

## ODYSSEY 2

*Passionate for Christ*

*Embracing God's World*



*Photos: Scenes from adult and children's activities  
during Odyssey 2001*

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The Ministry and Adult Learning Team (MALT) works with the Ministry and Adult Learning Council (MALC) of the Diocesan Board of Education and Training. MALT has three officers:

**Les Oglesby:** Coordinator and Adult Education Officer (01353 652713)

**Vacant:** Continuing Ministerial Education (01353 652724)

**Julia Jones:** Reader Ministry Development Officer (01353 652714)

## Encounters with Jesus

Mary and Elizabeth – a crippled woman – a very rich young man – ‘Legion’  
– Peter at Caesarea Philippi

### A Diocesan Bible Study course for Lent, 2003

#### BOOKLET ORDER FORM

**Encounters with Jesus** will be published in booklet form which has been designed to be used by all those attending study groups. Please use this form to order further copies - £1 each, or £10 for twelve.

Please supply ..... copies of **Encounters with Jesus** to

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

.....

**Tel:** .....

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to ‘**Ely Diocesan Board of Education and Training**’

**Deadline for orders 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2003**

Please return this form to: Revd Les Oglesby, Diocesan Office, Barton Road, Ely, CB7 4DX

## Encounters with Jesus

Mary and Elizabeth – a crippled woman – a very rich young man – ‘Legion’  
– Peter at Caesarea Philippi

### A Diocesan Bible Study course for Lent, 2003

#### TRAINING EVENT BOOKING FORM

There will be training for those leading local groups using **Encounters with Jesus**, from 7.30 to 9.30pm on four dates in February, 2003. Please book in for the session you would like to attend:

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at Bar Hill Church, near Cambridge.....

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February at the Cathedral Centre, Ely .....

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Church Meeting Room  
Stilton, near Peterborough .....

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February at Upper Room,  
St Peter’s Church Hall, Wisbech .....

Names of those attending:

Contact address and telephone number:

**Deadline for booking 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2003**

Please return this form to: Revd Les Oglesby, Diocesan Office, Barton Road, Ely, CB7 4DX

# Pre-Retirement Conference

For those who could be retiring within the next five years

**St Gabriel's Conference Centre, Ditchingham**

From 11am on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> to 4pm on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2003

A conference designed for clergy and partners to reflect on the possibilities and hopes and opportunities that will face them in retirement, as well as understanding the process of transition from the parish.

The conference will include:

- \* discussions about the questions of rights and obligations of priests in retirement
- \* the hopes, fears and dreams people might be entertaining and the need to share those with partners if married
- \* discussion and reflection on change and transition
- \* one practical session of sharing wisdom and input on housing and finance

## Conference Leaders

The conference will be led by recently retired Michael Handley and Canon Anthony Lathe, assisted by Christine Handley and the Norwich Diocesan Director of CME, Canon John Aves

## Cost

The charge will be £50 per applicant.

For clergy in the Ely Diocese - the cost of this Conference may be borne from your CME grant

## Philosophy of Religion Lectures

at Ely Cathedral Centre - **Spring Term 2003**

This series of lectures is designed to support an Advanced Level Philosophy of Religion Course.

They are also open to any who are interested in others' beliefs and who are willing to join in the eternal search for truth and meaning. They run from 4pm to 5.30pm on the Wednesdays set out below. Please contact Mrs Jan Munt on 01353 659668 for further information.

15<sup>th</sup> Jan **Arguments for the Existence of God** Canon John Inge, Vice Dean, Ely Cathedral

29<sup>th</sup> Jan **Arguments against the Existence of God** Mr Thomas Arrand, RS Teacher, King's School, Ely

12<sup>th</sup> Feb **Problem of Evil and Suffering** Canon Peter Sills, Residentiary Canon, Ely Cathedral

26<sup>th</sup> Feb **The Debate about Miracles** Revd Andrew Richard, Chaplain, King's School, Ely

12<sup>th</sup> March **Beliefs about Life after Death** Revd Les Oglesby, Diocesan Coordinator for Adult Learning

26<sup>th</sup> March **Religious Language** Mrs Jan Munt, Cathedral Education Officer

