

## Support, Training And Resources from Rona Orme, Children's Missioner

**STARBURST** is the annual children's work conference for the Diocese of Peterborough and ecumenical guests. This year it takes place on Saturday 7 May 10-4 (doors open at 9.30) at All Saints' Primary School, Northampton NN2 7AJ. The keynote speaker is Rev Jeremy Fletcher, Vicar of Beverley Minster and author of *Rules for Reverends*. Our worship will be led by Bishop Donald.

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Reasons to come to STARBURST:

- 1 You have been before and know that you will have a great time and get lots of new ideas to inspire your ministry among children and families.
- 2 You have never had the chance to attend before so you want to find out what all the excitement is about.
- 3 You know that you are getting a bit jaded and need some encouragement to re-discover the delights of children's ministry.
- 4 You are fizzing with excitement about working with children and know you will have the chance to encourage others who may be feeling a little drained.
- 5 You have lots of ideas and want the chance to share them with others.
- 6 You desperately need some new ideas.
- 7 You have not had any training in working with children and know you could do it better.
- 8 You have not attended any training event for ages and know you need a top up.
- 9 You know you will get an amazing welcome, great hospitality, and a goody-bag.
- 10 Rona, the Children's Missioner for the Diocese, is particularly inviting you!

You can find all the booking details at:

[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events/details/1486](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events/details/1486)

What about those workshops?

**Craft Collective:** A chance to **bring along your favourite craft** to 'show-and-tell' – or just slip in to learn from other people's creative ideas. We all need new ideas to help children to go deeper into the day's teaching.

**Creative Bible storytelling:** Spend time with Victoria Beech of GodVenture as she shares fresh and imaginative ways to open up a Bible story with children.

**Children into leadership:** All vicars and churchwardens were children once! Many know that they began their journey into leadership at an early age. Get some ideas for encouraging children to try out their leadership abilities.

**Godly Play:** This form of reflective storytelling is addictive! Take part in a story and then discuss some of the principles that make it so attractive.

**Into Schools:** What are the best ways of taking the good news of Jesus into your local primary school? How to start and how to develop a relationship between church and school.

**Learning to Listen:** Helping children to grow as disciples and to mature into adults can be encouraged through involving them in discussions about church life. Get practical ideas for consulting children and discuss why this is such an important part of our work.

**Prayer Ideas:** Not everyone is comfortable praying out loud or in a 'hands together, eyes closed' way. Reflect on different approaches to praying that can be helpful with children and gain some ideas of how to do this in practice.

**Tiny Disciples:** Under 5s are important members of the church family. Get some ideas for encouraging their faith development and making sure sessions are fun for all.

**Top Tips for children and families in church:** What is the vision for children and family ministry in your church? What do you need to do to realise that vision? This is a big topic that will be discussed with humour!

**Transitions for older children:** How do you prepare older children to continue with church as they move into their teens? What do 10 and 11 year olds need to keep them growing as disciples of Jesus?

**Bible Study with Bishop Donald:** a chance to go deeper into the Bible passage shared during the opening worship.

**Conversation with Jeremy Fletcher:** A chance to ask questions that came to mind as you listened to the keynote talk. Learn from Jeremy's experience and wisdom, and encourage each other to serve Jesus well.

#### **Other reasons to attend?**

- **Marketplace of ideas and resources**
- **Bookstall**
- **Plentiful tea and coffee through the day (but please bring your own lunch)**
- **Hear about the good news stories from other churches**
- **Meet old friends and make new ones**
- **A well-stocked goody-bag for everyone who attends**
- **Find out who has won the 2016 Diocesan Children's Work Cup**
- **See a puppet team in action**
- **£10 is a bargain price for all that is on offer!**

**Book on-line at:** [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events/details/1486](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events/details/1486)

Please book by the end of April if possible so we can order enough goodies to go around.

#### **Review**

*Servant Ministry – a portrait of Christ and a pattern for his followers*  
by Tony Horsfall published by brf isbn 9780857 460882 £7.99

What does it mean to be a servant of the Lord Jesus? How is our character formed by serving Him? How do we keep going when ministry seems so daunting at times? Why is it important to listen to God each day? This book, which draws on Isaiah 42:1-9, is full of encouragement, enlightenment and practical insights to serve with confidence. This is a deep, reflective read that has helped me to be true to my calling.

#### **STAR thought**

Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.

*Billy Graham*

To receive STAR by email, send a request to:

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