

PARENT TALK

A PLACE FOR PARENTS TO BE SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED

A warm welcome to our first edition of 'Parent Talk'...

We are delighted to launch our first magazine for parents as part of Christ Church's ministry to families. We really want this magazine to encourage, inspire and support our parents at Christ Church and beyond. We await your views and feedback!



You are not alone...

by Jo James

Parenting! The word alone can cause a conflict of emotions.... It can bring the greatest joy and cause the greatest pain. It's one of the most fulfilling and one of the most exhausting experiences; both the most wonderful and the most difficult of jobs. We try to do the best we can for our children and just when we think we've got it sussed, we find that they've got older and we're at the beginning of a whole new learning curve!

Babies, toddlers, tweens, teenagers... with every advance to maturity comes a whole load of new challenges. But, parents, take heart: you are not alone! Here at Christ Church, we place enormous value on parenting and family life. We want to share in the joys and blessings that families bring, as well as being there with support and encouragement through the challenges that parents face from time to time. ➡

continued on page 2

In This Issue...

Page 2

- Dads' Blog
- Have your say...

Page 3

- Spotlight on a Family
- Introducing... Sarah Wade

Page 4

- New Wine? Isn't that a vineyard in France?
- Book Worm: this edition's recommendation
- Contact us

You are not alone cont...

This magazine is intended to be a way of enabling the parents at Christ Church to help and resource one another; sharing ideas and experience as we negotiate what can sometimes seem like the minefield of parenting and family life. Nothing will be written by professionals or experts, but by those who even though they struggle to get it right, have the desire to do their best.



So don't let your experience of parenting be an isolated experience! Share with us the benefit of your hindsight, be encouraged that someone has been there before you, use this space to ask questions and find fresh resources to support you. Be assured that the perfect parent, our Heavenly Father, will never leave us isolated and will equip us with all that we need for the parenting journey.

DADS' BLOG

By Dave Hallam

Like most dads of a 'certain age' I can't help noticing what other people are driving. When I compare my 'family friendly' Vauxhall Zafira with the pristine Porsches and fabulous Ferraris that pass me by, it's hard to not feel a pang of jealousy. But on a recent, and sadly all too common, journey on the M25 something struck me (and I'm not talking about the car behind).

We were all stuck in a horrendous jam – and when I say all I mean ALL – Fords, Fiats, BMWs, Mercs, Audis, Skodas.... at that moment, in the midst of my frustration, I felt God was showing me a picture of life. Whatever our circumstances – whether rich or poor or



somewhere in between – if we are on the wrong road of life we are basically going nowhere – effectively stuck in a jam (or should that be a rut?). It's only when we allow God's 'satnav' to point us in the right direction that we can hit the open road and really experience life as it was meant to be lived.

So perhaps next time you're stuck on the motorway take a moment to ask God to point the 'car' of your life in the right direction. You might be surprised where it leads...



HAVE YOUR SAY! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN 'PARENT TALK'?



We want 'Parent Talk' to be your magazine! What would you like to see included? Please get in touch and let us know all your ideas!

1. Articles?
2. Activities?
3. Dads' stuff?
4. Socials?
5. Reviews?

SPOTLIGHT ON A FAMILY



The Taylor Family:

Nigel, Judy, Nathan & Anna

Ages: 2 half centuries, 14 & 12

Family Quotes: 'Be a sponge. Soak up everything' to make the most of every opportunity. The 'b' word is not allowed in our home, if used it gets the response: 'only boring people get bored'. Our version of the Persil ad: 'It's not dirt, it's good clean earth'.

Top Tip: 'non-electronic' periods to prevent 'brain-rot'! The longer & more frequent the time with no computers, TVs, DS etc, the more creative becomes whatever fills it; from board games & story writing to building tree-houses & digging WWI trenches in the garden. Embrace the mess!

Memorable Family

Holiday: Camel trekking through the Sinai Desert with the Bedouin, sleeping under the stars. Fantastic because it was new to all of us at the same time & it was just the four of us (plus 3 Bedouin guides & 5 camels!) - we didn't see another living soul for a week - with no distractions, no agendas, no timetable. Bliss!

