

Children and Family Ministry Newsletter

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A message from Colette

Tena Koe,

We are called to give our best to the least, the last and the lost; to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and welcome the stranger. How can we create opportunities for children to participate in this?

Chris Webster of Wadestown Parish told me how God moved the children in their Sunday school to demonstrate God's love to those often ignored. Some of the children had noticed a number of people begging in Lambton Quay and they were concerned for them. After a discussion about this one Sunday morning, the children and their leaders got together and made bag lunches then together went to Lambton Quay and gave them to anyone they found begging. I love this story not just as a beautiful example of God's compassion expressed through children but also the willingness of the leaders and parents to listen to God's spirit speaking to, and through, their children.

Last week, I was reading an article on Movement Online that offered a number of ways we can support refugees: movementonline.org.nz/refugee. As I researched further, I discovered **5.6 million families** have been forced to flee from Syria in the last seven years. Many still live in refugee camps in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. How can we as a children and families ministry community help feed, house and welcome refugee families here in New Zealand and those still in camps overseas?



1. We can raise awareness of the needs and the ways each of us can respond.
2. We can contact Patricia Cooper, patricia@wn.aq.org.nz and offer to collect household items or fundraise for refugee families being resettled soon in Wellington and the Manawatu.
3. We can pray for refugee families and we can encourage the children and families we work with to pray for them too.
4. We could encourage families to consider giving up a treat for a month and donating the money they save to support the work of Christian World Service or ChangeMakers Refugee Forum.



God has challenged me to make a difference by taking part in Christian World Service's Operation Refugee, a five-day challenge to live on the same food as that in a refugee emergency food parcel. Check it out here: cwsoperationrefugee2018.everydayhero.com/nz/colette.

The money raised from sponsorship will be used to provide emergency food and clothing, education, medical care and education to Syrians families living in refugee camps.

We can all help raise awareness of the plight of refugees simply by talking about it. June 20th is World Refugee Day. How about planning some activities

around this date? Check out GlobalGiving's website and download some stories and photos of refugee families to discuss with your children and families. Photos are great tools for discussion and prayer. World Vision has a great website about talking to children about the refugee crisis with some simple ideas of how we can help: www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/talking-with-your-kids-about-syrian-refugee-crisis .

I'd love to come and talk with your Sunday school class, kids club, small group, sewing circle ...whoever, about the Syrian refugee crisis, why I am taking part in this challenge and how we can make a difference. Just send me an email and let me know when would be a good time to come.

Ka kite anō arohanui mai

Colette



Whānau together, on mission

TEAM TRAINING DAY
JUNE 2018

movementonline.org.nz/teamtrainingday/

Our next Team Training Day will be held in Palmerston North on the 23rd of June 2018. The event is for all teams and their leaders within the diocese, and will be full of really useful learning and great family fellowship. Go to the website to find information about the day's timetable, some practical information about getting there and parking, and information about the plethora of workshops available.



It's not too late to sign up! Is there anyone from your Parish/Mission unit that you could encourage to attend?

This course is a great opportunity for parishioners who want to engage with families in the church community. They don't necessarily need to be involved in Sunday school or kids' programmes.

Mentors are everyday people trained to be the link between our families and our church community. Mentors connect with parents, listen to what they need to talk about, affirm them and link them to any support they need. A Side by Side Mentor becomes a loving face of the faith community that assures parents they are valued and not alone in their parenting journey.

Training takes place over three Saturdays: June 9th, July 7th and July 28th.

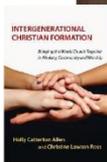
For more information please contact Colette Stevens: colette@wn.ang.org.nz / 04 471 8581.

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

INTENTIONALLY LINKING THE GENERATIONS FOR LIFE AND FAITH

Many churches in NZ are on a journey to understand how the church can help cultivate connections between the generations. These connections are vital for enabling all ages to grow in faith and support each other in life.

Join us for a seminar with world renowned scholar and speaker, Dr Holly Catterton Allen, as she unpacks how being intentional about intergenerational faith formation can be the key to church growth and community impact.



AUCKLAND SEMINAR

Friday 20th July
9.30-12.30pm
Carey Baptist College
473 Great South Rd, Penrose
\$20 p/p

WELLINGTON SEMINAR

Saturday 21st July,
9.30-12.30pm
All Saints Conference Centre
90 Hamilton Road, Hataitai
\$20 p/p

“While each generation maintains its uniqueness and offers different strengths, the heartbeat of God is for one church.”
- Mike Breaux.

#MAKETHELINKNZ

PRESENTED BY: BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NZ, ANGLICAN DIOCESES OF NZ, SUNZ, THE SALVATION ARMY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NZ

Online Children and Family ministry gatherings

Connect with other C&F leaders without having to leave your living room!

Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30pm-9pm

This is an opportunity for anyone passionate about working with children and/or their families – on Sundays or during the week, in a church or community context – who would like to meet together regularly and share what God is doing, encourage one another and pray together.

We will be using ‘zoom’ (an online meeting service) to host our meetings. You will need to sign up and download the free basic package onto a computer/device with a camera and microphone. Just follow this link to do so <https://www.zoom.us/signup> our meeting ID will be: 754-891-0141. If you have any questions about how to do this please feel free to email Colette colette@wn.ang.org.nz and we can make a time to talk it through.

