

Children and Families Ministry Newsletter

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Introducing Colette Stevens!

As you know, in advertising for the new Children and Family person to replace Gendy we picked up on the strong feedback to have a person who was more present in the northern part of the Diocese. Colette is that person!

Colette has now started as the Northern Children and Family Diocesan Enabler. Her role is to lead and disciple our Children and Family leaders, grow the cluster model of support, discipleship and shared ministry, and build our focus on family discipleship.

Colette is in this role the equivalent of two days per week (often this will mean evenings and weekends). She is also an early childhood teacher – this means she does have other commitments in her working week that will be inflexible. The best days to contact Colette are Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She will be based in Otaki, and is looking forward to travelling around to meet you all.

Colette's email is colette@wn.ang.org.nz and her office phone number is (04) 471 8581 (*this automatically goes direct to Colette's office phone in Otaki*). You can leave a message and she will check regularly.

For those of you who live further south, we hope to have an announcement soon about a Southern Diocesan Children and Families appointment.



A message from Colette

Tena koe,

Firstly, I want to say thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly into my new role as Northern Children and Family Enabler. It has been such a pleasure talking with so many passionate and dedicated leaders from all over the Diocese. I am excited about what God is doing in our communities, in our church families, and in the lives of each of us, every day.

A bit about me: I grew up in Paraparaumu in the 70's and have lived in Christchurch, Upper Hutt, Wellington, and Ontario (Canada). Six years ago, I moved to Otaki and am fortunate to be part of the Otaki Anglican and Methodist Parish, an awesome group of welcoming and faithful friends of God.

My family live on a farm near Shannon and I love spending time with my nieces and nephew. I teach three days a week at a Christian Kindergarten in Waikanae and have a particular interest in exploring music, storytelling and dramatic play with children. In my spare time, I enjoy reading mystery novels, exploring the concept of intergenerational worship, and teaching card making workshops.

Over the last thirty years, I have worked with children, young people, and their families, in both in paid and voluntary roles. I have worked in local churches, parachurch and community contexts. Some of these roles include being a small group leader, short term mission's enabler, youth worker, Mainly Music leader, cluster facilitator and vestry member. I have been privileged to work alongside talented and inspiring leaders of all ages. The youngest (and perhaps two of the most inspiring!) were two three-year old boys, who loved praying for people and seeing God heal them, right before our eyes.

I am passionate about our church family being welcoming and inclusive of all; a community journeying together and acknowledging everyone (including our children) as ministers in God's Kingdom. We are family; discovering, learning and growing together as we are discipled, and as we make disciples of others.

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Over the next few months, I am hoping to talk to all our children and family leaders in the northern part of the diocese and learn about the wonderful work that is going on in each parish and cluster. In response to the survey the Children and Family team did last year, we'd like to set up some local Cluster based training and resource sharing. These will be opportunities to come together with other local Children and Family leaders, share ideas, collaborate on projects, up-skill, and pray for and encourage one another.

An important part of my role is journeying alongside our cluster facilitators and Children and Family leaders, providing support, encouragement, training, and discipleship, so that you can continue to disciple your teams and the children and families you care for. On that note, please don't forget to mark your dairies with two important training days coming up soon ...

WAY2GO – Saturday 11th June is Scripture Union's excellent training day in Upper Hutt (Registration details later in this newsletter)

AND
the next **Leadership training day – Saturday 8th October** in Manawatu: an exciting time to come together as church family and learn from one another.

Another aspect of my role is advocating and promoting the importance of discipling children and families well, across the Diocese. Well-discipled families continue to make new disciples as they share God's love for our world, particularly towards our most vulnerable people.

If your team has a need that you'd like help with, which is beyond what can be met within your cluster, I am very happy to work with you on this. Please feel free to email me or give me a call and have a chat. The diocesan office may have access to the ideal resource, training, or personnel to help!

I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the not so distant future. In the meantime, may God bless you and the wonderful work you are doing in His Kingdom.

Colette

Cluster Facilitators

The following areas have Cluster Facilitators – these facilitators are the first port of call for advice, troubleshooting, pastoral care etc.

