

Children and Family Ministry Newsletter

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A message from Colette

Last week, the New Zealand Children Ministry Network hosted an Intergenerational Advent and Christmas workshop in Wellington. It was a wonderful evening where children and families' leaders from many denominations came together to share ideas and resources, exploring the Advent themes of love, hope, joy & peace.

My topic for the evening was peace and as I began to research ideas, I came across this short video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbV9rB9UDIE. The presenter asks, "How do we seek peace on earth when we can hardly find a moment of peace in our own daily lives, our own relationships, even in our own homes?" He challenges us to bring our hearts to God and seek His healing; only then can we be effective be peacemakers in the world around us.

When we understand we belong to a world much bigger than ourselves and our communities, that all people, past, present and future are created by God and bear His image, that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, calls us not only to live in peace, but to follow Him and teach the way of peace, what will be our response?

Lord, please help us to sow seeds of peace in our world, help us always show kindness, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive, help us remember we are your agents of your peace in this broken world.

If you'd like some ideas for teaching peace check out our Pinterest page <https://www.pinterest.nz/youngpersonsoffice/>

On behalf of the whole Children and Families team, I'd like to thank you for everything you do for the children and families in our diocese. You make a difference in the lives of our children and their families. We also pray for God's perfect peace to surround you and your family this Christmas and throughout the year ahead.

Arohanui,

Colette

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



Strandz – Advent and Christmas resources EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR CHRISTMAS!

Looking for some inspiration this Advent and Christmas? Strandz has pulled together an excellent range of resources, creative ideas and media to bring the season to life.

- Online and printable Advent calendars
- All Age/Intergenerational Advent resources
- Nativities and pageants
- Prayers
- Crafts and colouring sheets
- Games and activities
- HEAPS of great youtube videos
- Social justice resources
- Resources for families to use at home
- ...and a printable nativity scene!

Go to: www.strandz.org.nz/advent--christmas.html

Hataitai kids Bake for Bibles

Sunday School at All Saints Hataitai has been learning the story of the bible – from its origins to how it has been translated around the world. We even had a go at translating a bible verse with some Wycliffe bible translators. In our final activity we learnt about China's Amity Bible Press, and baked cookies to fundraise for the Bible Society's 'Bake for Bibles' appeal. We raised \$60, which will buy paper for 30 bibles!



For more information about the Bible Society, and how kids can get involved, go to: <https://biblesociety.org.nz/get-involved/kids-fundraising-packs/>



The Star is a fantastic movie created by Sony animation, it tells the Christmas story from the animals perspective, it is super funny and totally enjoyable for all ages! Bring your family and friends along to the Rock on Saturday 15th of December from 2pm - 5pm, we're gonna watch the movie on the big screen (Bring a picnic blanket or bean bags). We'll have sausages, snacks and treats, Oh and coffee for the parents! Plus bouncy castles, games and activities for all ages. Best of all - ITS ALL FREE!!

Christmas Devotions for Families

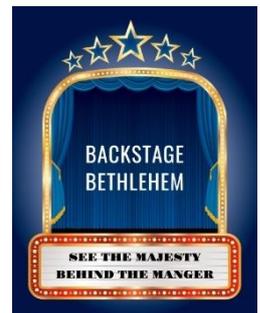
Christmas may be the most wonderful time of the year, but when you have kids at home, it can also be the craziest. It's hard to find time in the busy holiday season to make sure that Jesus is the centre of your celebration.

Backstage Bethlehem will make that a little bit easier.

Sign up online, and get a family devotion emailed to you every Monday!

Pull back the curtain on Christmas and take a look at who Jesus really is, the Creator and King of the universe on a daring mission to save the world.

<https://familyjetpack.com/2018/11/09/christmas-devotions-for-families/>



Try this Countdown to Christmas 'to do list', to weave a Christian response into the festivities and rituals in the run up to 25 December.

Download from:

www.rootsontheweb.com/media/15365/86-countdown-to-christmas-rotated.pdf

ROOTS Countdown to Christmas
Combining the secular and sacred during December

Giving and receiving

- 1. Christmas shopping: Make a Christmas card for each of your family members.
- 2. Thank you notes: Write a note to thank someone who has helped you during the year.
- 3. Giving gifts for Christmas: Buy a gift for someone who has helped you during the year.
- 4. Making Christmas cards: Write a message to someone who has helped you during the year.
- 5. Giving gifts for Christmas: Buy a gift for someone who has helped you during the year.
- 6. Making Christmas cards: Write a message to someone who has helped you during the year.
- 7. Giving gifts for Christmas: Buy a gift for someone who has helped you during the year.
- 8. Making Christmas cards: Write a message to someone who has helped you during the year.
- 9. Giving gifts for Christmas: Buy a gift for someone who has helped you during the year.
- 10. Making Christmas cards: Write a message to someone who has helped you during the year.

Signs and symbols

- 11. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 12. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 13. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 14. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 15. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 16. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 17. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 18. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 19. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.
- 20. Signs and symbols: Look for signs and symbols of the Christmas story.