## ODYSSEY 2

April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2003 Caister on Sea


**Have you made your booking for this highly important event in the diocesan year?**


 Speakers include:


**Stephen Cottrell**. Peterborough Cathedral, one of the *Emmaus* authors

**Rose Hudson Wilkin, Nerissa Jones** and **Prema Christian**, whose ministries span the multi-cultural world of the inner city and mission in rural contexts in Britain and the Indian sub-continent

**Garth Hewitt**, with experience of world church involvement in development issues and in the renewal of spirituality and worship

 There will be both a **youth programme** – including the **Escapologist** and the **Fly Basket Ball Team** – and a **children's programme**, as well as **bible studies** and other activities.

 The **Interactive World Fair** will give you lots of ideas to take back to the parishes about the many different organisations helping solve some of the world's problems.

 Above all, this is a **family event**, with activities for the whole family.

**Get a booking form from your PCC secretary NOW, and send it to Hilary Lavis at the diocesan Office.**

Schools Plus pages are written by Dr Shirley Hall, Schools RE Adviser who can be contacted on 01353 652712

## Would you like a Visitor from India?

As I write this, the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council is planning to bring over three visitors from our link diocese of Vellore (South India) to Cambridgeshire. It is intended that the visit will begin in the first few days of April and last approximately eight weeks. *It has been particularly requested that one of these three visitors should be a teacher with primary school experience.* We shall be putting a timetable together for



our visiting colleague, which will obviously include visits to some of the primary schools in Ely Diocese. It is hoped that on some of these occasions our guest will be leading teaching sessions on life in the Diocese of Vellore, but it is also very important that they are given ample time to see schools at work, to talk with other educational professionals on issues of mutual interest, and experience the English system.

We are therefore looking for schools who are interested in a visit from an Indian teacher, but also for perhaps one particular school who would host the visitor for a week (including providing hospitality with one of the families of the school, or one of the staff) and give them a real opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of that school.

If any of these ideas and opportunities interest you, then please contact Shirley ASAP to begin discussing possibilities.

☎ 01353 652712  
✉ shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org

## Eco Schools<sup>®</sup> Update – November 2002

A letter from : **Revd Nigel Tuffnell**  
Environmental Advisor to the Bishop of Ely

*This term many more of you have been finding out just how exciting an opportunity the Eco Schools programme is.*

*I have been out visiting church schools this term to offer encouragement, advice and support to those of you who are getting things started.*

*It has been a real encouragement to me to meet or talk on the phone to so many enthusiastic people. The new year looks like being a very busy one.*

*I know that some church schools have been working as an Eco School for some time. I have been trying to visit these schools to find out what they have been doing; what worked and what didn't, so that I can offer more effective advice and*



*support to those schools and to other schools that are not so far down the Eco Schools road. Visiting Eco Schools has encouraged me about just how much our schools can achieve. I will continue to offer as much advice and support as I can to new, prospective and established Eco Schools. If your school has adopted the Eco Schools programme or is considering it please let me know. If you want I can offer help, advice and share contacts and ideas. If you don't want to see me it is still good to know who is out there.*

*Every blessing,*

### Nigel

The Vicarage, Low Road, Wretton, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE33 9QN.

☎ 01366 501075

✉ nigel.tuffnell@ely.anglican.org

# New Resource Boxes now available!

## Eco Boxes

To support the Church Schools Eco Initiative there are now **three** Eco Boxes available on loan from the Diocesan Resources Centre. These boxes contain a wealth of materials to support Eco Education including:

- ✚ Packs of suggestions for outdoor learning activities
- ✚ Practical advice on looking after your environment
- ✚ RE and collective worship materials on the natural world for all six faiths covered by the county Agreed Syllabus
- ✚ An Earthwalks pack
- ✚ Stethoscopes
- ✚ Colour matching kits
- ✚ Bug viewers
- ✚ Storybooks for KS1 & KS2

## And Jewish Artefacts for KS1

As many schools select Judaism as the faith to cover in most detail after Christianity at KS1, we have put together a special box of Jewish materials for younger children. The box contains the types of toys which could be used by young Jewish children as they learn about their faith, such as a soft toy synagogue, a wooden Shabbat set and a rabbi doll. The pack is particularly suitable if you are undertaking a topic on "The Jewish Family" and of course has the added advantage that all the materials can be handled without fear of breakage or of inadvertently causing offence.

