

Circuit ...

- Bringing those who work with children together in an 'Ideas Sharing Forum'.
- Co-ordinating a series of Circuit Events at regular intervals throughout the year, such as fun days, alternative Halloween parties, gospel magic workshops/performance, puppet workshops/shows, and family film afternoon/evenings.



- Looking at the possibility of organising a series of complementary holiday clubs, for a range of different age groups, throughout the summer (e.g. sports based activities, 'Stars in their Eyes', social action projects, and Bible based clubs).



- Exploring how we could celebrate Bible Fresh in 2011 (the four hundredth anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible).

Biblefresh
it could change your world

The ideas in this leaflet are only a starting point. I'm here to support you in the vital work you are doing with children and families, so please let me know if there is any way in which I can help.

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Children

Encouraging
and
Developing
work
with



and
Families

The Methodist Church
19/23 Ashton under Lyne Circuit
www.ashtonunderlyne.methodist.org.uk

Hello ...

My name is Julie Coates and I am Minister at Mossley Methodist Church and Chaplain at Rosehill Methodist Community Primary School, both of which are in the Ashton-under-Lyne Methodist Circuit.

One of my key responsibilities is to develop and encourage work with children and young families throughout the area.

In this leaflet I have outlined some of the ways in which I could work alongside individual churches or the Circuit as a whole. I've also indicated some areas of training that I would be willing to deliver or facilitate.

Local Church ...

- Offering guidance on how to plan a programme of Junior Church sessions.
- Suggesting possible resources - i.e. books, games, websites etc.
- Describing the values at the heart of 'Messy Church' - and working out how to put them into practice in your church community.



- Taking a child's eye view of the church building and the experience of worship in order to uncover insights into our understanding of children's work.
- Suggesting holiday club resources or alternative ways to work with children and families during the school holidays.



- Developing the local church's outreach to families.
- Considering how local churches can build links with the children's groups that meet on their premises.
- Outlining how to undertake an audit of the local area to find out the needs of parents and children and consider what the church can do in response.
- Developing relationships between churches and schools.
- Working in partnership with other agencies to provide after-school clubs.
- Providing spaces for children to experience quiet prayer.
- Offering assistance in budgeting for children's work and in applying for external funding.
- Visiting existing children's groups to address particular topics, such as



Training in ...



- Storytelling
- Godly Play.
- Creative ways of praying with children and families.
- The preparation of children's addresses and all age worship.
- How to encourage children and families to grow as Christian disciples.
- Developing the pastoral care we offer to children and their families.
- Exploring the spiritual development of children.
- How to handle challenging behaviour.
- The running of parenting courses.
- Encouraging the participation of children and families in the whole life of the church.
- The preparation of school assemblies/collective worship.