Urban Wellington:	Alison Camplin	chaplain@wellingtoncathedral.org.nz Parishes: Northland, Willis Street, Cathedral, Wadestown, City Mission
Lower Hutt:	Lyn Napier	iandlnapier@gmail.com Parishes: Lower Hutt, Eastbourne, Waiwhetu, Wainuiomata, Petone
Greater Porirua City:	Hayley Balmer	hayley.balmer@xtra.co.nz Parishes: Tawa-Linden, Titahi Bay, Porirua, Whitby, Pauatahanui
Kapiti Coast (Kapiti – Levin):	Colette Stevens	colette.stevens@slingshot.co.nz Parishes: Kapiti, Waikanae, Otaki, Levin
Wanganui:	Christine Goodin	christinegoodin@xtra.co.nz Parishes: Christ Church, Eastern Wanganui, Castlecliff, Gonville.

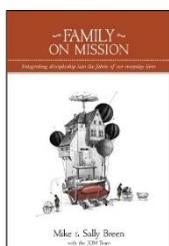
PLEASE PRAY FOR....

- All of the families that we engage with (both through Sunday worship and in activities/events during the week): that they would be disciplined and nurtured in their faith.
- Colette, as she familiarizes herself with her new role and connects with people across the diocese.
- The ministries and opportunities mentioned in this newsletter.

Please ring or email us with your celebrations, new adventures and prayer needs so we can all share in praying for your ministry. Sharing helps us support each other, build our networks across the diocese and appreciate each other's skills and passions.

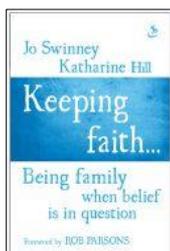
Resources in the library

We have HUNDREDS of resources in the library available for borrowing: books on parenting, all-age worship, children's ministry curriculum materials, bible teaching resources, resources to equip parents to share their faith at home, ideas for talks, games and crafts, leadership, marriage, raising teenagers, and heaps more!



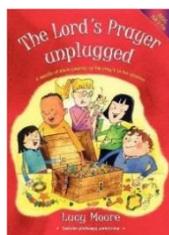
Family on Mission Mike and Sally Breen

We are moving away from the destructive dichotomy of Family OR Mission, where we can only do one or the other, away from the band-aid fix of Family AND Mission, where we keep them separate and manage boundaries and margins, toward the integrated life of Family ON Mission, where we wholeheartedly embrace being part of covenant community AND with those people play our part in God's kingdom mission. This book is about our journey in leading a family on mission, as well as looking deeply at how Jesus built his family on mission in the Gospels, as well as practical strategies for growing as a family on mission, imitating Jesus as his disciples.



Keeping faith: Being family when belief is in question Jo Swinney and Katherine Hill

What if your children don't choose faith in Christ? What if they walk away from church? This book explores the experiences of Christian families with adult children who have decided, for now, that faith isn't for them. As well as helping parents to know that they are not alone, the book's practical advice will help all parents not to give up hope in passing on their faith through continuing to build a close relationship with their children.



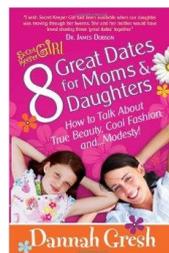
The Lord's Prayer unplugged Lucy Moore

The Lord's Prayer unplugged provides a unique opportunity to explore the biblical breadth and depth encapsulated in Jesus' famous prayer. The material can be used as a complete teaching programme over the course of ten weeks, or as stand-alone lessons so that the phrases can be studied separately and linked into the teaching of a Bible passage. Each phrase of the prayer is explored through creative ideas, offering a wealth of thematic gems for teachers to pick and choose to suit their situation. Each unit includes: icebreakers, puppets, Bible exploring, prayer, songs, craft and art, wall displays, extra ideas.



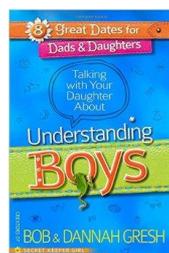
Growing Great Boys Ian Grant

Parenting guru Ian Grant shows how to work with the essential character of boys, using understanding and emotional support to raise loyal, hard-working, sensitive, funny, fearless and strong men. Brimming with practical, positive, and informative parenting advice for raising great sons, from the vital preschool years through to the challenges of teens. It includes chapters on the roles of mums and dads, and on the special challenges faced by solo parents.



