



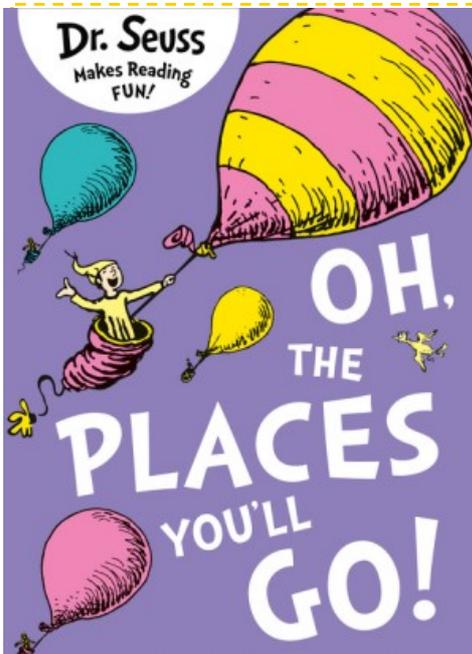
August
2020

Christ Church Young Families' Newsletter

Summer 2020 travel can be summed up in one word: difficult. Entertainment parks may be closed, pools might not open, and your pre-planned getaway may be pushed to the back burner due to quarantine restrictions or safety concerns and if you have decided this year that you don't want to deal with the unknowns and hassles of the airlines' flight schedule changes, all is not lost here are some ideas for things to do with your family this summer:

- ◆ Have a water bomb duel. Stand back to back. Walk five paces. Turn and throw your water bombs at each other. The winner is the first one to hit their rival.
- ◆ Fly a kite. What better way to spend a windy day? Have a competition to see who can keep the kite flying for the longest.
- ◆ Go for a 'nature walk' at night. Choose a clear, warm night, take torches, snacks, a camera and ... explore.
- ◆ Plan a 'Help the Neighbours' day. Get everyone in the family together to do a surprise good turn for a neighbour - picking weeds, washing the car, cleaning the windows etc. You could also do this anonymously and leave a card on the doorstep with a bunch of flowers or box of biscuits.
- ◆ Hair styling. Buy some hair gel and have fun styling each other's hair. See who can come up with the most funny or outrageous hairstyle, then take photos as keepsakes.
- ◆ Turn your kitchen into a restaurant. Create your own menu by asking each family member to choose a course. Give everyone a job to do in preparing for it. Help your children to design and decorate the menu, and lay the table, then dress up and eat your gourmet dinner by candlelight
- ◆ Go on a scavenger hunt. Pick somewhere to hold the hunt such as your garden, your street, the park. Make a list of items to find, e.g. shells, feathers, sweet wrappers, and team up adults or older children with little ones. Make sure you've got prizes for whoever finds the most items, the prettiest, the biggest, the smallest etc!
- ◆ Organise your own mini-Olympics. Set up an assault course in the garden and have fun with a stopwatch timing how quickly everyone can complete the course. Have skipping, Wellington boot throwing, jumping or leap-frogging contests, and an egg and spoon race.
- ◆ Go camping. Put up a tent in your garden and have picnics. If you fancy a beach campsite, just add a paddling pool and sandpit. Tell each other stories by torchlight and sleep together in the tent or under the stars.





This story by Dr Seuss is a wonderful reflection on how life has its ups and downs and yet it is an exciting adventure.

In the Bible there are many stories of people who faced obstacles but trusted that God would get them through - and God did! The Bible tells us that God has a plan for us that is better than anything we could design for ourselves.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (Which is why we share the 'peace' in church). We often think of peace as the opposite of war or violence, but in this case it means something different. It's a special kind of peace only God can give. It's God's presence in our hearts helping us to be calm and unafraid even when we are facing something challenging or scary. Just knowing we don't face life alone can be very comforting. As you travel through life and go to new places and experience new things, remember God is always with you.

We believe in the power of prayer:

A prayer for you to pray for your little one(s):

Jesus, we thank you that you are always with our child/ren and that they will face nothing alone. We ask that you will help them to see the normality but also the adventure in life's amazing journey. Amen.

A prayer we commit to pray for you as parents:

Lord, we thank you that in all circumstances you are with these parents and we pray that in joyous moments they will feel your love and in difficult times know your strength, peace and hope. Amen.

We all know how special it is being a parent but also that it is often very hard work. Do remember that your church family is here to help. You can always talk with the vicar who baptised your baby or someone else by 'phoning the parish office or dropping one of us an email. You will find all our contact details on the church website:

www.christchurchswindon.co.uk

If you no longer wish to receive these monthly newsletters please reply "unsubscribe".