

familiesfirst

e-NEWS
NOVEMBER



NEW LOOK for
your e-News



Children's prayers

WELCOME to the November e-newsletter from the *Families First* team.

Let us know what interests you so we can devise a newsletter that matches your interests.

Families First magazine is a lifestyle magazine which encourages strong marriages, good parenting & active faith. It is for people who care about family life; people who want the best for their own family, families in their immediate community and families worldwide.

The Mothers' Union values the children it meets and would like to do some work involving children and their prayers.

We would like to receive prayers from children across the world on a range of themes including family life, friendships, pets, happiness and dreams.

Please e-mail your prayers to
Hannah.jarrett@themothersunion.org



According to a survey carried out by online company Preloved, visits to traditional Car boot sales are down by 65% in the last 3 years as more people are turning to the Internet to sell 'clutter' and find bargains.

If you need to free up some cash for Christmas but don't fancy standing in the cold all day, sign up to Preloved which aims to provide a safe, friendly environment of local buyers and sellers in an online marketplace.

Find *Families First* magazine amongst lots of other treasures on [Preloved](#).



Follow us!

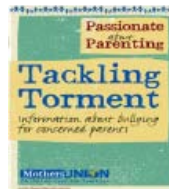
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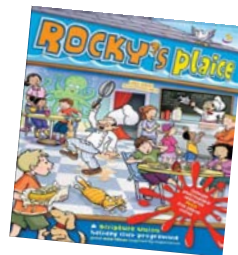


Anti-Bullying – Tackling Torment

Anyone can be bullied regardless of their age, sex, spirituality, culture, religion, appearance, ability or disability.

Mothers' Union has produced a new resource on how to handle bullying called *Tackling Torment* which discusses and outlines what bullying is and what can be done about it. This resource costs 50p and can be purchased from the Central Services department at the Mothers' Union head office at Mary Sumner House: **020 7222 5533**

Anti-Bullying week is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) and this year, falls between 16 – 20 November. The 2009 theme is 'cyberbullying'. Visit the [ABA website](#) to find out more information on the 'stay safe in cyberspace' campaign.



Holiday club programme material: Rocky's Plaice



Rocky's Plaice is the new title from Scripture Union and is a complete holiday club programme based on stories of Peter from Acts. Five session outlines and two Sunday services make up the programme, together with suggestions of how you can maintain contact with holiday-club children throughout the year. Also included is practical help, advice and information about running a holiday club: legal requirements, health and safety, safeguarding children, publicity and more.

Scripture Union have also produced a Rocky's Plaice DVD and a *Rocky's Plaice Menu* for 8 – 11 year olds. Email: Joanna Swepston for more information: joannas@scriptureunion.org.uk



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Government plans to scrap childcare vouchers

A CAMPAIGN to persuade Gordon Brown not to phase out childcare vouchers has become one of the most popular in the country.

What is the Government planning to do about Childcare Vouchers?

- After April 2011, there'll be no tax breaks on new Childcare Voucher schemes which are set up, so they will once again become a cost to employers as they were in 1999
- After April 2011, no new employees will be able to join existing schemes and benefit from tax breaks
- After April 2015, all old schemes will lose the tax breaks for people who were members before April 2011 – which means that at that point, employers will stop offering existing schemes

Tens of thousands of parents have pledged support to the Save Childcare Vouchers Campaign. Click here to sign the petition:

[Save Childcare Vouchers Campaign](#)

NEW Christmas gift catalogue



For a wonderful selection of greeting cards, books, fair-trade products, gifts for adults and children alike, wedding gifts, Bibles and resources, call MU Enterprises for the new gift catalogue with a wide variety of products at exclusive prices. www.muenterprises.co.uk

Email: enterprises@themothersunion.org



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Regional news: Christmas lights & events in the East of England

Head to Cambridge on 15 November for a day jam-packed with family fun. Watch the switching-on of the Christmas lights with entertainment, dancing and music on four stages across the city. For the young and the young at heart, why not get your skates on and visit the outdoor ice-skating rink on **Parkers Piece** (from Saturday 14 November to Sunday 3 January, except Christmas Day).

Alternatively, for the ultimate Christmas extravaganza, the **Thursford Collection in Norfolk** hosts its daily *Christmas Spectacular*, with professional singers, musicians and dancers to entertain guests from 7 November to 23 December.

Animal magic this Christmas

Animal lovers should visit **Standalone Farm's Annual Craft Weekend in Hertfordshire** on 7 and 8 November, where you can see the animals being tucked up for winter and shop 'til you drop at the craft market. For more animal magic, Easton Farm Park in Suffolk is hosting its *Winter Wonderland*; enjoy the animal nativity play during this visit to truly get in the festive spirit (Saturday 12 to Wednesday 23 December).

Carol services

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the nations favourite *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* on Christmas Eve at Kings College Chapel, Cambridge. Or join *Midnight Mass* on Christmas Eve and a *Family Eucharist* on Christmas Day at the beautiful Chelmsford Cathedral in Essex.

Have an 'extreme' Christmas!

Not for the faint hearted, Lowestoft hosts its infamous *Charity Swim*, brave the chilly waters of the North Sea in fancy dress on Christmas Day and 'splash for cash', or keep warm and dry and just watch with a mince pie!

For more details on Christmas activities in the East of England go to

www.visiteastofengland.com/christmas



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WIN!



Let us know what interests you so we can devise a newsletter that matches your interests.

Would you like to get away this winter? How about a holiday for two at one of Richmond's three fabulous ski resorts in the French Alps?

Click here to enter this chance of a lifetime competition:

[WIN Richmond Holiday competition](#)

Give Families First as a gift

Would you like to send *Families First* magazine to a loved one as a gift this Christmas?

A *Families First* subscription makes a great gift which lasts across 6 issues all year. **Give one subscription at only £12, two gift subscriptions for £20 or three gift subscriptions for £27.** (UK prices only. Please contact the office to enquire about prices for delivery outside of the UK.)

Contact us in the office on 020 7227 0620 or pay online

[Families First gift subscription](#)



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Look out for new additions to the *Families First* website including suggestions of what to do over the Christmas period. Also, let us know what you will be cooking so we can share tips and cut-price recipes on the website.



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