

# ADMINISTRATORS UNITE!



The main role I have at the Family Trust office in Medway is as Administrator – although they do let me out sometimes to take assemblies! My job involves all aspects of running our busy office

God that He is opening up new doors and new challenges for us that take us into situations we never imagined. He is at work – we’ve just got to try and keep up!

**Ruth Shopland**

*Sandra reports from the Maidstone office.*



It’s Monday morning, 8.30am, phone ringing, someone at the door, switch on the computers, listen to the answer phone messages, put the kettle on.....and so it goes on! Most of my time is spent at my desk handling the day to day business of the Family Trust machine!! Keeping ahead of the game sometimes becomes a juggling act! I do a few assemblies and a couple of Kingsquads per week which I love, and am totally involved with all aspects of the ministry. I have got used to being called “Sarndra”, except by Gavin of course! We Northerners must stick together! Through the highs and lows, (after all we are in a battle!), I know this is where God wants me, so onwards and upwards is what I say!!

**Sandra**

## THE MAIDSTONE TEAM

**The Maidstone team**  
Richard and Annabelle Blackaby, Sandra Weedon, Gavin Humphries, Maz Humphries, and Faith Woodcock

**Associates:** Yvette Rayner, Roger Flaherty, Jude Johnson, Katie Reynolds

**The team Pastor:** Derek Savage

### The Management team

Tony Hillier, Sue Hillier, Eddie Donaldson, Mary Jane Donaldson, Steve Knowles (Executive Director)



HELPING CHILDREN TO DISCOVER THAT CHRISTIANITY IS RELEVANT TO THEIR DAILY LIVES

Old School House • 4 Buckland Road • Maidstone ME16 0SL • 01622 687074  
c/o Gillingham Methodist Church • Third Avenue • Gillingham • Kent ME7 2LU • 01634 281158

# F.T. INDEX

Maidstone

[www.familytrust.org.uk](http://www.familytrust.org.uk)

Summer  
20  
09

## Children are hungry!



Proverbs 22 v 6 says, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” I am about to clock up my fifteenth year as a full time worker with the Family Trust. I have counted it a privilege to be part of such a great team and also to be chosen by God to bring His message of hope, love and forgiveness to children. I have noticed in the last few years

a growing hunger amongst children for knowledge and understanding of Christianity. This made me think. Where do children get such knowledge and understanding these days? Most don’t go to church and most are not part of a Christian family. At school Christianity is but one of many religions that are taught. What an awesome responsibility the Family Trust team and all those who are involved in Christian children’s work have! If you are involved in this work you may be the only means by which your children can gain knowledge of Christianity. Recently we have been doing lessons in school entitled “What Christians believe about Easter.” It was a great opportunity to discuss the Christian Gospel with the children. After the lesson we always give an opportunity for the children to ask questions and we are always overwhelmed! Anything from ‘Who made God?’ to ‘Can you be a Christian and a Scientist?’ These questions always keep us on our toes and show us that children are eager to know and understand. If you’re teaching children about God keep doing it. It may be a matter of life or death!

Richard Blackaby

## HEAD VERSUS HEART!



I love doing assemblies and lessons, I have a real heart for working with children and telling them all about Jesus and know this is what God wants me to do. However 3 years ago I realised heart knowledge is not enough. I needed to do some academic study to put some theory behind the practical work. So I embarked on an epic journey that I am still on! I started with a diploma in Children’s Evangelism and Nurture at Cliff College. This involved two years of distance learning. But that was not enough; my thirst for knowledge was ongoing. So I am now taking a BA in children and Youth Ministry. Whilst I am not an academic and sometimes struggle writing assignments I am learning so much and God is guiding me through. So hopefully I will graduate in June 2010 and wait to see what awaits me next!

Faith Woodcock  
[www.cliffcollege.ac.uk](http://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk)

# Eggcellent opportunity!

The run up to Easter is a bit manic as the team are out and about running from Assemblies to Lessons to Kingsquads! As I write this, the last Easter Lesson has been delivered and we are enjoying the left over chocolate eggs! To be able to share the Gospel message in the classroom with 10 year olds, is such a privilege and some of the work produced by the children is outstanding! There is also a forum for children to ask questions and this is exciting and challenging! Here are some of the comments, "How can Jesus be God's Son and be God?." "Is it true that people in Jesus' time were really short?"" Is it possible for scientists to be Christians?" " Can you be a Christian and believe in evolution?"

