



SCHOOLS IDEAS

'Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.'
Proverbs 4:13

Our local schools do a great deal of good work in instructing our children and these ideas are ways to help support them and work more closely with them in their work.

SCHOOLS IDEAS

1 SCHOOLS WORK



PURPOSE: To build relationships with the schools, pupils and parents and find ways of serving our local schools.

IDEA: Write to or phone your local schools to see how you might be able to help them. Such as:

- Volunteering to lead assemblies in the school.
- Accepting invitations to speak at Scripture Union groups.
- Providing volunteers to do detached work in school playgrounds at lunchtime.
- Taking a lesson on R.E.
- Volunteers for P.T.A groups and to assist at school events and fundraisers.
- Providing small gifts for children at certain times of the year – such as an apple at harvest.

2 BACK TO SCHOOL WITH GOD



PURPOSE: An all age service to pray for local schools and the teachers and pupils.

IDEA: To organise a service for the start of the school year to pray for local schools but also to increase awareness of prayer in schools and the churches links with them. To invite staff and local children to come along to the service, help with readings etc and meet people. Also to pray for school staff, children and their families as they start back to school (See also www.prayforschools.org and www.suni.co.uk/schools/withGod).

3 BACK TO SCHOOL GIFTS



PURPOSE: To bless children and teachers at local Primary schools with a small gift to encourage them at the start of the school year.

IDEA: To organise small gifts for each pupil in your local school (or only certain years) for the start of the school term. The gifts could have a theme such as a Christian bookmark attached to a ruler, pen and chocolate bar. You could get pens with a verse attached or a small Gospel book. Each gift should also be related to their work so some stationery should be included. A present of a box of chocolates or tin of biscuits for the staff would also be appreciated!

4 CHRISTMAS CAROL CELEBRATION PARTY



PURPOSE: To ask local schools to host their carol service in your church.

IDEA: To work with a local school to host a morning carol service in your church at which the children and staff are blessed. To allow each class to pick a carol and lesson each and for the service to end with free Christmas snacks and a small gift from the church.

5 BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY



PURPOSE: To bless families with children at the start of the term and advertise the mission of the church for the coming year.

IDEA: To run an early evening free party just before the start of the new school term and invite children to attend and teenagers to be helpers. The party could include games, food, crafts, a short talk on guidance, a prayer for the school and a party bag with some free gifts including useful stationery for the new term. Parents could also be given useful information on the church services and activities in the coming year.



6 TRANSITION TIMES



PURPOSE: To support children and parents as children make the huge transitional changes into primary school and out.

IDEA: Supporting children and parents through times of transition can be an important and valuable role that church members can offer help with. Scripture Union offer two resources; 'Get Ready, Go!' is a resource for children starting primary school. A version for parents is also available; and 'It's Your Move' is for those moving from primary to secondary school. www.scriptureunion.org.uk These booklets can be given as a present to the children in a little gift bag.

7 PRAYER FOR SCHOOLS



PURPOSE: To provide prayer support for local schools.

IDEA: Contact local schools in your area to build a connection with them and ask if there is anything that the church can pray for and if there are particular needs that the church may be able to cater for such as assemblies, lessons, pastoral advice for parents and so on. This can also involve setting up prayer support groups for local schools (See www.prayforschools.org).

POVERTY IDEAS

'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

Micah 6:8

These ideas are just some of the many ways in which your church could make an immediate difference to help those in your community and beyond who struggle to make ends meet.

POVERTY IDEAS

1 FOOD BANKS



PURPOSE: To collect donations of food and encourage a more visible link between church giving and local poverty.

IDEA: Set up a collection station at the back of church (where it can be seen) with a basket or shopping trolley. Ask church members to donate non-perishable foodstuffs that can be donated on to the needy in partnership with Food Bank organisations. This could be an on-going idea or one for a season –such as Christmas time.

2 SHOE BOX APPEALS



PURPOSE: To collect presents that can be given to families in need for Christmas.

IDEA: Partner with a shoe box appeal organisation to get instructions as to how best to organise this but the basic idea is to encourage church members to put together various small presents in shoe boxes for a particular 'deadline' Sunday before Christmas. The presents and their eventual recipients could then be prayed over before they are collected by a charity the following week.

3 SCHOOL UNIFORM BANKS



PURPOSE: To support families struggling with the cost of buying new uniforms for their children.

IDEA: To work in partnership with other churches and local schools to start a uniform bank in a local school, church hall, shop or at a parents and toddlers meeting. Parents who have had children grow out of uniforms can be encouraged to donate them to the uniform bank and the uniforms made available for free (or a small donation) to families that may be struggling to afford uniforms.

4 BLESSING PACKS FOR THE HOMELESS



PURPOSE: To provide a blessing of practical gifts for people that have to sleep rough.

IDEA: To work in partnership with a charity that works with homeless to see if there could be packs that could be provide for them to give to homeless people. Packs could contain blankets, hat, scarf, socks, gloves, food etc.



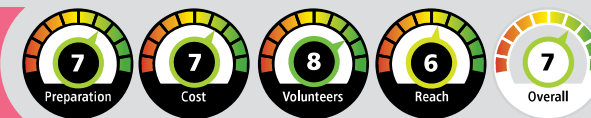
5 FREEZER MINISTRY



PURPOSE: To provide local people and parishioners with ready meals in times of need.

IDEA: This is an on-going ministry whereby meals are prepared by a church team and then frozen in fast food cartons (or bags) and stored. It can involve a number of different 'ready meals' as well as desserts, scones and tray bakes. The food can then used to bless people at times of their life when they might be tired, sick or under pressure. For instance families that have recently had a baby or when there has been a bereavement.

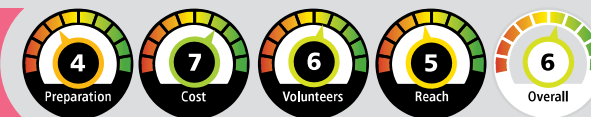
6 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



PURPOSE: To bless families in the local area at Christmas time.

IDEA: To gather from parishioners sample small hampers of food that could be used to bless some local families and the elderly. This could be done in partnership with other churches and charities to help identify families in need and used as part of pastoral visits.

7 CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY



PURPOSE: To help people manage their money better and help lift people out of debt.

IDEA: To work in partnership with Christians Against Poverty to run a Money Course for the local community to help people understand how better to manage their finances to prevent debt but also to give and save as well. For churches with more resources there is also the option to run a Debt Centre to give people support and debt counselling in order to help lift them from debt and the problems that go with it. www.capuk.org