8 Great Dates for Moms and Daughters Dannah Gresh

One of the greatest protections against the culture's push to make your daughter mature too quickly is quality connecting time with you. This mom-daughter 'date' book is designed to help you replace our culture's lies with truth and make lasting connections with your 8-to-12-year-old. Eight fun activities to share (think facials, tea parties, shopping challenges...) which help you discuss and answer questions like "What is real beauty?" "How can I feel okay about my body?"



8 Great Dates for Dads and Daughters Bob and Dannah Gresh

Our culture pressures girls to crush on boys way too soon. This book aims to help fathers (or mothers!) and daughters connect on a topic that really matters. Eight fun activities (think pulling pranks, stargazing, treasure hunts...) as you discuss God's word, tackle big questions like "Why did God create girls to like boys?" "Why is everyone boy-crazy? Should I be?" and help girls to understand important truths such as finding their true value in God (not boys), and knowing that they are a precious treasure and should expect to be treated as one.

We have plenty more resources available for borrowing!

You can view our full catalogue by emailing natalie@wn.ang.org.nz, or pop in for a browse if you live nearby. If you would like to borrow any of the resources email Natalie to make your request.

Gendy's changing roles

As was discussed last year, I am now serving Bishop Justin in overseeing all the mission and ministry portfolios (so the Children and Family portfolio now reports to me). I have attempted to provide some cover while we go through the process of finding replacements.

I wanted to let you know that I am now resigning formally from the Children and Family role and from the Archdeacon for Young People role. With Colette coming on board there is some cover so I feel free to step down now formally. It is with some grief that I 'let this go', I have loved serving you all and will continue to love seeing you all in your ministry roles from more of a distance. I am also aware that I've not been able to serve you well in the last six months, and it is time.

Thank you all for your care, support, and your enthusiasm for Children and Family ministry.

I have now been appointed Archdeacon for Mission and Ministry. This role includes oversight of the staff and groups that fall under the portfolio, and overseeing our educational events – Leadership days, Ministry Conference and the Diocesan Hui.



 **WAY2GO 2016**
su children's ministry training

DEEP

DEEP FAITH IN A SURFACE WORLD

Scripture Union NZ's Conference
for all Children's Ministry Leaders

Auckland 14 May
Dunedin 28 May
Wellington 11 June

Discover how faith grows when the whole church comes together and learn valuable leadership skills to help you with the essentials of children's ministry.

For more information please visit www.sunz.org.nz



WAY2GO 2016

Wellington 11 June

Silverstream Retreat Centre

Whether you are new to children's ministry or an experienced leader, this conference will have something for you. Come as a team to make the most of everything you learn!

Workshop topics include:

Puppets and props; games and challenges with a purpose; Knowing God; teaching small groups with a wide age-range; experiencing God through craft and activities; CEC; helping children develop a deep relationship with God through prayer; intergenerational church; Messy Church. PLUS workshop streams for those working with pre-schoolers (under 5yrs), pre-teens (10-12yrs), and for senior/experienced leaders.

Special discount for Anglican leaders
- \$50 for the first 50 registrations*

**If you are in the Wellington Anglican Diocese and you lead children between 0 and 10, enter the code [angw2g](#) when you register on the website to receive this discount.*

Get in quick! – only 50 discounts are available.

To register and for more information go to:

www.sunz.org.nz/children-and-families/way2go/

We would love to share with the rest of the diocese what YOUR ministry is doing re: Generous Hospitality – especially anything to do with refugees, child poverty, climate change, or the core diocesan values (Discipleship, Being Family, Last, Lost, Least).

Please email Natalie (natalie@wn.ang.org.nz) with anything that you would like to share: articles about events/activities you held, photos, ideas or resources to recommend to others!



Generous Hospitality in action at Diocesan Leadership Training Day

More than 400 leaders gathered at St Christopher's Anglican Church in Tawa on April 8th to connect with one another and uncover tools for their ministries. From Vestry members to Children's Ministry Leaders, Vicars to IT Support people, attendees were reignited with a creative passion for the work of their churches and missions.