The boxes are available on loan for half a term at a time (although this may be extended to a whole term if the materials do not happen to have been requested by another school). Contact Ros on ☎ 01353 652725 to book them out.

As well as the boxes mentioned above, the Resources Centre also has available a varied collection of artefacts boxes to support work on Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam.

## Spring Term RE Liaison Groups

### A MUST for Foundation Stage Teachers

Penny Kite, the new Keswick Hall Project Officer, is an Early Years and Key Stage One specialist. She has put together an exciting pack of materials specifically for teaching RE at the Foundation Stage in Cambridgeshire. The pack is a complete programme of detailed examples of tried and tested topics, many of them linked with books and resources that will already be found in the Key Stage One

classroom. We strongly recommend that not only RE co-ordinators, but also Foundation Stage teachers, should attend one of the RE Liaison Group meetings this term. All meetings are free, and those who attend will receive a free pack of Penny's materials to trial.

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January*  
Maple Grove Infants School, **March**
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January*  
**Wormegay** School, West Norfolk
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January*  
**Barrington** School
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February*  
St Luke's School, **Cambridge**
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February*  
St Peter's Junior School, **Wisbech**
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March* – **Farcet** School
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March* – Diocesan Office, **Ely**
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March*  
**Great Paxton** School
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April* – **Linton** Infants School

## So what do you think of the Website?

We were delighted to hear last term that our Diocesan Schools website had featured as one of the "guest sites" on the excellent national RE exchange site [www.theresite.org.uk](http://www.theresite.org.uk) but this is no time for us to rest on our laurels!



Now that (we hope!) we are past our initial teething troubles we need to know what you think of the site and how it can be improved. If you are a regular web-user, whether or not you regularly use our site, please do spend some time to go to [www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools.html](http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools.html) and see what you think.

### What we would like to know is:

- 🌐 What do you use the Diocese of Ely website for and how often do you access it?
- 🌐 What would make you want to use the site?
- 🌐 What are your comments on the current content of the Diocesan Schools site?
- 🌐 What kinds of materials would you like to see there in future?
- 🌐 What are your opinions of the design and layout?

All comments are welcome! Responses to ✉ [shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org](mailto:shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org)

## Governor Training Opportunities

There are three sessions specifically for Church School Governors being offered as part of the Cambridgeshire Support and Development Programme this term:

- \* **Cath Conlon** will lead two sessions on **buildings management for Voluntary Aided schools** on **22<sup>nd</sup> January** at St Mary's School, St Neots (Course FVA5) and on **3<sup>rd</sup> April** at All Saints School, March (Course FVA6). The evening will cover repairs, small capital works, extensions, Asset Management Plans and form filling.
- \* **Canon Tim Elbourne** will be leading a session on "Governing at a Church of England School" at St Mary's Junior School, Ely on **10<sup>th</sup> March** (Course CE9). This is a general introductory course which is especially helpful for governors who are new to the church school system.

Places on all three courses should be booked through the Cambridgeshire system either by calling ☎ 01223 717288 or by ✉ [governor.training@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:governor.training@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Governors from Peterborough and Norfolk will also be most welcome to join in with these events, but please book through the Diocesan Board of Education & Training by contacting Sarah Sheffield on ☎ 01353 652724.

### All courses last from 7pm– 9pm

In the Summer Term there will also be the opportunity to sign up for courses on **Church School Ethos** (especially helpful for those anticipating an OFSTED and Section 23 Inspection in the near future). These will take place at St Luke's School, Cambridge on **13<sup>th</sup> May** (Course DIN5) and St Peter's Junior School, Wisbech on **16<sup>th</sup> June** (Course DIN6).

## Materials for Education Sunday

Education Sunday falls on the ninth Sunday before Easter, this year it is the Sunday at the beginning of half term week – **16<sup>th</sup> February**.