## Annabelle

Dear Faith and Richard Thank you for your RE Lesson. It was really interesting and brilliantly done. My favourite part was the video clip. I think everyone liked the chocolate eggs you gave us, because I did. Tuesday 17th when you did the lesson was the best day in the whole entire world! Thank you once again.

Dear Faith and Richard, I am writing to thank you for the fantastic RE lesson. I really appreciated the fun-packed lesson which consisted of so many things. I enjoyed the video clip because of its vivid detail. The work sheets were brilliant and I think the RE lesson was the best we've done.

Every child was given a chance to write part of the account in their own words,. Here are some of the results!

## The last Supper and Jesus' Arrest by Grace

Last night the outstanding words coming from Jesus shocked all. He said to his friends, "This is the last time I will eat or drink." Then he lifted up the bread and said, "This bread is like my body and I will break this bread." All were shocked at this comment but to top it off, he said, "This wine is my blood." After that he said to Peter, "You will deny that you know me." Peter said he wouldn't but unfortunately, he did. Peter cut off the High priest's servant's ear but Jesus didn't want this fighting and at that point he got arrested. Loads of people asked themselves and others, why?

## The Crucifixion by Connor

Friday 27AD 19.00

*The Romans are still in control, but this time they've gone too far. They have crucified Jesus. Something weird happened when he died. The sky went black and lightning hit the town. Saturday 27AD 11.00. I just got word that the sacred curtain of God in the temple has split in two. Now the man who sent Jesus to his death, Pontius Pilate was having second thoughts about this!*

## The Resurrection by Lauren

*Mary rushed to Jesus' tomb. The stone had been moved! She looked in and then she saw that Jesus had gone! She started to cry. (She had to sit down)."What's wrong?" said a man. "Someone has taken my Lord's body", replied Mary quietly. "Mary, look at me, the Lord is right here with you!" Mary looked up. "Jesus, is that really you?" Jesus replied, "Yes it is Mary!" They were very happy because Jesus will be with everyone forever.*



## QUOTE FROM A BOY:

"I KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE IS"

B I B L E  
A S I C  
I N S T R U C T I O N  
E F O R E  
L E A V I N G  
A R T H

# VIRTUAL CHURCH



Family Trust operates nearly 40 weekly Kingsquads in Maidstone and Medway. Most of the children are from homes of families who are not regular church attenders. Making the jump from a Kingsquad to attending a church is huge for a young

person. Is this impossible to expect? Why do we lose so many young people from the church? In the 1990's 1,000 children a week under the age of 15 were walking out of church or Sunday school and not coming back\*. Fortunately this trend has slowed, but how do we reverse this tendency? These are important questions for both The Family Trust and the church to answer and we can't wait too long before we answer the questions! I am hearing from a range of sources that we perhaps should consider Kingsquad is 'church' to a lot of these children! Have we got the direction of flow wrong? Should the

church be moving towards where children and young people gather to hear from God rather than trying to get them to come to church? Is the key to reaching families through the children? This is a crucial question. If we get this wrong, there will be less and less churches containing any children or young people. Where will be the next generation who will proclaim the gospel to future generations? Psalm 78: 4, 6, 7 speaks to us on this subject

*'We will not hide God's truths from this generation. . . . We will tell them the awesome things he has done. . . . So the next generation might know them – even the children not yet born. So each generation can set its hope anew on God.'*

My prayer is that you will be part of a movement who will invest heavily in this generation of young people. Maybe starting a Kingsquad in your local school or praying for your local school.

**Steve Knowles Director The Family Trust & CAST**

## Soapbox race

**Where?** Courtney Road Tovil

**When?** Sat 20th June 2009

**What?** Local children to build a GO-CART with the help of their Dad and race it!

**Why?** In response to the question, "will you be my dad" the idea grew to hold an event that children can come to with their heroes and give them a life long memory of doing something with the ones they hold so dear to them. There are lots of things that are needed to make up the day so I have listed a few suggestions and if you feel that you could help, get involved or just pass the information on, I would be very grateful.

Trophies: The total cost = £50

Hi visual jackets: The total cost = £17.56

Barrier tape: The total cost = £29.95

Sweets: The total cost based on thirty children turning up will be £30.

Pads and helmets: Safety set Boys/Girls = £63.44

Volunteers: As many as possible!

Donations: As much as possible!

Wheels: We are looking for as many wheels as possible, (preferably with axels) but all donations will be taken.

If there is anything you can help with or if you any other suggestions/questions about the day then feel free to contact me by e-mail [gavin@familytrust.org.uk](mailto:gavin@familytrust.org.uk) or phone 01622 687074.

Thank you for your support

Gavin Humphries





