



Transition Time

I'm sure we can all remember the fear and excitement of moving on at this time of year. As teacher, there was always a sense of nervousness and joy as we greeted a new cohort and wondered what, over the next year, we could achieve together. The very youngest will be getting ready to start school for the first time, new classes visited, teachers met, secondary school transition days take place and many wait anxiously for GCSE and A level results to see what their next step will be. Of course, there are challenges on this journey for some children and young people but, whatever the experience and related feelings, it is good for us to acknowledge these

important steps for our children and young people and their families.



Mustard Seed Team news – we are so excited that in September, Dot will be back with us, working part-time. We will be doing all we can to support children, families and youth ministry across the diocese and are always happy to chat with you. The team now consists of Ann, Charley, Dot (all part time) and Emma (full time).

Whether you are starting out or wondering what to do next and would like to chat

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through your children, families or youth ministry then do contact us: www.chelmsford.anglican.org/mustard-seed-team

Training

Coaching

From September we are able to offer you the opportunity to receive 1:1 support through coaching. This can take many forms – sometimes it is a one off conversation, and on occasion it is a series of conversations to cover some ground on various questions. The thing that all of these have in common is that they aim to create movement in areas where you might feel stuck – a difficult conversation you don't know how to have, talking through a decision you need to make, discerning direction for yourself or a situation, an area of professional development where you would like to grow.

The aim of a coaching conversation is not for you to be given advice and guidance but rather to give you the space to be accompanied in your thinking, and to explore the way forward with the help of the coach providing questions and a space for some focused time for processing, accountability, noticing and decision making.

This support will be provided by Dot, an Associate Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation. She holds over 60 hours of coaching specific training and 100 hours of coaching experience. She enjoys journeying with people as they make sense of their vocation and try to discern how to wholeheartedly live their lives in all its fullness.



Run by toddler groups for toddler groups

London Network of Parent and Toddler Groups Rhythms of Grace Conference for toddler group teams.

Workshops, resources, creative ideas and practical support will be offered in this conference. Input by experienced toddler group leaders.

[Book here](#)

Essex safeguarding Children Board offer some great training – we picked out these for you this month:

Preparing for Difficult Conversations

Target audience: This workshop is aimed at anyone who works with children and families in Essex. This is a workshop for building your confidence in preparing and holding challenging conversations using cycles of change theory, motivational interviewing and early help resources. [Book here](#)

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Improving Your Cultural Literacy

Aim: To provide an opportunity to explore personal influences and good practice when working with children and their families from a range of cultural backgrounds, and exploring how these impact safeguarding. [Details and Booking](#)

The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

GROWING YOUNG LEADERS

Aged 13-18?
Interested in leadership skills?
Passionate about faith and helping others?
Join the course for 3 training days + 1 residential
Apply by 15th August 2022

Sept 2022 - March 2023
Contact cday@chelmsford.anglican.org for more info!

Kickstart! Youth Ministry Gathering

Join a host of youth agencies who are collaborating to share their best ideas as part of the London Mission Collective's Kickstart! An afternoon open to youth workers, pastors, vicars, volunteers and those wanting to explore what youth ministry can look like in this new season.

Including: how to kick start youth ministry, new paradigms for youth work, stories of what is working from across the capital, how various youth ministries can help you [Book here](#)

Events for Children and Young People

Youth Synod met recently online to reflection some of the themes from this term's Diocesan Synod. We had a very honest conversation about

faith and school where the young people were able to talk about their experiences of being a Christian in their school. If you have young people who might like to join Youth Synod do contact [Emma](#) for more information.

Growing Young Leaders is open for applications. Contact [Charley](#) for more information.

Good News Story

Kaleidoscope Church - St John's church, Colchester

Kaleidoscope Church for families with special educational needs and disabilities is run by Beccy Gregerson.

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Rev'd Sarah Hayward writes:

Beccy had a clear God-given vision to provide church for these families to find a non-judgemental space to be safe and free to be themselves. God gave Beccy a wonderful picture of a kaleidoscope – all the diversity and richness of differently coloured shapes shifting around the centrality of the cross and so produced a logo to match her picture and she has named the church “Kaleidoscope”.

Kaleidoscope met for the first time last month. As a pilot run, it was deliberately kept small. Beccy and her husband have three children with a range of SEND, and so she understood the need to ensure it was not overwhelming.

We set up a sensory room for a quiet space, with a black-out tent and bubble lamp and soft play. In a different room was unstructured play with train tracks and puzzles and toys. In the main hall, there were tables representing each day of Creation with activities to explore night and day, water and sky, fishes and birds, trees, shrubs, flowers, seeds, animals and people.

After an hour of playing, exploring and crafting, Beccy pulled us together for a visual demonstration of the Creation story, using wonderful fabrics of black and gold and blue. The children added in the things they had made or explored including torches, and soil and fishes and birds, and had a lovely time recognising God as the author of Creation. We finished with a simple prayer.

This was followed by a simple tea of sandwiches, fruit and cakes, and those attending could bring their own foods if they had sensory issues around food.

One mum wrote, “Mine really enjoyed and also felt safe enough to have a few moments when they mask so often ... “A” never talks to strangers at all let alone as confidently as he did today. Loved the sensory space ... Thank you”.



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Resources

Back to School with God, service outline from Pray for Schools marks the beginning of a new school year. The 2022 theme is God's Golden Rules, exploring Luke 10:25-37. [Resources here](#)

Bible Society Resources for Schools

Resources on The Gospel in Schools for KS1 and 2 explores the Gospel stories and The Bible Course has been adapted for schools. [Find them here](#)

Education Sunday – Theme for this year 'You Are Not Lost' Resources will soon be added to the [website](#)

The SET Protocol Management of Suspicious Unexplained Injuries & Bruising in Children - SET was published last month (May 2022). It provides an overview of suspicious and unexplained injuries in pre-mobile and mobile infants and children and outlines the pathways practitioners and individual agencies are expected to follow when concerns are identified. The guidance should be read in conjunction with the Southend, Essex, and Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures. [Document here](#)

iSingPOP brings you the Pop Box - a fresh new children's church resource, which can be picked and mixed by you!

All you need is a tablet or phone and this digital, portable resource will come to life. Each box contains twelve interactive services which include Bible stories, prayers, games, songs, animations, crafts, and engaging discussion points. <https://www.isingpop.org/thepopbox>

Vacancies

Red Balloon are recruiting. [Click here for a range of vacancies](#)

For more information on any of the above or a conversation about your children, families and youth ministry do [contact the team](#) - we would love to meet with you. What ever you have planned for this summer, we hope you have a chance to rest and re-charge.

With our prayers,
Ann, Charley, Dot and Emma

Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