For 2003 the theme of Education Sunday is "Teaching is for Life" and it is a particular celebration of the vocation to teach. Materials will be distributed to all churches on this theme, but you can already find a downloadable copy of the leaflet on the National Society website at [www.natsoc.org.uk](http://www.natsoc.org.uk) As well as suggestions for materials to be used at the Sunday service, it includes ideas for how churches can support teachers in their congregations, whether these work in statutory or voluntary education. We would recommend that schools and

churches seriously consider discussing these materials together.

For copies of our own Diocesan leaflet of 55 practical ways in which parishes and schools can work together, contact Sarah on ☎ 01353 652724, or go direct to the Ely website at [www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools.html](http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools.html)

## Make a note now!

13<sup>th</sup> June 2003  
**Church Schools  
 Headteachers'  
 Conference at Ely.**

## Another Diary Date

- \* **24<sup>th</sup> February** will see the **launch of the revised Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus**. If any schools would like help in reviewing their RE teaching and provision in the light of the new documentation then please contact Shirley on ☎ 01353 652712.

## Masters Level Course

on "**Leading RE**" on offer from University of East Anglia

This Masters Level course consists of 60 hours contact time over several whole day INSETs and one weekend, at a variety of venues, mainly in Norfolk. You may also choose to attend individual INSET sessions as appropriate to your needs. It is suitable for both primary and secondary school teachers.

### Subjects on offer are:

- 29<sup>th</sup> April** – Promoting RE
- 6<sup>th</sup> May** – Effective Frameworks for RE
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May** – Study weekend in Birmingham
- 15<sup>th</sup> May** – RE, the Wider Curriculum, and Religion in Society
- 21<sup>st</sup> May** – Resourcing RE
- 5<sup>th</sup> June** – Mentoring RE
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Research and Development in RE

For more details contact the Keswick Hall RE Centre on ☎ 01603 592632



Working with Children pages are written by Gill Ambrose who can be contacted at the Diocesan Office or at home on 01223 511717

Godly Play



News

## Child Protection Training for Clergy

The next one-day Godly Play Study Day will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2003 10am-4pm in The Godly Play Classroom at Trumpington Vicarage. Cost to be £20 single person, £15 each for more than one person from a single institution.

This includes lunch, coffee and course handouts. For more details ring Ros in the Resources Centre ☎ 01353 652725 or ✉ resources.centre@ely.anglican.org



The Godly Play Room

We were thrilled that Jerome Berryman, who has developed the Godly Play material and way of working over the last thirty years in the US, visited our Room for three days early in November to take part in a training session for Godly Play trainers. Thirteen people, mostly diocesan children's work advisers, from all over England took part in this session. We are now able to report that almost 400 people have attended some sort of training event in the room since it opened in September 2001.

Our February course will include someone from Germany, and Gill visited our link Church of the North Elbe in September 2002 to run a Godly Play session with a group of about 30 church kindergarten teachers and children's workers. She was accompanied by Joy Saunders, a member of the Board of Education and Training, who acted as translator. We were both interested to discover how well the process works in translation.

There is more information about Godly Play to be found at [www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk).

*The Complete Guide to Godly Play* is now in the course of publication. This will consist of an introductory handbook and, in the first instance, 3 manuals, each containing the text of 14 stories. These replace the spiral bound books and represent a significant development on the material to be found in *Young Children and Worship* (the orange book!) Volumes 1 and 2 are now available.

*The complete guide to Godly Play - Volume 1 How to lead Godly Play Lessons* 1-889108-95-2

*The complete guide to Godly Play - Volume 2 14 Presentations for Fall* 1-889108-96-0

Both by Jerome Berryman and published by Living the Good News, Denver, Colorado.

The last of the series of 3 child protection training sessions, to introduce details of the procedures to access information from the Criminal Records Bureau, will be on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January beginning at 5.30 with sandwiches and ending at 9pm at**

**All Saints Inter-church School, March.**

If you have missed the two previous opportunities, there is still time to book for this session. Ring Ros on ☎ 01353 652725.