The day began with generous hospitality from members of the Tawa parish—who provided morning tea, and then lunch for everyone who attended. We're grateful for the delicious spread laid out by Vicar General Julie Rokotakala and her generous volunteers. Attendees are singing praises for the food.

For workshop sessions, we stretched over three sites—St Christopher's Anglican, Tawa Union Church, and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. In the morning, attendees were encouraged to choose workshops that related to their ministry streams—which included topics like "You're losing us" (when and why our children 'check out' of church, and what we can do to about it). In the afternoon we mixed and mingled through topical streams—which included topics like "Intergenerational Worship," "Serve where you live: the art of neighbouring," and "Being at your conversational best with strangers".

The next Leadership Training Day will be on 8 October in Manawatu, so update your calendars now!

Feedback

If you attended this event, we would really appreciate your feedback – especially from a Children and Family ministry leader perspective! Please fill in this form: <http://goo.gl/forms/hYCw9iulWT>

Ministry Conference 2016

Thursday 21st – Saturday 23rd July

If you are the main person in your parish who works with children and families, you and your family are invited to join us at this year's Ministry Conference at El Rancho, Waikanae.

This will be a wonderful time of inspiration and encouragement for all our key leaders and their families. It's a chance to refill your tank with quality teaching, worship and reflection, laughter and family time.

There will be a small cost/koha to attend.

So please **save this date!** I'll be in touch soon with more details.

- Colette

LINKS AND IDEAS

Some Miscellaneous ideas

Like a mustard seed (BRF): www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/like-a-mustard-seed/

Sunday School/midweek session for children.

Prayer walk scavenger hunt: flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.nz/2016/02/faith-at-home-prayer-walk-scavenger-hunt.html

A really practical way to get children involved in a prayer walk around the local area and to help them think about praying for the people around them

Kidzone curriculum (Salvation Army): www.sarmy.org.au/Resources/children/Kidzone-Curriculum/

Weekly downloadable curriculum with a range of activities and teaching ideas to suit multiple ages.

29 genius ideas for learning bible verses at home: onehope.net/full-draft-29-genius-ideas-really-using-bible-verse-child-brings-home-church-besides-just-throwing-trash/

Vibrant Faith@Home:

www.vibrantfaithathome.org/library/library-listed-by-audience/library-audience-young-family

Short and simple ideas for incorporating faith into everyday family life.

Video: What makes a good leader?

Bill Hybels

www.glsnext.com/video_detail_share.asp?id=LS201331&branch_mate_id=235567963573385370

Are you fully aware of what to look for when hiring for your team?

In this six-minute video, Bill Hybels shares his 5C framework that he uses when identifying potential hires.

KidzMatter Magazine March/April Issue

You can read the latest issue of KidzMatter online by following this link:

<http://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=291268>



This issue's topics include:

- Using video games to engage children with God's story
- The role of the Family Ministry Pastor
- What the church can do to engage with families
- Pastoral Care for Families with Special Needs
- Lots of ideas for how to equip parents to explore faith with their children at home.
- The powerful influence potential of grandparents

...and HEAPS more!



connectible

Connectible

Connectible is a new online resource sharing website, created by the Diocese of Dunedin. It is a FREE online curriculum for the whole Church and it is ready for you to try out!

The system follows the Lectionary to help you easily find the resources that connect with a key Bible reference for each Sunday. Each week there are set of components that connect together. Use all of them or only a few.

This is a resource sharing website, so if you have good idea, share it. Please have a look through the site then click on the 'Give Feedback' button to add in your thoughts.

Check it out at <http://connectible.nz/>



Children and Family Ministry Facebook Group

An online community for anyone involved in ministry to children and families in the Wellington Diocese. Ask each other questions, post ideas or resources you use, discuss articles, find out what other parishes are doing... and anything else you want!

Go to: www.facebook.com/pages/Children-and-Families-Ministry-Anglican-Diocese-of-Wellington/148306728576392

(you will need a Facebook account – it's free to sign up.)

Articles

Good, Better, Best: 6 Creative Ways to Affirm Volunteers:

<http://childrensministry.com/articles/good-better-best/>

Use these 6 creative ways to affirm volunteers. You'll find a good, better, and best option for all six!

