

# AUTUMN



Church of Ireland  
Board for Ministry with  
Children & Families

*Farm Fun  
Curriculum*

*Autumnal  
Ideas*

*Light  
Parties*

# WELCOME



Church of Ireland +  
Board for Ministry with  
Children & Families

*Well, I don't know about you but for me, it feels like Autumn started about mid-July this year! It hasn't exactly been a scorching summer in Ireland but looking at the positive it has put me in the mood for warm jumpers and pumpkin-spiced lattes extra early!*

*If you're not quite ready to put away the flip-flops and embrace the wellies just yet, this Newsletter will hopefully help guide you one step closer!*

*We have some ideas to get you in the mood for Autumnal Family Connections, ideas for light parties Halloween alternatives, and some Autumn crafts, not to mention our brand new Farming Faith sessions which are free to download.*

*As we enter this new season we will continue to pray for you and would love to hear what you are up to. Feel free to contact us with any news, questions or events by emailing: [cfm@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:cfm@ireland.anglican.org)*

*Many Blessings.*

*Rachael.*





# CHURCH

*Engaging*



LOCAL SCHOOLS

Online Discussion  
September 14th 7.30pm

Prayer Spaces Ireland  
Carolyn Good  
Play It By Ear

Join Church of Ireland volunteers, clergy & teaching staff from across Ireland as we chat about ideas, discuss challenges and consider opportunities.

Sign Up Here:

<https://bit.ly/3R6xXzY>



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## Autumnal Opportunities

If you are looking for ways to re-engage with families after the summer then here's some ideas for family fun & fellowship.

1. **Leafy Lucky Dip:** Fill a paddling pool with fallen leaves (make sure it's not in an area popular with dogs or cats! 🐾) hide small treats or toys and allow children to take it in turns to find something. Once all treats are gathered use the leaves to play a game of Pictionary where teams have to create the image named on a card using leaves instead of pens & paper.
2. **PJ's & Pancakes.** Invite families to come for a pancake breakfast at the church, provide a range of toppings and have families compete to create the "best dressed pancake" before demolishing them with a nice cup of **pumpkin smoothie**
3. **Orchard Adventures:** Hold an outdoor service at a local orchard followed by a time of family apple picking.
4. **Autumn Trail:** Print and laminate Muddy Church's Autumn trail around your Church yard and encourage families to complete it after Church followed by a yummy hot chocolate or **pumpkin latte!**

## Family Connections



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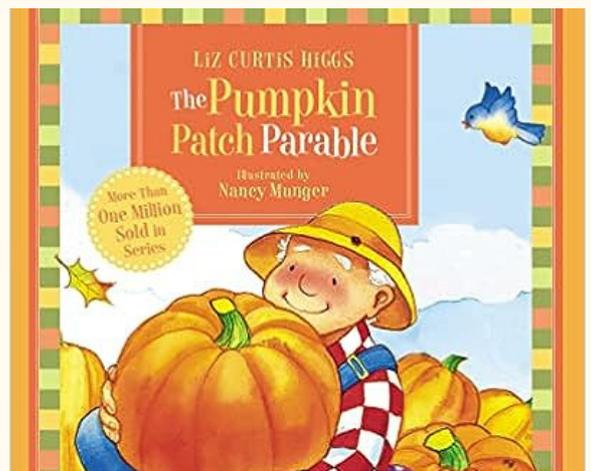


# Light Party!



Whatever your views on Halloween, holding a light party is a great opportunity to reach out to families in your local community. You might be surprised by how many families do not like the ghoulish and horror aspect of the season and so will be only too delighted to take part in alternative options. There are many ideas on Pinterest for light party games and crafts, but here are a few to get you started.

1. **Paper Pumpkin Praises** - following [this easy video](#) children can make paper pumpkins, but with the simple addition of a memory verse written onto the strips. E.g. "perfect love drives out fear" 1 John 4v18 "Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8v12 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Isaiah 60v1
2. **Church Light Parade** - either on foot with lanterns and glow sticks, or in cars/tractors/bikes covered in battery powered fairy lights through your local town, ending with a glowing celebration back at your church.
3. **Light of the world video by Go Chatter** - if you are holding a light party or all age service then this is a great short video to play, showing just what Jesus meant when He said "I am the light of the world". You can download it here: <https://gochattervideos.com/light-party-ideas/>
4. **Parent & Toddler Pumpkin Patch Parable Party** - Grab a copy of the Pumpkin Patch Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs & read is as part of a toddler group party with lots of sensory pumpkin activities to keep little hands and feet active, such as pumpkin boats.