Introducing... SARAH WADE

Hi! I'm Sarah Wade, Christ Church's Youth and Children's Pastor. Did you know that youth and children's ministries run throughout the week at Christ Church and sometimes don't even stop for the holidays?!

A creative programme is organised weekly, introducing children to wonderful Bible stories through interactive teaching and a variety of exciting and stimulating activities such as games, drama, art and music. We also organise weekends away for our young people so that they can spend time getting to know God and one another better.

STOP PRESS!

The team is changing! We are looking to replace Phil and Sola in the next few months. They have worked with me on a part time basis for the last 3 years. Both guys have been the biggest blessing to the youth and children's team and they will be continuing in a voluntary capacity. Things are also changing for Martyina and Rebekah, who have worked with us and made a significant impact this year. They are both seeking God about the future. Please pray for us as there are lots of changes happening all at once. Parents we need you! If you can get involved in any way with the programmes we run for your children, or if you have any useful tips or ideas on how we can improve on how we do things, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you!



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT CHRISTCHURCH

Mini Ark 0-3 years

The Ark 3-4 years

Promiseland 4-10 years

Pathfinders 11-14 years

YPF 14-18 years

Rainbows

Brownies

Anchor Boys

Boys Brigade

Contact Sarah on 07790
665394 for more information
or by email: christchurch-

SARAH WADE FACT FILE:

1. Favourite colour: Blue
2. Favourite food: My mum's roast dinner
3. Favourite Bible character: Esther 'Could it be that you were born for such a time as this!'
4. Favourite joke: 'Two ariels met on a roof and fell in love. They got married and apparently the service was OK but the reception was brilliant!'
5. Favourite holiday destination: Lake Garda in Italy

New Wine?- “Isn’t that a vineyard in France?”

By Clare Hallam



“Camping in a field with thousands of other people?...That’s not my idea of a holiday!”

Sound familiar? But New Wine is a different sort of holiday as it reaches the parts that other holidays cannot reach - like your mind and soul! This summer a number of families from Christ Church will be heading off to New Wine for their annual camping adventure. Sure they will be coping with the highs and lows of camping and possibly the odd gazebo blowing away, but they will also spend evenings together under starlit skies. Not to mention the BBQs and the oh

so nearly ice cold glass of white wine from the coolbox! They’ll also be encouraged, enriched and challenged by God throughout the week in unexpected ways. And what’s a rain shower or two when you are amongst wonderful church pals of all ages?!

In terms of families there is an unbelievable programme for all ages, zero upwards. Kids love the activities, the freedom and the bike riding!! Why not consider joining us this July or sign up for next year?

5 Top Questions About New Wine

How many people?

11,000 (per week)

How much?

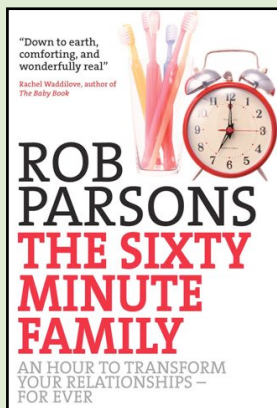
From £400 for the ‘average’ family

Where do I find out more?

www.new-wine.org

What goes on?

Worship, seminars, live music, comedy, fantastic activities for children, hanging out with friends....



BOOKWORM

Parent Talk’s book recommendation this time is ‘The Sixty Minute Family’ by Rob Parsons. What can you learn in an hour? Well this book will inspire you to transform your family life in a variety of practical ways. It is written with sensitivity and humour and is wonderfully real. Can you recommend a book for our next edition?



We are considering creating a Facebook group for Christ Church families, please contact us if this is something you think you could help us with.

The Editorial Team would love to hear all your views and ideas!

PLEASE CONTACT US!

By email:

christchurch-barnet@london.anglican.org

By phone:

Rev Jo James: 020 8441 0645
Clare Hallam: 020 8364 8089

