

Otley Christian Resources Hub CIO

Supporting Ministry to Children & Young People Charity number 1169443

April 2021

Dear friends,

We hope you all had a lovely Easter and found creative and fulfilling ways to celebrate. The past few weeks have been a source of great encouragement at the Hub , we particularly enjoyed helping churches to run “What’s the Story about Easter? “online and the project reached over 900 children across 12 schools which is amazing! Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the project a success .

We are looking forward to a positive Summer term! We have several online events happening , (see below and page 2 for booking details) and now that restrictions are beginning to ease Mandy will be back in the office on Tuesdays throughout April and May. The building will remain closed to visitors but we can resume lending resources on an appointment only basis (see page 3 for some great resource ideas) and don’t forget Mandy is very happy to advise on resources via email , zoom or over the phone so please get in touch if you need any help or inspiration. We are working towards opening the building more fully in the Summer so please pray for us as we think through our next steps.

Finally, a reminder that we held our AGM in March and if you haven't received a copy of our Annual Report please get in touch and we will send one out.

With warm wishes for a great Summer, *the Staff and Trustees at OCRH.*



Open the Book News

Planning Ahead Meeting Tuesday 22nd June at 10 am on Zoom.

It’s still a bit early to know what September will bring but it’s good to plan ahead as much as we can. This meeting is a chance for teams to come together and think through what might need to be in place to ensure a smooth transition back into school. Please come and be involved in discussions as we think about how we offer Open the Book from September onwards.

The Summer Term

Borrowing Props If you are wanting to borrow props for recorded stories or church services please book these in advance with Mandy as soon as you can. At the moment we need to leave 72hrs between props being returned and reborrowed so it really helps to know as far in advance as possible what you will need and when.

Recording Assemblies There is no pressure to offer online OTB if it’s not right for your team but do remember that Mandy can help you record stories on Zoom and edit them for you if you need a bit of help. Please don’t hesitate to ask if this is something you would like to explore.

Godly Play

The Leeds and Bradford network group has been meeting online since May last year and have been surprised at how well Godly Play translates to an online setting. The next meeting is on **Thursday the 15th of April** at 7.30pm . **All Welcome.** Please contact mandy@ocrh.org.uk for the link.

Children's Ministry News

It has been really uplifting to see all the amazing work happening with children, young people and families over the last year . We have engaged with lots of different teams and whilst it has been as important as ever to take account of the individual character and shape of each church there have been some common themes that have emerged .

We wanted to respond to these by offering the following events:

Children's Ministry Network Meeting Monday the 10th of May at 7.30 on Zoom.

This year has been uncharted territory for all of us and many of you have been keen to hear about how other churches are responding. It may be that there are skills, conversations and resources we can share in addition to what is already happening . This network meeting will be an opportunity to facilitate some of those conversations. As restrictions ease it's a good opportunity to start thinking about what we might do next and how our church communities can help each other.

Please contact **mandy@ocrh.org.uk** if you would like to join the meeting.

Reflect and Refresh Sessions Monday 17th May or Thursday 17th June 7.30pm on Zoom.

Amongst all the creativity and hard work another key theme that has come through is the need for time to reflect on (and start to adjust to) the huge changes we have all encountered as children's leaders. In response to that we wanted to offer opportunities for some structured space for anyone working with children and families in church . The sessions will be relaxed , informal and a chance to receive and participate rather than lead. They will focus on time for personal processing and reflection rather than planning your next group or event .Contact **mandy@ocrh.org.uk** to book .

(The Reflect and Refresh sessions are free to members of subscriber churches , if you are not from a subscriber church they are £5, but please contact us if payment is a problem).

Help and Support For Children's Ministry Teams.

Don't forget that Sunday school teams can also access help, support and encouragement for ongoing work. If you would like some time out to think, plan or simply be encouraged, please get in touch and we can arrange an online session.

Summer Book Group

Some of you have asked whether we are going to offer another book group and as the days get warmer it's the perfect opportunity to sit in the sun with a good book. We'd be happy to offer a monthly read along book group in June, July and August and Mandy is currently looking at a couple of options . The dates are to be confirmed but if you would like adding to the list (or would like to suggest a book) please get in touch with **mandy@ocrh.org.uk** .

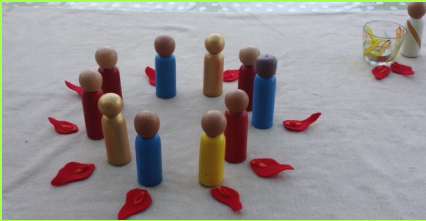


(The book group is free to members of subscriber churches , if you are not from a subscriber church it costs £5 for all 3 sessions but please contact us if payment is a problem).

Resources for the Summer term

The summer term can be a great chance to explore the adventures of the Early church and we have some great storytelling sets that will help you do that, online or in person.

Pentecost and the Early Church Stories

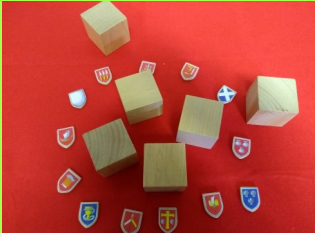


This set of 6 stories explores Pentecost, the story of Stephen, the adventures of Peter and John and the journeys of Paul. Suitable for all ages, they work just as well online as they do in person. OCRH hold the copyright for these so you can use them in pre records too as long as you credit us at the end.



Godly Play

We have Godly Play stories exploring 'Pentecost', 'Paul' and 'Knowing Jesus in a New Way'.



Or if you would like to go in a different direction why not take some time to explore the Parables? There are six to choose from.

Please remember that, due to copyright, you cannot post recordings of Godly Play stories on public platforms without permission, please check the Godly Play UK website for guidance.

Outdoor Church

With good weather on the horizon (hopefully) some churches are thinking about moving outdoors. Here are some good places to look for ideas:

<https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/outdoor-worship>