 PAGE 1 THE VOYAGE
 

# HEROES OF FAITH READING PACK









# HEROES OF FAITH & NEW BUDDY APP!

Those of you who are familiar with our Bible Buddy packs will know how useful they are for encouraging children and their parents/carers to read the Bible together.

Over the Summer we launched our latest pack "Heroes of Faith". This pack takes readers through the stories of people in the Bible who were unlikely heroes but when they put their trust in God did amazing things!

**Bible Buddy App**  
 Reading Packs and Care Guide

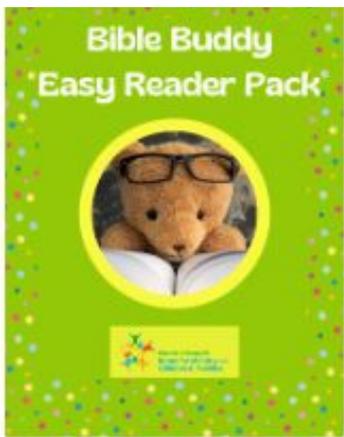


Bible Buddy Reading Pack



Read

Bible Buddy Easy Reader Pack



Read

*To help readers of all levels we have two versions of each pack - one for confident readers and an easy reader version.*

*Even more exciting is our new Bible Buddy App which means you no longer have to print reams of paper for each Child and their Buddy but adults can download the app onto their devices and have all the packs at hand whenever they want!*

*The Christmas and Easter packs will be added closer to each season.*

*To download the Heroes of Faith packs and access the App simply click here:*

<https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/heroes-of-faith/>



## PARENTING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

As some of you may already be aware, The Board for ministry with children and families is delighted to have partnered with the UK organisation KidsMatter, to provide evidence-based parenting programmes across Ireland. With Thanks to Priorities Fund, we can enable 11 parishes (one from each diocese) to access KidsMatter facilitator training and support so that you can run the programme for families in your local community. Whilst all parents need support, the KidsMatter programme has been created specifically to be effective and accessible for families facing disadvantages.

There are two programmes: KidsMatter and BabiesMatter. Each parish taking part in the training can decide which programme best suits their current ministry with local families. The facilitator training will take place online over 4 days and each church will put forward ideally two people to take part. These facilitators will then run the programme at least twice during the following year.

As this is a peer-lead programme those taking part as facilitators do not need to have any previous experience of delivering training, there are no flip charts or PowerPoints in sight! The programme is designed to be accessible to those with limited literacy skills, so it is more conversation and relationship-based rather than "school" style teaching. The programme itself has 6 sessions with a taster session at the start and an additional booster session a month after completion.

With a rise in children under 15 being referred for mental health problems and fast dwindling resources to meet the need, particularly in the area of early intervention and especially for those children raised in financial adversity, it is increasingly vital that we as a Church find ways to support parents and carers in our communities. Through the KidsMatter programme churches will offer both useful parenting tools for families to grab hold of and stay alongside them as they grapple with those tools, offering genuine community and relationship.

Sarah in Mount Merrion Church (Down and Dromore) has completed her facilitator training and is currently running the pilot scheme for us to help encourage future parishes to run the programme. She said KidsMatter has "...impacted the relationships with local families, as I think they recognise that I care for their own well-being and families' well-being and not just providing a weekly tots group for their children. I think this programme is essential for our local community, as it gives an opportunity to build small groups of parents that can help and support one another... The course material is beautifully laid out and evidence-informed which has given me confidence in delivering it."

For further information, you can view the video on our website here:

<https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/kidsmatter/>

Should your parish feel this programme would be of particular benefit, then simply complete the expression of interest form which can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/453QK31>

You can also contact Rachael to talk through any questions you may have: [cfmeireland.anglican.org](https://cfmeireland.anglican.org)





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CONNECT WITH  
US

## FEEL FREE TO CONTACT

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