

Prayer

Monday

Pray for Kingsquads! Pray for the leaders for fresh ideas and energy! Pray for the children for listening ears and a keenness to engage!

Tuesday

Thank God! Thank him for his provision, a restful break and enjoyable Christmas, new Kingsquads on the verge of starting. A new school we will be visiting this term.

Wednesday

Other local children's workers, our partnerships and the work of the local churches. Pray that these relationships will go from strength to strength as we seek to serve the Lord as a community!

Thursday

Pray for Christians in schools. For members of staff and children, that they will best know how to support each other and the wider school community and spread the fantastic news of the Gospel!

Friday

Pray each time a child meets a Family Trust member they will be a reflection of Jesus to that child. Pray that we will live Holy lives that show those we meet, as we go about our work, the living Lord!

Saturday

Thank God for the wide variety of ways he gives us to reach the children. Thank God for his presence each time we gather in his name!

Sunday

Pray for churches who are struggling with their children's work, that they will receive fresh ideas and inspiration!

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Newsletter of
The Family Trust

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Fit for service!

I quote 'Paul' who leads a very large Kidz Club in Windsor and Slough:

'I am the leader of volunteers, trying to spur them on and keep them motivated, keeping them going on. The honeymoon period for many is long over and it's the weekly hard graft that is the key.'

The Psalmists sing of God's love enduring forever. However our society shouts for instant fixes. There is so much impatience in our world today. This Kidz Club leader has read it just right; we are to endure in our ministry.

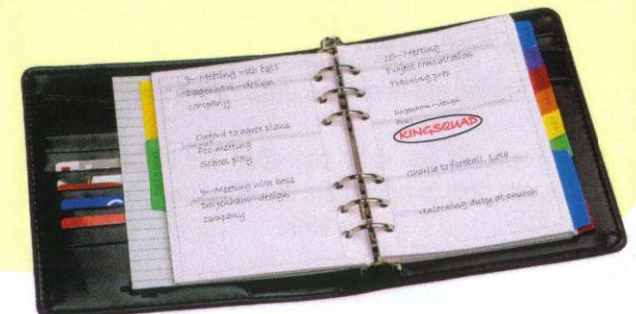
Are there any 'quick fixes' in bringing the truth of the gospel to children and young people? Not in my experience, as they grow to maturity physically and mentally one day at a time, so it is with spiritual maturity.

The thirty or so Kingsquads rely on a weekly commitment from an army of volunteers who have put aside the many reasons they

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him"
2 Chronicles 16:9

might have not to be involved. As they build their friendship with the 'squaddies' they acknowledge that the 'hard graft' is a worthy offering to the One who gave all for them and demonstrate their commitment.

Steve Knowles





Here at the Family Trust we didn't let the snow defeat us! If the school was open we made every effort to get there, we also used the opportunity to spend some time in the office catching up on all those admin jobs that we have to do in order to ensure everything runs smoothly!

We were also able to catch up on a few lessons and assemblies once the weather improved!

Messy Christmas

Definition- A whole lot of Mess in one place (particularly at Christmas time.)

Synonyms: Good fun, crazy time, lots of children!

Usage: Found to be taking place at Allington Baptist Church with the partnership of St. Nicholas Church, Messy Christmas was a great success with nearly 30 children attending! With the children having time to create up to 10 different crafts, time for games and also a story, parents joined us at the end for a mince pie and warm drink. Much fun had by all.



Christmas lessons:

- 14 schools
- 16 classes
- 500 children

finding out about the Christmas story!

Only 4 schools had to be cancelled due to the snow. But we are able to offer them the Bible lesson later on this term!



FT meets MP

A change in government can bring expectations to us all. In common with many people, The Family Trust has been keen to find out what changes might happen. In the Maidstone constituency, our member of parliament changed, so it was a doubly important time when we went to visit Helen Grant late last year. Our first appointment was not too profitable as Helen was unable to attend as she was unwell.

Our second visit was very productive and a good discussion ensued clearly showing Helen's concerns about the direction of the younger generation. We believe that Helen will be very supportive of the work of The Family Trust and CAST in the future. When asked what she could do for us, we were happy to point out that we were there to get to know her and to support her work as a local MP as she develops her influence on government policy to ensure our schools will still be places where the Christian faith can be declared freely.

We hope to visit all MP's where The Family Trust operate in 2011 (5 in all) to explore their position with regard maintaining the freedom to deliver the Christian message in our schools.



Training day!

In November we had a great training day looking at games, applications and faith development. Good news! We will be holding another session on the **12th March** so why not come along and join us between **10-4 at the Medway office.**

We will be looking at story telling, behaviour management and praying with children.



Like a box of frogs...

I found a photo the other day of my boys catching frogs. Our neighbour had installed a new pond and the local frogs seemed to make a b-line for it via our garden. My boys were concerned that the frogs would get lost and were delighted in trying to catch the frogs and putting them in a bucket, so that they could take them to the pond on the other side of the fence. The trouble was that as soon as they got one in the bucket another would jump out, or be scrambling up the side!

