

PHOTOCOPIABLE



Child Friendly Church

a guide for churches

edited by Linda Pollock



The Child Friendly Church guide is designed to help you reflect on how you intentionally welcome and include children in your congregation.

As our co-disciples we have a responsibility to nurture and grow our children and to help them discover their gifts from God... the Child Friendly Church will help you begin to explore ways in which you may do this.

The strength of this guide is that it is designed with a broad Church in mind. The programme is less about ticking boxes and more about reflection in your specific context. Where is your location? What is your church community's wider culture? How do you see the sacraments of our denomination in relation to children? How best might you, in your Faith community, affirm children? All these questions are asked in the context of Biblical and theological reflection.

The process is not short! To do justice to the guide, and indeed to our children, this process requires a 6 - 12 month commitment.

Child Friendly Church helped our congregation look at how we welcome and include children in what we do – not just as an add-on to worship and congregational life but as equal partners in our life, service and leadership.

The Rev. Bryan Kerr, Minister of Greyfriars Church of Scotland, Lanark Pilot Congregation for the CFC

I welcome approaches that help churches engage with the questions of "How do the children in our church, parish, community know that we love them and that God loves them?" and "What can we learn from children that will help us in our Christian discipleship?" Answering these questions will come with painful honesty and almost certainly a fresh awareness of God among us. When we dismiss the engagement, we ignore God, a terrible place to be. Instead let us allow children to walk with us, even lead us on this journey of following Jesus Christ.

*Ms. Vicki Shaver
Lecturer in Children's Ministry,
International Christian College, Glasgow*



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**Order your copy from:
Wendy Kerr: 0141 352 6946
wkerr@cofscotland.org.uk**