

ACT 35TH ANNIVERSARY

ACT news and reports

Rethinking behaviour management in Reading

Rupert Kaye led a one-day workshop entitled 'Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour' at Caversham Hill Chapel in Reading on Saturday 29 October 2005.

With the use of video clips, Rupert helped the 17 teachers who attended the day to think and talk about managing pupil behaviour 'Christianly'. He began by asking: What do we mean by 'challenging' behaviour? He then asked: What do we understand by terms like 'freewill', 'rights', 'responsibilities', 'choices', 'consequences', 'discipline', 'sin', 'punishment', 'forgiveness' and 'redemption'?

Those present were invited to reflect on their own experiences as they considered: What role does prayer play in the transformation of hearts, minds, attitudes and actions? How can we bring healing and wholeness to damaged lives? How can we create classroom environments characterised by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control and a positive attitude towards learning?

Everyone – from newly qualified teachers in the first term of their probationary year to senior teachers with 30 years of classroom experience – said how helpful, challenging and encouraging the day had been. Many resolved that they would be changing how and what they did in school the following Monday in the light of what they had learnt.

A final word of thanks goes to: Rupert Kaye (ACT's Chief Executive) for leading the day; and Andrea Smith (Scripture Union schools worker and ACT Local Contact for Reading) for organising the event and providing a delicious hot-and-cold buffet lunch and bounteous tea-time spread.



ACT Day 2005 in Birmingham

On Saturday 19 November 2005 the annual ACT conference was held at Carrs Lane Church in Birmingham. 40 people attended.



The theme for the day – which was led by Trevor and Margaret Cooling – was 'Christian perspectives on learning and teaching'. PowerPoint slides, overhead transparencies, handouts, story bags, a video clip and a number of practical exercises brought the morning and afternoon sessions to life.

Everyone was invited to think of a 'values moment' – a time during the school day when a teacher is given an opportunity to challenge or reinforce an implicit or explicit value. Trevor warned that, without Christian values, education was in danger of producing 'clever devils' – students with academic

A 'Quiet Day' in Farnborough

Martyn Payne led a *Barnabas* Quiet Day in partnership with ACT at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Farnborough on Saturday 26 November 2005.

The event was attended by 11 teachers. Everyone was very tired! However, that wasn't surprising given the fact that the Saturday in question fell in the last half of the long autumn term. So it was especially timely that those present had decided to take this opportunity to 'recharge their batteries'.

The day was designed to promote stillness rather than activity; there was plenty of space and time for quietness and prayer.

Martyn re-told three Bible stories with children at the centre: the very young child (Samuel) who heard God speaking; the older (prodigal) child who ran away to see the world; and another child whose picnic lunch was used by Jesus to feed thousands. Each story was told using small figures and props in the Godly Play tradition.

qualifications but without a sense of right from wrong. Margaret modelled a number of classroom activities designed to help teachers stimulate thinking and discussion in order to make values more explicit to students.

The ACT Day is, of course, much more than an opportunity to gather together to hear what excellent speakers have to say. ACT members attend this annual event because they want to meet old friends and make new ones; to share in fellowship and worship; to be encouraged and inspired; and to learn more about what ACT is doing and where it is going.

At the ACT Annual General Meeting reports were received from Nicole Ishmael (ACT Treasurer), Phil Mellen (ACT Overseas Secretary) and Rupert Kaye (ACT Chief Executive). The ACT accounts for 2004–2005 and a motion to retain ACT's existing auditors were both unanimously supported by the meeting, as was a proposal to accept all 29 of the special resolutions to amend ACT's Memorandum and Articles of Association that had been drafted by ACT's Board of Directors in conjunction with the Association's lawyers.

As usual, the closing worship time included a prayer of rededication for ACT and its members.



The day ended with a short time of worship, which allowed those present to share some of the things God had been saying to them during the day.

A final word of thanks goes to: David Grant (of Inter-FACE and Farnborough ACT Group) for organising the event; Martyn Payne (BRF's Barnabas schools ministry team) for leading the day; and Angela Lythgoe (a local ex-teacher) for her excellent hospitality throughout the day. The food was outstanding. This was certainly a day for feeding body and soul!

ACT Saturday events

Cost: £12.50 for non-ACT members / £7.50 for members of ACT, ACT Scotland, ACTW or NIACT. Lunch and refreshments are included in the price.

Booking: Photocopy and complete the booking form at the bottom of this page and post it to the ACT office, attaching a cheque payable to 'ACT'. Please use a separate form for each event you wish to book a place on.

Time: All of the Saturday events listed here start at 10.30am and finish at 3.30pm.

Saturday 25 February 2006

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour – Led by Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: Llan Retreat House, Twitchen, Clunbury, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 0HN

Saturday 11 March 2006

Preparing for Lent and Easter in the primary school – Led by Martyn Payne (BRF's Barnabas schools ministry team)

At: Woodgreen Evangelical Church, Hastings Drive, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR4 0SR

Saturday 18 March 2006

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour – Led by Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: All Saints' Church, Main Road South, Dagnall, Nr Dunstable, Buckinghamshire, HP4 1QX

Saturday 25 March 2006

Take a Break: a quiet day for Christians working in education – Led by Lucy Moore (BRF's Barnabas schools ministry team)

At: St John's Old Vicarage, St John's Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1HS

Saturday 6 May 2006

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour – Led by Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: Sawyers Church, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BN

Saturday 13 May 2006

Christian perspectives on learning and teaching – Led by Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: a venue (tbc) in Havering, Essex

Saturday 20 May 2006

Christian perspectives on learning and teaching – Led by Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: a venue (tbc) in Newcastle, Tyne & Wear

Saturday 24 June 2006

Take a Break: a quiet day for Christians working in education – Led by Martyn Payne (BRF's Barnabas schools ministry team)

At: Hartlip Methodist Church, The Street, Hartlip, Nr Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 7TG

BOOKING FORM

Please return this booking form to ACT, 94a London Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1NX no later than ten days prior to the date of the event.

Please note: we need to know by this date in order to confirm the catering arrangements.

I wish to book a place on the following Saturday event: _____ Date of event

I am a member of ACT ACT Scotland ACTW NIACT

I enclose a cheque (made payable to 'ACT') for £12.50 or £7.50
Please tick as appropriate

Name: _____ Please print

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

I work at: _____ School / College name

My dietary (or other) requirements: vegetarian vegan gluten free

other: _____ please specify