficult to decide what to do about Halloween. Are your children scared by it and all the dressing up in costumes? Are some things acceptable for you as a family and some not?
Christians have a range of responses to this festival – now the third largest commercially in the country.
Here are some excellent resources for considering what is right for your family and how to discuss it with your children. Every child is different and so is every family.
https://www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk/post/exploring-different-responses-to-halloween/

Great Big Assemblies from the Sanctuary Foundation



The Sanctuary Foundation is headed up by Krish Kandiah. He has helped in the resettlement of communities new to this country and is working on housing as an issue. They produce Great Big Assemblies for schools. Here is a link to sign up to receive them directly to your inbox.

https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/resources-for-schools/

A link to the Black History Month Great Big Assembly:
https://www.youtube.com/live/2lvPwMQeYf0

Schools, please see attached 2024 Black History Month pdf.

Refugee Story – a Nativity Retold.

This link takes you to a quite hard-hitting video, possibly suitable for Y5, Y6 and secondary schools – a link between refugees today and the Christian nativity story.

https://youtu.be/vmi5xQcB9zA?si=DBKJDlZCP6sJE1Es



South Glos Holiday Activities and Food Club

If your children receive benefit-related free school meals and live in South Glos, you can sign up to these holiday clubs and food programme this Christmas.

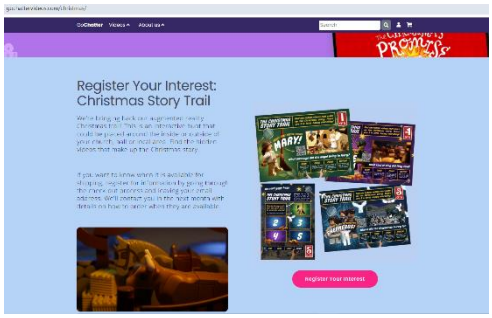
Here's a video to explain more. There are different clubs at different schools in the winter, spring and summer holidays. https://youtu.be/UghoVytq7iU?feature=shared

South Glos Welcome Hub for Refugees

South Glos has various ways to communicate with and support resettled communities in our area. Here they are:

Website: https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement-schemes/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeHubsSouthGlos
WhatsApp: https://chat.whatsapp.com/D2Aq43b4dUk9CsWP5xZCC4
Teamup Calendar: https://teamup.com/ksotq99w4fifkmq1ax

A Christmas Trail for Families and Children in your School Playground?



Go Chatter are producing a very easy Christmas Trail that you could put out in your school playground. It consists of posters with a QR code that leads to a video. Parents and children can explore the Christmas story together at a time that you select.

To sign up to receive the trail or find out more, please click here: https://gochattervideos.com/christmas/

Prayer – for Schools



Did you know that there is a network of people praying for schools around the country? On Education Sunday in September this year, our local schools were prayed for and our congregation prayed for all schools with which they had a connection.

You can join this from the comfort of home or school here: https://www.prayforschools.org/

If you would like Christ Church Downend to pray for your school, please let the schools' chaplaincy team know on julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com. Please include what you would like prayer for.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)



If you are finding managing your finances hard just now, the Christ Church Downend CAP team can help.
You can phone confidentially on: 07483 410403
Or please email Rosie Brydon on rosiebrydon@christchurchdownend.com
For more information, see our website

Care For the Family

Care For the Family are now doing a quarterly newsletter email that you can subscribe to, which gives parenting tips, as well as info on courses, resources, events that may be helpful https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/main-subscription/

Don't forget that anita.dobson@christchurchdownend.com is available to run parent courses at your school.

Any questions or suggestions for items to include in the end of term 2 Newsletter for term 3 (January 2025), please contact me: julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com. I will be happy to have a chat, hear your ideas, receive feedback and discuss any ways we might work further together.