How Does Your Children's Ministry Support Parents with Special Needs Children?

<http://kidzmatter.com/how-does-your-childrens-ministry-support-parents-with-special-needs-children/>

How to Make (traditional) Worship Kid-Friendly

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ponderanew/2016/01/18/making-worship-kid-friendly/>

10 Active Indoor Games That Help Kids Grow Their Faith

<http://childrensministry.com/articles/10-active-indoor-games>

Kids Ministry Must Be More than Fun

<http://kidzmatter.com/kids-ministry-must-be-more-than-fun/>

Coming up in 2016

- June 11: Way2Go Conference
- July 21–23: Ministry Conference
- October 8: Leadership training day
- November 5: Diocesan Hui

Tell us what you're up to!

We would love to hear about ministries and events around the Diocese that engage with children and families, and profile them in this newsletter!

If you would like to share what is happening in your parish, please email Natalie at natalie@wn.ang.org.nz.



Remember we are here to serve you! If you need ideas, resources, specific training for you and/or your team, an opportunity to debrief or chat, give us a call or an email. We'll visit you, send resources out, and seek answers to questions for you. Whatever you need, try us! If we can't help you, we'll find out who can!

Colette Stevens, Northern Children and Families Enabler: (DDI) 04 471 8581, colette@wn.ang.org.nz
Natalie Moreno, Administrator: (DDI) 04 471 8588, natalie@wn.ang.org.nz

7 Things Kids Love in Sunday School

by David Jennings



Sunday school is an amazing opportunity to grow kids' faith and, if done well, will have kids coming back for more week after week. There are many things kids love about Sunday school, and today I want to share how some of the experts in use it to their full advantage.

1. Kids love choices.

One of the real hallmarks of a learner-based environment is the ability for kids to make choices based on their preferences. Learning centres or stations, activity alternatives, and different storytelling options all give kids the option to learn in different ways. Giving kids choices means you'll see more engaged and motivated learners.

2. Kids love their families.

Connecting families spiritually promotes spiritual growth in everyone. Don't get me wrong; Sunday school ministries have great worth when it comes to spiritually growing individuals, but many church leaders want more than that. They want their Sunday school ministries to empower parents to be the primary faith influencers for their own children beyond Sunday. Some easy applications to get parents more involved in your ministry: Send home something other than a take-home page that the whole family can enjoy – a music CD, for example...or even consider starting up a family ministry bookshelf where parents can take materials home.

3. Kids love colour.

If your space doesn't allow for permanent decor or for colourful signs, consider purchasing brightly coloured magnets to hang along metal door frames. Placing the magnets along the sides and top of the doorframes provides a bright, cheerful, and engaging welcome for kids. And magnets can be changed for seasons or lesson themes.

4. Kids love belonging.

I think this is a universal thing...who doesn't want to feel like they belong. I know many churches find that simply having a fun name for their children's ministry gets kids excited.

5. Kids love technology.

You can easily locate material created for Sunday school settings that's meant to be shown on computers, tablets, or smartphones from most Christian education publishers. Many Sunday school curriculum publishers offer media you can use to supplement a lesson. You can also find material online, eg. www.godtube.com and www.worshiphousekids.com.

6. Kids love to wonder.

Capitalize on kids' natural curiosity. Guide learners through 'wondering moments' that follow your Bible experiences, where they respond to statements such as:

- I wonder why that happened. What do you think?
 - I wonder what it was like to _____. What do you think?
 - I wonder which part of this Bible passage stuck out most to each of you. Describe what made an impact on you.
- With 'wondering' questions and discussion, accept every idea because there aren't right or wrong wonderings.

7. Kids love to serve.

When you give kids tangible ways to put faith into action, it becomes more meaningful. We want kids to see that their actions can have a direct impact, for better or for worse, on the lives of those around them. But here's another challenge: While it's true that kids can see how actions directly impact others through valid efforts such as water conservation, anti-bullying, and disaster assistance campaigns, don't overlook the efforts of the church to spread the gospel. Kids have an important role to play here, too.

This article was taken from childrensministry.com

See the full article here: <http://childrensministry.com/articles/7-things-kids-love-in-sunday-school/>