Sights and sounds

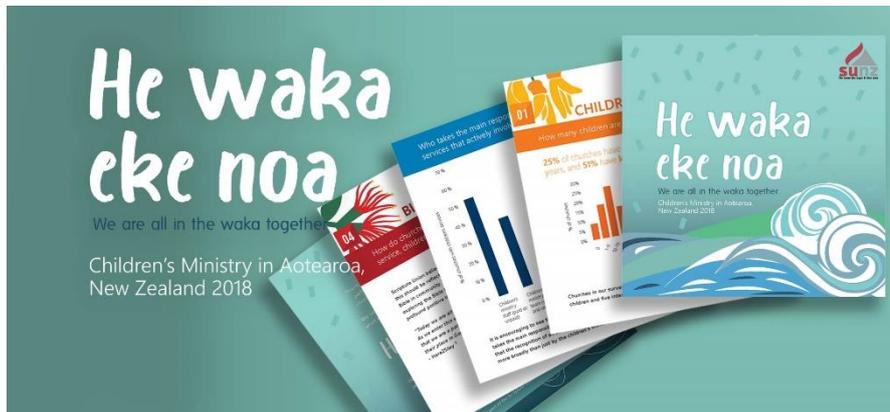
- 21. Sights and sounds: Listen to the sounds of the Christmas story.
- 22. Sights and sounds: Listen to the sounds of the Christmas story.
- 23. Sights and sounds: Listen to the sounds of the Christmas story.
- 24. Sights and sounds: Listen to the sounds of the Christmas story.
- 25. Sights and sounds: Listen to the sounds of the Christmas story.

Meeting and eating

- 26. Meeting and eating: Meet with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.
- 27. Meeting and eating: Meet with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.
- 28. Meeting and eating: Meet with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.
- 29. Meeting and eating: Meet with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.
- 30. Meeting and eating: Meet with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.

And in case you're still trying to find a few good ideas, check out these!

- Strandz' [Advent and Christmas](#) webpage - it's bursting with ideas.
- [Christmas on the Move](#) travelling nativity - it's free, printable, adaptable, easy! (Strandz)
- An [online Advent calendar](#) (Auckland Diocese)
- [Nativity Story Stones](#)
- [Christmas celebration and bunting](#) (Roots)
- [Make a Jesse Tree](#) (Bath & Wells Diocese, UK)



What is happening in children's ministry in NZ?

This is the third time Scripture Union has undertaken this major research project to learn more about Children's Ministry across New Zealand. They gathered responses from a cross section of churches around the country, different regions, different sizes and different denominations.

This information is very recent and relevant to us, and gives a good overview of the context we work in. We would love every ministry team and church leadership to have a read.

To read the results online, or to order a physical copy, go to www.sunz.org.nz/children-and-families/he-waka-eke-noa/

Safety Scenarios – What would you do....?

We encourage all leaders and teams to regularly discuss safety scenarios in their team meetings, and brainstorm together what you would do in each one. Here are a few to get you started:

1. A Dad in your church asks you for prayer, saying that he has been struggling with his mental health and having suicidal thoughts. After the prayer He says he feels much better and asks you not to tell anyone.
2. A parent comes to collect their child after kids club. The parent appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol and plans to drive the child home.
3. During your programme, you take some photos including one of Sarah, a cute little 4-year old who lives with her Mum. You promote your programme on the web and plan to include this photo, along with Sarah's name on your page.



Landlubbers

Scripture Union SUPAKidz Camp 2019

14th-18th January

Wainuiomata, Wellington

\$195

For children in school years 4-6 in 2018

AHOY! Castaway for a few days on a "tropical island" with a great crew of Landlubbers. Join some reformed pirates using puzzling clues to unearth timeless treasures about God from the life and journeys of the fearless traveller and missionary - Paul. Enjoy an assortment of games, challenges, crafts and Bible stories. There will be hearty rations for all from the galley.

For more information, contact Andrew Ramsbottom: andrew.r@sunz.org.nz / 09 379 9363 ext 5 / 021 073 7363
Or see the website: www.sunz.org.nz/children-and-families/

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:

December

15th: The Star family movie afternoon (2pm, The Rock, Wellington)

January 2019

14th-18th: SUPAKidz 'Landlubbers' Camp, Wainuiomata, Wellington

17th-21st: New Wine Summer Festival, Kapiti

February

12th: Hutt Valley C&F leaders' dinner and training, 6-8:30pm

26th: Kapiti and Horowhenua team Safety Training 6-9pm

March

23rd: Wairarapa team Safety Training 3-5:30pm, Family BBQ 5:30-7pm

April

2nd: Feilding and Marton team Safety Training 6-9pm

29th: Kapiti and Horowhenua C&F leaders' dinner and training, 6-8:30pm

30th: Hutt Valley C&F leaders' dinner and training, 6-8:30pm

May

11th: Team Training Day (Wellington)

11th: C&F Team Members Safety Training

June

8th: Manawatu Safety Training for Team Leaders 2-4:30pm

11th: Tawa Safety Training for Team Leaders 6-9pm

22nd: WAY2GO Wellington

July

22nd: Kapiti and Horowhenua C&F leaders' dinner and training, 6-8:30pm

23rd: Hutt Valley C&F leaders' dinner and training, 6-8:30pm

August

20th: Hutt Valley team Safety Training 6-9pm

September

7th: Team Training Day (Palmerston North)

7th: C&F Team Members Safety Training

October

10th-12th: Ministry Leaders' Conference – for key Parish C&F leaders and their families

15th: Hutt Valley C&F leaders' dinner and training, 6-8:30pm

November

9th: Wairarapa Safety Training for Team Leaders 3-5:30pm, Family BBQ 5:30-7pm

23rd: Diocesan Thanksgiving and Ordinations (Wellington Cathedral)

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!

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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)

Join us on facebook! www.facebook.com/wn.children/