Review your parish’s safety policy

Strandz has put together a fantastic webpage with information on Safety and Child Protection, for anyone ministering with infants, children, youth or vulnerable adults in the Anglican Dioceses of New Zealand. It’s a great safeguarding toolkit to ensure that our churches are a safe place for all.

It includes a new **child protection policy**, information on police checking, your legal requirements, and heaps of great resources for you to use in your parishes.

Check it out! www.strandz.org.nz/safety.html

SUNZ 2018 New Zealand Children's Ministry Survey – please participate!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJ6SSRX

In 2014 and 2016 the SUNZ Children and Families team conducted a survey of churches all around NZ to find out what was happening for their children. You may have seen the results in the red and yellow 'He waka eke noa' booklets. It has been a very successful project and we are excited to see what they find out this time. It's time for round three! Around 350 churches participated last time, and they are hoping to double that number. Please participate, **even if there are no children involved** in any of your church programmes.

WAY2GO: Scripture Union NZ's conference for all Children's Ministry leaders

Register now: www.sunz.org.nz/children-and-families/way2go/way2go-2018/

We (the Diocese) are contributing \$50 for the first 50 Anglicans who register – so get in quick!

Type "Anglican" in the code box on page 2 of the online form to get the discount.

InterGenerational Faith workshops

Join Scripture Union NZ and **Beth Barnett** for a workshop exploring the core biblical principles and practical skills for cultivating healthy intergenerational faith formation – in terms of mission and discipleship; worship and service; individuals and communities.

This is for leaders and volunteers in every sphere of church ministry.

Palmerston North: June 19 | **Wellington: June 20** | **Lower Hutt: June 21**

Go to www.sunz.org.nz/church/intergenerationalfaithworkshop/ for more information, to download a flyer to print and share, and to register.

Links, Articles and Ideas

Faith and Belief in New Zealand - 2018

faithandbeliefstudynz.org/

A national research study exploring attitudes towards religion, spirituality and Christianity in New Zealand. The purpose of the research is to investigate faith and belief blockers among New Zealanders and to understand perceptions, opinions and attitudes towards Jesus, the Church and Christianity.

Building Emotional Health and Wellbeing: A Pastoral Handbook for Ministry with Children and their Families

This [FREE booklet](#) is an invaluable resource for anyone engaged in ministry with children and their families. Drawing on the extensive experience of [Dr. Vivienne Mountain](#), this practical resource combines insights from both theology and psychology in a very readable form. In the climate of increased scrutiny of churches in relation to safe practice – and the need for churches to be able to demonstrate the practical steps they have taken – this unique product is especially useful for the resourcing of ministry teams. Topics succinctly covered include Grief and Loss; Care for the Carer; The Importance of Children; Inclusion of Those with a Disability; Understanding Mental Health Issues; Understanding Healthy Development; Trauma and Transition Issues for Children; The Church Responding to Community Disaster.

Download FREE from www.ctmresourcing.org.au/building-emotional-health-and-wellbeing

Strandz

Strandz is the National Children and Family Ministry Hub in the Anglican Dioceses of New Zealand.

Check out their amazing website and sign up to their emails for news, fantastic resources, and a treasure trove of ideas!

www.strandz.org.nz

Connectible

Connectible is a FREE New Zealand Anglican resource website that follows the Lectionary to help you easily find the resources that connect with a key Bible reference for each Sunday. Each week there is a mixture of bible stories, discussion questions, prayer ideas, crafts, activities, games, media and more!

connectible.nz

Dates for your Diary:

June

- 9th: Side by Side Training #1
- 19th: InterGenerational Faith workshop, Palmerston North
- 20th: InterGenerational Faith workshop, Wellington
- 21st: InterGenerational Faith workshop, Lower Hutt
- 23rd: WAY2GO Conference, Wellington
- 23rd: Diocesan Team Training Day, Palmerston North
- 27th: Online Children and Family Ministry gathering

July

- 7th: Side by Side Training #2
- 21st: Cultivating Connections seminar, Wellington
- 25th: Online Children and Family Ministry gathering
- 28th: Side by Side Training #3

August

- 22nd: Online Children and Family Ministry gathering

September

- 9th: Diocesan Team Training Day, South
- 15th: New Wine Team Together, Wellington
- 26th: Online Children and Family Ministry gathering
- 29th: New Wine Team Together, Palmerston North

October

- 24th: Online Children and Family Ministry gathering
- 27th: Diocesan Team Training Day, Wairarapa

November

- 17th: Diocesan Hui and Ordination
 - 28th: Online Children and Family Ministry gathering
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Remember we are here to serve you! If you need ideas, resources, specific training for you and/or your team, an opportunity to debrief or chat, give us a call or an email. We'll visit you, send resources out, and seek answers to questions for you. Whatever you need, try us! If we can't help you, we'll find out who can!

Colette Stevens, Children and Family Ministry Enabler: 04 471 8581, colette@wn.ang.org.nz

Colette's regular hours are Monday-Wednesday. The best way to get in touch with her is via email (colette@wn.ang.org.nz). Let her know when would be a good time to call you.

Natalie Moreno, Administrator and Resourcer: natalie@wn.ang.org.nz

(not currently available by phone)

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