I was reminded of this lately when at one of my Kingsquads. I felt rather discouraged as getting the children on the mat and quiet enough to give them some information is like trying to keep frogs in a box!

Jesus might not have spoken much about frogs in his ministry but in Mark 6 v 34 it says "When Jesus.... saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things."

Nowadays, some children seem harassed and directionless, or just plain restless and jumpy. We know this is due to a number of factors within our society, especially with so much family breakdown, but we must not lose heart.

One thing my boys found was that even frogs, when pointed in the right direction, find water; and Jesus knew that sheep happily follow the shepherd to find rest and food.

So whether you have a box of frogs, or a flock of lambs in your Kingsquad, be encouraged! Continue loving them, guiding them, serving them and pointing them in the right direction... lead them to the Good Shepherd who can provide all they need.

Jude Johnson



Children's Christmas drop in.

During the last week before Christmas we joined with Graham and Chrissie from the Church Army, Richard Read from St. Lukes and other local churches to host a drop in centre at the URC in Maidstone town centre.

We invited parents to leave their children with us, whilst they headed to the shops for that last minute Christmas shopping we all find ourselves doing! We had lots of fun and were pleased to be able to hold this event despite the weather conditions! It was a great way to demonstrate the love of God in the community!



Ringlestone Family Service

On the 5th December Faith and Jude led a Family Service at the Ringlestone Hall as part of St. Faith's on going work in this area. It was a great opportunity to meet people especially as this is where Faith is now living.

Fun was had by all as they explored Christmas with crackers, party poppers, singing, dance, dressing up and lots more!



During our Christmas assembly we gave out 144 Nativity figures, schools used these in many creative ways. A huge thank you to Silent lights for donating these and helping us to reach the children with the message of Jesus this Christmas!



Dear Family Trust,

On behalf of us all at Boughton Monchelsea Primary School, I would like to say a big Thankyou to you for donating the superb nativity figures this year....



Working at The Family Trust

I have been at The Family Trust since September, what a time it's been. I am four months in and already part of the team, doing assemblies and Kingsquads and lessons, but most importantly making tea. I decided to work with The Family Trust for a year to gain experience working with children, hoping to become a children's worker or similar.

On the theory side, I am studying a 'Leading Children' course with St John's Theological College. This is to gain knowledge and a greater understanding about children and how God influences their lives. Also to learn more about the way in which children respond to Christian teachings, and so I can learn from the children as they are so inspired by God and show honesty in their faith.

Working with children is important as they are the children of today and the future so it is vital that we share God's love with them. This is so that they know what God has done for them and learn the benefits of having God's grace. That's why I'm doing this kind of work, its fun and rewarding to see what God can do through me in the children's lives. Kingsquads are a great way to get children excited about God and build relationships!

What I like most about working with The Family Trust is the support from each member of the team. Everyone is there for each other, jumping in at the last minute if someone can't make it, looking out for one another and praying. It's a great charity to work for and I am definitely looking forward to doing Chequer Tree Camp again this year, doing my first lesson and even more assemblies and the good old Kingsquads. Its going to be a great year... let it begin!

Michelle Leale

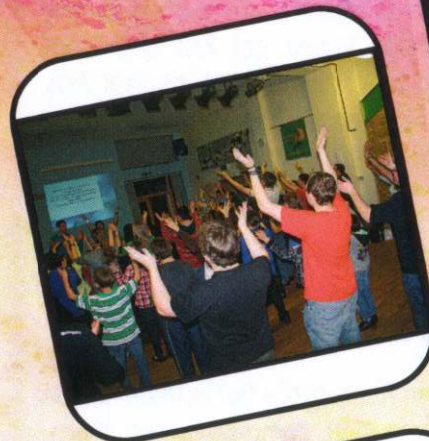
"Oh no! I'm going to have to wait four years until I can come back to ChequerTree."

This is the cry often heard from Year 7 Campers as they contemplate the barren years between camping and leading. But no longer! History Makers is here – well not here, but in West Sussex at Dalesdown Centre, where Children Worldwide run camps.

History Makers is for Years 7-10 and we will be promoting it as a similar camp to Chequer Tree. The site has many features similar to Marlborough House, including dormitory sleeping, sports field and hall, leaders wandering round in a daze after lack of sleep, etc. We intend to take, rather than send, the young people to camp, so there will be familiar faces from Chequer Tree going with any campers that go from Medway or Maidstone.

Check it out at

www.dalesdowncamps.co.uk/cw-camps/history-makers



As the doors opened and the kids came flooding in, all the leaders were taken back to Chequer Tree camp in the summer. The reunion is a great way to remind the kids and the leaders how much fun and how educational Chequer Tree is! We played lots of games, enjoyed worship and actions and great food! Then we moved on to craft and more exciting games, before a video reminding us of some of the highlights of last year and what we have to look forward to the next year!! Until next summer, over and out.

Your very own
Chilli Pepper