## ODYSSEY 2

Passionate for Christ  
Embracing God's World

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April Haven Holiday Park  
Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk

The second Odyssey event, a weekend event for people of all ages from the diocese, will soon be upon us. **There will be a special programme for children, and for young people, and these will include the use of Haven's fine range of recreational facilities, including an indoor swimming pool with flumes and soft play areas.** Saturday afternoon will feature an interactive fair and on Saturday evening we shall be entertained by Pete McCahon, an illusionist and escapologist and by the singer Garth Hewitt. **The weekend is designed to be inclusive of families and there is a special rate for children and families.**

Look out for posters and fliers or contact the Diocesan Office for more details ☎ 01353 652701 and ✉ bsr@ely.anglican.org

## Building a Better World Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2003

This is advance notice about an event which will take place somewhere in Peterborough, to be shared between Christian Aid and the Ely diocese and Peterborough diocese children's work teams. It will be a fun day to help children explore issues of Development and Justice and take these back to share with other people in their churches during Advent and leading up to Christmas. There will be an accompanying work pack with lots of resources. Look out for more about this and book the date now.

Working with Children

7

# Working with Children

8



## Easy to Say, Easy to Play

by Vicki Howie BRF  
£9.99

If you have children just learning to play piano or recorder, or who just like to sing,

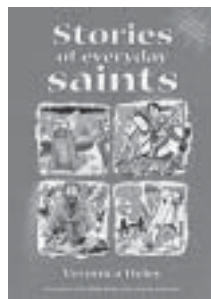
this book contains sixteen songs for three bible stories, Creation with planets that rock and roll, Noah whose animals hoot and honk as they enter the ark, and a singing and hiccupping whale to swallow Jonah. There are musical tips, reminders and activities to help the teaching. This book can be used by individuals learning to play or by schools for assemblies or concerts. Includes photocopy permission. CD also available which includes backing tracks for performances.



## Stories of Everyday Saints

Veronica Heley  
BRF £8.99

Saints are not perfect people and the forty whose stories are told in this book may not have started out to be perfect. But they listened to God and tried to do what he wants. There are four categories – New Testament Bible, Historical & legendary, Worldwide and more recent contemporary saints (who may not be formerly recognised by the title of Saint but have been used by God to carry out a particular task). Each story has date and description of the saint, bible link, prayer, related activities, symbol and suggested songs to use. Includes photocopy permission.



## Nursery Rhyme Nativities

Brian Ogden  
BRF £7.99

If you work with very young children who cannot read and want them involved in Christmas presentations, this could be the book for you. There are three very different plays which can be performed by groups of any size, each telling the story from a different perspective using well-known nursery rhyme tunes. Innkeepers declare their inns full to the "hokey-cokey" and the angels and shepherds story can be told to the tune of "There's a hole in my bucket", to name just two! Scripts and music scores plus craft ideas are all included, as is photocopy permission.



## The Gospels Unplugged

Lucy Moore BRF £12.99

There are 52 poems and stories to help with creative writing, RE, drama & collective worship. The pieces are taken from all four Gospels and get to the heart of the text, reflecting the life of Jesus in action; who he is, what he said and what he did. There are short introductions of open-ended questions and while some pieces are meant to be performed, others are for quiet enjoyment. Also has photocopy permission.



## Stories to help you pray

Susan Lacy, BRF £5.99

This little book retells 10 gospel stories each followed by a guided prayer journey for children based on the text. The retold stories are quite long, with a good deal of descriptive detail added to the gospel narrative so they are most suitable for use with older children – at least eight and over. Each story is told from the perspective of a child and is set in its historical and social background. This is one of a number of Ignation style approaches to prayer with children which are currently being developed. The book has been carefully road tested in two schools.



## Family Prayers,

by Nick Aiken &  
Rowan Williams  
SPCK £7.99

A beautifully illustrated and very useful collection of prayers for all ages and occasions with a helpful introduction and imaginative but very simple suggestions for occasions when families might offer prayer together.



## A Child's First Book of Prayers

Lois Rock and Alison Jay, Lion £5.99

This is another useful book, though not very aptly titled I'm afraid. There are lovely ideas here and this would make a beautiful first communion present for example. But some of the ideas and language are quite complicated and it is certainly not a book for tiny children.



**Out of the Shadows**, Steps towards ending violence – a community based approach  
Published by the Mother's Union £5 from Ely MU office

This multicultural and international resource is a truly wonderful and imaginative gift to the whole church from the MU. Trish Heywood, the Worldwide President says 'this pack is a magnificent resource for those of us wishing to identify violence around us and to come to terms with our own feelings, so that we can begin to work towards ending violence. It is by joining together to break the silence that individuals can begin to overcome violence...at every level of society and in every corner of the world.'

