

Bluebell Sunday

By Rachel Chamness, Okehampton Quaker Meeting

12th May was 'Bluebell Sunday' when folk can visit the old Castle and grounds for free. The day's entertainment concludes with the seven Okehampton Churches holding a joint open air service. This year, however, owing to the inclement weather the evening service was held in the Baptist church where the friendly, vibrant young minister Jeff welcomed everyone. The Salvation Army Band from Exeter joined in too.

The people of Okehampton are a quiet, warm, friendly bunch and the Churches reflect this too. They interact well together and they do not try to ram their particular type of dogma down your throat but endeavour to work together for the "real good" of all. Children as well as adults need an anchor as they sail through the stormy sea of life. Life is not all sunshine and roses for either old or young and we need a helping hand.

Okehampton has two large schools where the youngsters are working and stressing over their work, exams and future life; it may not seem obvious to others but the stress is there. They do not know what the future holds in this rapidly changing world; we do not know either. Let us help and support them in any way we can. Jesus said "suffer little children to come unto me ... for of such is the Kingdom of God." *Luke 16:18*.

All children have very special gifts; they are unique and precious whether they are quiet, shy, boisterous, academic, artistic, practical, etc. Each is of equal value wherever in the world they live. All need adequate food, shelter and restful sleep, and above all LOVE.

When we get new plants we do not throw them all in one spot, we think of their special needs, so it is with children they need individual treatment to suit their individual needs.

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