



# SUNDAY CLUB NEWS

February 2008



## NOTES FROM MEETING ON 14 JANUARY

Present: Sandra Barnes, Anna Blanchard, Zoë Darlington, Naomi Grobéty, Revd Paul Holley, Christina Majakari, Alessia Poynton, Diane Prior-Quero, Peta Tracey.

**Rota/Programme** for Jan-Apr. 2008 attached to e-mail.

**NO SUNDAY CLUB THIS SUNDAY 10 FEB. (school holidays)**

Welcome to Sandra and Muriel who have kindly joined us on the rota!

**Attendance Awards** have been very well received. Now we need to think up more ideas of rewards for further regular attendance. One idea, which was well discussed and approved, is to offer the children 'jobs' to do in church. They enjoy the responsibility of having a role to play. Welcoming people, taking the collection, helping with refreshments are opportunities. Perhaps we could liaise with Paul for the next rota to leave open a few 'slots', please?

### Children in church

We had a very useful discussion about different ways of having the children present with us in church, since parents have let us know that their children really enjoy being in church, which is great! We decided to leave the present arrangement as it is, i.e. that the children come into church on at least two Sundays per month - sometimes three when the Children's Service is not a Communion service. The children particularly enjoy singing the hymns and, as we do not do any singing at the moment in Sunday Club, we resolved to give the children more opportunity to sing, both by choosing children's hymns for the times they are in church and by offering singing and instrument-making as an Activity after Godly Play, in preparation for a Children's Service. Sandra offered her daughter Rosie's musical talent for both playing and helping with the singing.

**Nativity Play** - Muriel Archer-Galibourg (Michael's mum) has a video and has kindly offered to lend it or make copies.

**Godly Play** - We have had one or two new Storytellers recently and they have been amazed at the response to the wondering questions and to the Activities. We still find the GP idea of simply laying out craft materials and books a challenge and feel the

need to have a focus for the activities linked to the story. One suggestion was to have materials available specially tailored to the story which the children could choose to use or not. This focus Activity could be placed in the centre of the table. Another idea was to have singing/instrument-making as an activity. And another suggestion was to be flexible about the Activities, i.e. not have them at all one Sunday (especially on a Communion Sunday when time is short) or have only Activities on another Sunday. The Storyteller and the Doorperson really need to arrive by 3.30 p.m. to prepare and welcome the children. We have found that the books provide a quiet activity for the children who arrive early.

For further information about Godly Play, do take a look at the websites: [www.godlyplay.org](http://www.godlyplay.org) (USA) and [www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk) (UK) - on this latter site, under 'Other ages', there is a pdf file 'Godly Play Launch Brochure', which celebrates the launch of the Godly Play Trust in the UK, now that Godly Play has become widely established in the UK and Europe (Geneva is mentioned!). It is well-worth reading and summarises the aims and success of Godly Play.

**Parent Pages** These are pages for the children to take home, with the story and wondering questions from the session. They are an excellent resource for parents and they should be offered to parents to buy - that way they would have the whole 'season' available at home.

**Special needs** - we should be aware of two children in our Sunday Club who are affected by dyspraxia, Daniel and Ned, so that we can be sensitive to their needs and recognise their special gifts. Diane (Daniel's mum) has written a very helpful article in the latest La Côte Newsletter.

**10-14s** - Anna shared the results of her discussion with the group as to what they would like to do in preference to sitting in on GP story:

- Help with GP as Storyteller, Doorperson or Activities
- Help with Crèche
- Welcome people coming to church
- Help with children's services
- Do readings and prayers in church etc.

**Confirmation** - Paul announced that there will be an opportunity for teenagers and adults to prepare for Confirmation, to take place in June. Anna will be helping Paul to lead a course for teenagers, starting in March, so do please contact them if you are interested. The adult course will start after Easter.

**Child Protection** - to be discussed and brought up to date at our next meeting (after Easter).

**Spring-cleaning** - the La Côte Dustbusters team did a whirlwind clear-out of the back cupboard on Feb. 1. We have moved the Godly Play materials into the Upper Room, as we have been given permission to put shelves up there. A huge sort-out of the toys took place and we took bags of stuff away - to be replaced by a lovely new box of toys kindly donated by Zoë (when her children weren't looking)!

**Registers & Birthday Cards** - a huge 'thank you' to Naomi who produces our registers and data base (no mean task), as well as faithfully sending birthday cards to our Sunday Club children.

**Sponsorship of two children in India (Centre for Disabled Children at an integrated school in Narasaraopet)** - Last year we were informed that one of our two sponsored children, Divya, had left the school and moved away, as her mother had re-married and so was in a position to take Divya back home. Divya was very happy to be living with her parents and the School thanked us very much for our financial support and prayers for her over the past years. The School then assigned us another child, Maruthi, who along with Srinivasarao, whom we were already sponsoring, is pictured below.

The cost of the sponsorship is CHF1,000 per year. We raise this through our collections in Sunday Club (recommended amount: CHF2.-) and other fund-raising events. In fact this year, we have almost reached our target, thanks to a very generous donation of CHF420.- from the Social Care Team, for which we are most grateful. This brings the total in our kitty to CHF977.85. So to raise the balance - and get us off to a good start for the coming year - we are going to hold a **CAKE SALE** after church on **SUNDAY MARCH 2 (Mothering Sunday)**. Please note this date and come armed with baked goodies to sell - thank you! Anna has kindly offered to do some baking that day with the 10-14s.

We also had some very good news recently about a donation from another source for the school in Narasaraopet. Encouraged by Margaret Owen, who had successfully applied last year to the United Nations Women's Guild for funds for Bethany from their annual Christmas Bazaar, we applied this year for Narasaraopet and were delighted to have our project accepted, for which we received CHF4,500. This money will be used for urgent needs at the Centre, including the purchase of solar power equipment to improve the very poor electricity supply. The two doctors who run the charity 'Friends of the Centre for Disabled Children' in the UK will be visiting the Centre soon and will report back to us.



**FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR  
DISABLED CHILDREN  
Narasaraopet, South India**



**SRINIVASARAO**

1994

Suffers from cerebral palsy and severe hearing loss. He comes from a family who live about 150 kilometres from the Centre. His father is an agricultural labourer who thought that his son would get better with time. He had had a lot of falls before he came to the Hostel. He tends to walk on the tips of his toes, and his left hand does not work well. He has an elder able bodied sister.

**MARUTHI**

2002

Younger brother of Pavan. Spastic knee and ankle. Now had surgery and able to walk with callipers and elbow crutch. Lives at home. Four sisters, but one died. One brother, Pavan has CP. Father runs a small shop.