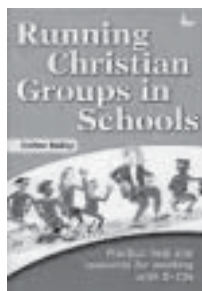
Those concerned about children and families caught up in domestic violence will find here a really helpful resource to work with.

**Running Christian Groups**

**in Schools:** *Practical help and resources for working with 5-12s*

Esther Bailey

Scripture Union £8.99



40 outline sessions as well as chapters of basic practical issues. A worthwhile investment for the growing number of after school Christian clubs and for those who are considering this development.

**Multi-Sensory Church**

Sue Wallace,

Scripture Union £7.99



Following the immensely valuable book, Multi-Sensory Prayer, this book was published in August last year. It will resource many worship contexts, particularly those where all ages are present. If you haven't seen it yet, go out and look for it.

**Tiddlywinks** – a series of flexible resources for those caring for and working with pre-school children. All published by Scripture Union



This is a new series of 6 varied books. *Glitter and Glue, Pray and Play* – both books of craft ideas. *The Big Red Book* and *The Big Blue Book*, both with outlines of sessions for pre-school groups, and *The Little Red Book* and *The*

*Little Blue Book*, (£2.99) each with 50 bible stories for parents to read to small children at home. The little books are also available in packs of 10 at £19.

**Seaside Rock** – this year's SU holiday club resource by Dave Godfrey.

With a guide book and CD (£9.99), Video (£19.99) and postcards support material. Or you can get the whole thing in a box for £39.99.

SU has huge experience of producing holiday club resources and this is most recent in a long series. If you are planning a holiday club this summer, you just have time to rush out and get this!

## Youth Work News

### Signpost International

is a local Christian charity with its Head Office situated in St Ives in Cambridgeshire.

The charity exists to share the gospel in word and action with children and families at risk around the world. Signpost is featured on the



diocesan 'youth' website and will have a Stand at the World Fair at 'Odyssey 2'.

Signpost currently works in 5 countries around the world including Uganda, Rwanda, Russia, Brazil, and The Philippines carrying out various relief and development projects. In partnership with local Churches Signpost is reaching some of the poorest communities in the world. It has Child Sponsorship, Street Children and House Building Programmes in their partnering countries and provide the bare essentials for some of the poorest families in the world. They believe that it is imperative that the hungry are fed, the poor are clothed, the homeless are homed and the barest essentials such as clean water, waterproof shelter, basic education and health care, and even enough food to eat are provided for.

This is real Christian youth work in some of the poorest and neediest areas of the world. David Knight who worships at St James' Church in Hemingford Grey since January has started working for Signpost International full time – leading and administrating the work of short term and gap year opportunities. This year he has spent 5 months in the Philippines leading teams and is currently recruiting for next year. The following article was written by him.

**“Acts 1:8 – ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and**

**in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'**

This verse has really been on my heart as this year's teams have been happening. After going out to the Philippines with the first Going Global team for 4 months I really started to discover how big, faithful, dynamic, gracious and able God is. I must say that I have been guilty of putting God in his box and not letting him be the amazing God he wants to be.

We all know that Jesus' tells us to "go and make disciples of all nations..." but I'd always glossed over the last bit which says, which promises "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28 - NIV)

When people come on Signpost teams they are called and commissioned by God to go to the ends of the earth and share the gospel, to be a witness of God's amazing work. Going with a promise that God is always with them - and that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to witness.

Through people's act of faith to go for God, to sleep on a bamboo floor, to use a hole in the ground for a toilet, to hold and play with a Street Child, to be eaten by insects, to sacrifice all that's known and step out into unknown situations and circumstances and let God reveal himself, God has changed the lives of many in a powerful way.

