



Children's Festival 2012

Fly the Flag!

A fun day for children, church groups and leaders with an Olympic theme

Saturday 21st January at Wells Cathedral

10.30am—3.15pm

For further information and booking form contact:
Miranda Young, Cathedral Offices, Wells. tel. 01749 674483
or visit www.wellscathedral.org.uk/childrens-festival-2012

**PRAY FOR
SCHOOLS**
in the Tone Deanery **PRAYER
DAYS**

Drop-in and pray for our local schools...

Wednesday 16th November

10am—4pm

St John's Church, Wellington

Thursday 24th November

10am—4pm

Wiveliscombe Congregational Church
(Silver Street, Wiveliscombe)

www.prayforschools.org

If you would like more information about anything included in this newsletter or would like more copies (or a pdf version sent to you by email) please do get in touch with me.

Similarly if you have news of youth & children's work that could be included in a future issue of *Youth Matters* please do let me know.

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 **DIocese OF
BATH & WELLS**

Youth Matters

in the Tone Deanery Autumn 2011

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *Youth Matters*—news & prayer prompts for youth & children's work in our Deanery.

'I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' (Jeremiah 29 v11 NLT)

As I write bonfire night has passed and my 8 year old lads have given up football in the garden after school in favour of writing a Christmas list! But before we get to the exciting season of Advent, I'm determined to reflect on what's has been a very full summer and am just getting around to sifting through the many photos that were taken at events around the Deanery and beyond.

A definite highlight was *The Big Tent*. A 3-day holiday club in August, working with people from Wellington churches in a packed marquee on a school field.

Despite all the planning, praying and preparing (and a fair bit of wondering and worrying too) it didn't really take shape until the 'big tent' itself went up the day before; and when almost 100 children arrived on the first morning it suddenly got a whole lot more exciting!

On the last day we were well in our stride with the programme and logistics; and during our morning team talk and prayer time, the potential of the 100 young people we'd been working with that week really struck me. In a group of 100 children who knows? Perhaps there are teachers, doctors, inventors, shopkeepers, fire fighters, church leaders, politicians... maybe even future Prime Ministers. An awesome thought and one that adds to the sense of responsibility for us as youth & children's workers.

A few weeks ago at the Diocese Youth Work Conference in Wells, keynote speaker Jim Davis of the Children's Society, added to that thought for me as he called on us to consider the well-being of children & young people today—not just their 'well-becoming'. They have potential for the future and they have potential right now, today.

Let us continue to pray for and consider how we might champion children and young people in our communities.

Andy Levett, Youth & Children's Work Coordinator

**Tone
Deanery**



The Big Tent – Mission Accomplished!

An amazing week of 'Spy Kids' investigation with a whole lot of fun, laughter and games thrown in - all in a huge marquee on Wellesley Park Primary School field - was the summary of the last week

in August in Wellington. Even the weather was kind, and the playing field was used for open air games, obstacle courses, and hunting of the lost spy. The event's theme explored OT stories of God rescuing his people, and over 40 helpers from local churches gave their time and skills to make it all happen. Sponsorship for the

project included a grant from the Bath & Wells Diocese Youth & Children's Development Fund as well as support from local businesses and churches. Plans are underway for an even bigger and better event next year and if you'd like to be involved please get in touch. As well as a big thank you to all the volunteers, *The Big Tent* team would like to thank all those in the churches who invited neighbours and most importantly prayed for the event.

Also this summer: St Mary's Bishops Lydeard ran another successful Holiday Bible Club for children in the village and this autumn are launching a new Saturday morning event in the church centre. Jill Winstanley from the team said: *"We are offering JYM(Jesus, You and Me) Club mid-term each term on a Saturday morning. Much more a Messy Church approach [where] adults are invited to stay. We pray that the message will have got out that it is on."*

Other Messy Church-style events: This term a new after-school club at Oake, Bradford & Nynehead School has taken off and is seeing 30-40 children coming along on a Wednesday afternoon, with a similar club happening in nearby Cotford St Luke. For more information contact Rev Alison Norris.

Numbers at **SMILE**, the monthly after-school event for under 12s and their families at St John's Wellington have also been growing. Curate James Clapham has told the congregation they can *'Stop praying for the numbers of children to increase, and start praying for more volunteers'*.

St Andrew's Wiveliscombe are planning another *Messy Advent* for Advent Sunday, 26th November at 4pm. Contact Alan Swan (01984 629030) for more information or visit www.wiveychurches.org.uk



Taking the Bible to School!



Of course in the vast majority of schools in the UK the Bible is already there and in most of our local schools so are regular visitors from the church, either Clergy, Youth Workers or volunteers. However, this autumn it has been a real privilege to be part of a team that visited a total of 9 Primary Schools as part of the KJV Anniversary Celebrations organised by Wellington & District Churches. We put together a special **Bible Celebration** Assembly and an RE lesson called *'What's in the Bible?'* for Key Stage 2 children (7-11 year olds). Both were multi-media presentations including drama, video clips, a song and the 'Big Bible' resource from Wells, each presented by several members of the team.

First up was a whole 'Bible Day' at St John's Primary School in Wellington— similar in format to the one a team from local churches ran there last year. The day kicked off a special fortnight of lessons and activities for the school, based around Bible characters who trusted God. Members of the churches' team returned at the end of the 2 weeks for a sharing assembly led by the children.

The team then visited schools at West Buckland, Sampford Arundel, Beech Grove in Wellington, Rockwell Green, Langford Budville, Oake, Bradford & Nynehead, Wellesley Park in Wellington and Wellington Junior School.

One Headteacher emailed to say *'The group that you brought over were absolutely fantastic and I am very grateful to them for making their presentations and workshops so enjoyable and rewarding for all the children.'*

Looking to the future I hope that through this project we can build further on links between our churches and their local school, and in doing so present Christianity and our God of love relevantly and in creative ways. *Please do pray for your local school and join in with our 'Pray for Schools' days this month.*

