

# Growing with God

Empowering children's leaders

spiritually & practically

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012**

**9.30am – 4.00pm**

Guest speaker:

**The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston**

**Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX**



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OF BIRMINGHAM**

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**Growing with God** is for people of all ages and abilities who nurture the faith and spirituality of children. It is for people who work with, or help with, children in church and in midweek groups.

During the day you will have the opportunity to attend three of the following workshops. Places at the conference are limited and workshop choices will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so you are advised to book early.

### **A. Using Puppets**

Just you and the puppet with no theatre to hide behind. Some would say it's just having a conversation with yourself, but using an alter ego to do it. A beginners session on learning different and simple ways to make your puppetry believable and fun.

### **Steve & Kay Morgan-Gurr**

*are a husband and wife team. They are full-time, self-employed children's evangelists and General Directors of Children Worldwide. They endeavour to be both Biblical and contemporary and believe children's work is at the cutting edge of evangelism.*

### **B. Outgrowing 'Sunday school'?**

This session will offer some thoughts on the culture of young people in that transition phase between outgrowing 'Sunday school' and growing into what comes next for them and a discussion forum for ideas on how to keep and integrate them when they are old enough to vote with their feet.

### **Helen Tomblin**

*is The Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry. She has been through the transition, and lived to tell the tale!*

### **C. Quiet Times with Children**

Silence, quiet and retreat are a well established part of adults' Christian lives. See and try out activities that will enable children to become reflective Christians in teaching sessions and worship services and find out how to run children's quiet days.

### **Barbara Meardon**

*is the Adviser for work with Children in Salisbury Diocese. Married with two grown up children, she trained as a primary school teacher and combined that with working with children of all ages in various parishes. She is passionate about children's spirituality and creative ways of learning.*

#### **D. Using seasonal celebrations to reach families**

The church calendar is a rich resource and offers many opportunities to reach out to church and non-church families. Get new ideas for Christmas and Easter and explore lesser known festivals like Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Saints' Days.

#### ***Linda Hicks & Jenny Warbrick***

*Linda Hicks is a Children's Worker in the Solihull Parish organising church - based events and working with local schools. Jenny Warbrick is a freelance trainer and writer, with ten years' experience of running a Sunday school and organising community events.*

#### **E. Ideas for Creative Prayer**

A workshop looking at ways to get children praying creatively, with stories from schools, a chance to create some resources of your own, and loads of tried and tested ideas to take home with you !

#### ***Rachel Warwick***

*is an escaped primary school teacher, now Director of Orison, which offers interactive prayer spaces for primary and secondary schools. She is also involved with the Prayer Spaces In Schools network.*

#### **F. Working with children on the autistic spectrum**

Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) is a wide and varied condition - with no two children being the same. We will be learning the basics of what ASD means, learning some key strategies and looking at where ASD and spirituality meet.

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#### **G. Helping children walk with God**

This workshop is aimed at finding creative ways to help children live out their faith. This is NOT a 'do this and all will be well' session but an exploration of ways in which we can support and help children on their faith journey...

#### ***John Fryer***

*A full-time worker in primary schools, taking assemblies and lessons with his puppet friends, John has been working with children and leaders for well over 30 years. Until recently he was Children's Work Advisor in the Diocese of Leicester.*

## H. Using Games

Help and ideas for games to use anytime, any place, anywhere - with children of all ages and abilities, utilising little or only basic equipment, as ice-breakers or to illustrate the meaning of a Biblical theme or story.

## *Craig Gilman*

*Craig Gilman, Assistant Youth Adviser, is married with 3 children aged 3, 6 and 9. He is an experienced play worker whose favourite thing in the world is to see children smile!*

## I. Staying close to God yourself

How do we keep our own faith real and growing when we're working with the children? That's the question we will be exploring together for the blessing of ourselves and the children in our care.

## *Andrew Watson*

*was brought up in churches without a Sunday school or youth group, and has made up for it ever since, variously teaching 8-10s, 11-14s and 14-18s at different times in his life. He is the father of 4 children and led a small, a medium & a very large church before becoming Bishop of Aston.*

**Marketplace.** The latest children's ministry resources will be available for you to view and buy .

**Venue.** Carrs Lane Church Centre is in central Birmingham opposite Moor Street Station and adjacent to the back of Marks & Spencer. There is no parking at the venue, however the Centre is easily accessible by public transport.

**Cost.** Places cost £12 for those from within Birmingham Diocese and £22 for those from other Dioceses. Bookings made before **31st December 2011** receive a £2 discount per person. Cheques should be made payable to BDBF. People from all denominations are welcome. The cost includes home-made cake and all refreshments. Please bring your own lunch.

**Booking.** Please complete the enclosed booking form and return it, together with payment, to Jelena Cammack, Church House, 175 Harborne Park Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0BH by **11th February 2012**. For more information contact Jelena Cammack: t: 0121 426 0435; e: [jelena@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jelena@birmingham.anglican.org)