When I preached for the first time about 4 years ago, I was in the Philippines and 16 years old. Kerry Dixon was the team leader and he gave me opportunity to preach at a Sunday Church service. Being quite confident I immediately said "Yeah, no probs" (Kerry Dixon eat your heart out attitude). But the time came when I had to sit down and think what I was going to say. I prayed and had an idea. I was going to preach on being refreshed by the Holy Spirit. I thought that I really ought to have a Bible verse in my talk, but I didn't know the Bible very well and I didn't know where to start.

So I confided in my team leader and asked if he could give me a verse. He gave me a verse and some pointers on preaching: get up there, pray, read your bible verse and then go for it.

When Sunday came the nerves started to kick in. We arrived at this small Church of maybe 50 people with an old Karaoke machine for a sound system. The worship was fantastic but of course I didn't appreciate any of it because I was so nervous trying to remember whether I prayed first or read the Bible verse.

My time came, I was introduced in true Filipino style and I stood at the front facing the congregation. Nervously I sorted my notes and then picked up my Bible to find the verse but my piece of paper marking the place had disappeared. In the silence I was panicking "what am I going to say?". I forgot the verse,

forgot to pray, went for it and didn't make much sense (those of you who were there will know), and led the time into a ministry opportunity.

People responded and were prayed for; people were really touched by God. In that situation I had to admit that it was God who spoke, not me 'cos I fluffed it'. It was a display of what God is able to do through a step of faith to preach. True, I didn't make much sense but God is bigger and through my faith he was able to use me and speak to the hearts of others.

This year the table was turned. I was the one giving opportunity, to a very confident 15 year old lad, to preach at a big crusade, to give an opportunity for people to receive Christ. The crusade was in the middle of a shanty town on a beach. We sang songs, performed dramas, and gave out fliers to draw in the crowd and then it was time for him to preach.

Just before he was to preach I approached the lad and said "How you feeling?". Confidently, he said "fine...no probs".

Trying to do a bit of pastoral care I prayed for him finishing I asked "Have you got your notes?" to which he replied very confidently "No, I don't need them". I was lost for words, "what do you mean you don't have notes this is the first time you've preached... I want to see Essays!!!" I was shouting inside so I left him and paced the area very hard thinking this



*Helen and Katey with Street Kids*

experience could go terribly wrong for this lad and it could really upset him or it could go really well and encourage him amazingly in his faith. He got up and preached like a professional and about 100 people came forward to receive Christ...I was once again lost for words.

Someone once said to me "don't underestimate what God can do through you because you are then underestimating God". This really came back to me that evening, God is "able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20 - NIV). If God has called, commissioned and given the Holy Spirit to those who step out in faith to go for God then who am I to doubt anyone's ability to preach or work with street children, lead

worship or lead a school assembly.

A final thought. I love the way God does call us to do amazing and bizarre things. I was speaking to some past team members the other day and they said that when they were fund raising to come on a team, people were really challenged by the fact that team members had to pay money, give up time and energy and the comforts of a wealthy country to serve some of the poorest communities in the world – it didn't make sense.

But God is an amazing God and it is great testimony to God's heart for the poor and lost. If God is always with us when we're obedient and go to the ends of the earth, he provides the means to make it possible. All things are possible through people's steps of faith to let God be with them and work through them. Be encouraged, God can use you to do amazing things.

*David Knight*

*Signpost International Teams Manager*

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**Receiving Applications for *Going Global 2003***  
– Starting January 20<sup>th</sup> & *Summer Teams 2003* –  
Going the end of July

Many people have been on Signpost "*Going Global*" and "*Summer Teams*" over the years and have found them a life changing and challenging experience, and I hope that you will be participating as part of a team in the near future.

"*Summer Teams*" happen usually in the first 3 weeks of the England school summer holidays so people as young as 15 can have the opportunity. In 2003 we will be sending 2 teams, one to the Philippines and one to Rwanda. Each team usually consists of about 15 people of a wide range of ages. The teams have opportunities to get involved with Street Children, Evangelism, Church Services, House Building, Youth work and much) more giving a wide range of mission experience.

"*Going Global*" is a gap-year programme which happens every year starting mid January



*Filipino Street kids*

to mid July and includes all the aspects of a Summer Team and more. It is a 6 month mission focused discipleship programme which gives young Christians opportunity to deepen their faith by doing amazing things for God.

The programme starts with a month of training which includes teaching sessions on culture, ethics, and key Christian subjects with practical sessions on preaching, drama, giving testimony, and evangelism. This is a time to prepare the teams for 4 months mission work overseas. While overseas they will have many opportunities to Preach, work with Street Children, Build Houses, set up Relief Projects, live within Shanty Towns, and much more.

Upon return from overseas team members will have a week's holiday and return for a Debrief Week and 2 weeks of mission in the UK, ending with a graduation service.

If you feel that a place on one of the teams mentioned above would suit you – or a young person from your church - then contact me on the details below for more information and an application form.

✉ david@signpost-international.org

For more information on the work of Signpost International and how you can support its work use the contact details below.

✉ enquiries@signpost-international.org

☎ 01480 380074

**Address:** Chapel House, Chapel Lane, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 5DX

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### **Scargill programme (for young people)** **EVENTS 2003**

**"Out of the Bunker" Weekend:** 14-16 Feb

Unwaged/students £43 Waged £60

A chance to bring our faith and human passion to some of the key issues of our age - the environment, postmodernism, identity .. and more. Especially suitable for older teenagers and young adults.

**"Rough Magic Theatre" W/E:** 7 - 9 Mar

Unwaged/students 43 Waged £68

Rough Magic- a Theatre Company from Leeds invites you on a collaborative adventure, exploring what Christian peace making is all about. Open to all teenagers. Enthusiasm for puppetry and drama essential!

**"Walking with Dinosaurs" W/E:** 11 - 13 April

Unwaged/students £43 Waged £60

A weekend for you to ask searching questions of the church and your place within it. For all who are frustrated by what's on offer.

**"Reality Bites" (and sometimes it hurts!)**

Mon-Fri: 21 - 25 July

Unwaged/students £95 Waged £105

Situated in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales we take a creative look at what it means to follow Christ in the valleys as well as on the mountain tops. An interactive week to be challenged to live for God 24/7. (Ages 14 and over)

For information about these and other courses, and booking details, contact Scargill House.

☎ 01756 760234

✉ bookings@scargillhouse.co.uk

🌐 <http://www.scargillhouse.co.uk>

**The Resources Centre is** based at the Diocesan Office, Bishop Woodford House, Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DX . ☎ 01353 652725 ✉ Resources.Centre@ely.anglican.org



**Open: Monday – Friday 9am–5pm.**

### Extended Opening Hours

The Resources Centre open until 7pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month. We hope this will benefit those working during the day. Please come and browse. Don't forget that apart from the extensive range of books to help with planning worship, children's and youth work, research etc, there are videos, drama and a few musical scores, parachutes, giant puppets and a set of plain MASKS with different expressions which have many applications. There will also be sets of GODLY PLAY materials, and we are adding to the collection all the time. **DO COME AND LOOK or give us a call to check if we have exactly what you want on 01353 652725.** If you are travelling a long distance it is advisable to telephone first to check that the Centre is open.

### WHAT'S ON

13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Child Protection Training (Clergy)	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Philosophy of Religion Lectures
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Philosophy of Religion Lectures	5 <sup>th</sup> March	RE Liaison Group
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	RE Liaison Group	10 <sup>th</sup> March	Governing at a C of E School
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Buildings Management for VA Schools	12 <sup>th</sup> March	Philosophy of Religion Lectures
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	RE Liaison Group	12 <sup>th</sup> March	RE Liaison Group
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Philosophy of Religion Lectures	26 <sup>th</sup> March	Philosophy of Religion Lectures
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Godly Play Study Day	26 <sup>th</sup> March	RE Liaison Group
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Encounters with Jesus Training	1 <sup>st</sup> April	RE Liaison Group
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	RE Liaison Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Buildings Management for VA Schools
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Encounters with Jesus Training	4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Odyssey 2
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	RE Liaison Group	13 <sup>th</sup> May	Church School Ethos
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Philosophy of Religion Lectures	13 <sup>th</sup> June	Church Schools Headteachers' Conference
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Encounters with Jesus Training	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Governor Training - Ethos
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Education Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Building a Better World
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Launch of revised Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus		

### Board of Education & Training Officers

All the officers may be contacted at the Diocesan Office in Ely or their home telephones

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