



POWERPACK

ministries.co.uk

Church Weekends, Training & Consultancy

At Powerpack we want to see children who are 'chasing God' and 'shaking nations' and we seek to encourage this by leading events for children, training children's leaders, parents and churches and producing a wide range of resources.

Meet the team

The Powerpack core team consists of Heather Thompson, Chris Jackson, Nick Jackson and Emma Brackley. Others volunteer to join the team for national and regional events. Those involved in any specific event depend on location, availability and areas of expertise needed.



Heather Thompson

Heather has been involved in children's ministry since she was too old to be a child in the Sunday school! Leading children's groups early in her teenage years, God called her to full time children's work when she was 15 years old. After teaching for 5 years in both Primary and Secondary schools she left that job to fulfill her calling.

Heather travels extensively both in the UK and overseas in countries such as the US, Argentina, South Africa, Thailand and numerous European countries. She leads training sessions for children's leaders, parents and churches, speaks at conferences and churches, writes resources, as well as leading kids groups at Faith Camp and River Camp.

e: heather@ppcentre.co.uk



Nick Jackson

Nick is part of the leadership team with Powerpack Ministries. He lives in Oxford with his wife, Kath and three children Josie, Ella & Vedis. Nick was previously a deputy headteacher in a primary school and taught for 15 years. He is the Children's and Families leader at Headington Baptist Church, Oxford. Nick leads kids teams at Spring Harvest, Faith Camp and RIVER Camp celebrations. He is a core team member of Children Changing Nations. Locally he runs an after-school club, leads community events, works in schools, and fresh expressions of church in the community.

e: nick@ppcentre.co.uk



Chris Jackson

Chris has been working with Powerpack for almost 30 years, writing and producing large numbers of songs, music and teaching resources along the way. As well as working full-time for Powerpack, Chris has recorded two albums and leads worship in her own church.

e: chris@ppcentre.co.uk



Emma Brackley

Emma is a dietician and in her spare time works for Powerpack. She lives in Guildford and works as a children's leader in her local church. Emma often choreographs the actions and movements to songs and runs lots of the activities at events, as well as managing the venue.

e: emma@ppcentre.co.uk



Church Weekends

The Powerpack team has led lots of church weekends, mainly for the 4-11 year old age range. This can be for as few as 10 children or as many as 100. We like to shape a programme that matches the adults/youth theme so families can share similar teaching at the right level for them.

A typical weekend involves 4 to 5 sessions of about 2 hours in length and can involve an all-age section or some workshops for all-ages. We are able to offer a games/fun session on one afternoon if required. Sometimes we are able to bring a team to run a crèche (6 months to 4) which would include activities to facilitate encounters with God, alongside songs, stories and loads of free-play fun!

Our teams are all experienced children's workers, with all the necessary paperwork, current DBS, First Aid and safeguarding training.

Typical Timetable

Friday – games and get to know you session. 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday am – 2 sessions (9.30-12.30)

Saturday afternoon – optional games/workshops

Saturday pm – 1 evening session 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Sunday am – 2 sessions (9.30-12.30)

An all-age session is possible too.

*“Thank you so much to you and the team for giving yourselves to our children at WHBC. Thank you for training ‘today’s church , leaders of their generation!’ ”
Pastor Alan, WHBC, Salford Manchester*

“We try to shape programmes around God encounters, worship and ministry, whilst packing in lots of fun, games, puppets and drama. For church weekends we love to make it the best experience we can for the children. We aim to plan the teaching in line with whatever the adult speaker/sessions are on so that families can connect during afternoons and evenings.”

Nick Jackson



Training

We believe that training is extremely important and we have a number of team members who are very experienced in all aspects of children's ministry. So if your children's leaders need to expand their vision, evaluate what they are currently doing, learn new skills or just build their confidence to step out into new areas, then we can help. Obviously it is important that the vision for children's ministry is in line with that of the church and therefore it is helpful when at least a representative from the church leadership team attends the morning session whenever possible.

Most training events consist of a day (usually a Saturday) running from 10am - 4.00pm. The morning is spent covering vision and fundamental issues to help make your children's ministry the best that it can be. The afternoon is given over to workshops (the number of these being dependent on the numbers of attendees and the availability of Powerpack team members to lead them).

A list of possible subjects can be found on the Powerpack website:

www.powerpackministries.co.uk/training We can generally make a day 'fit' your situation so please ask if you have specific things that you want us to address.

Who is the day for?

There are a couple of different options.

1. The leaders / parents in your church.
2. Your leaders plus others, invited by you, from churches in your local area. (This option can also help in covering the costs if you make a charge).

"Thank You! Just to say once again, thank you for all that you spoke about at the conference.

I really am so encouraged and feel empowered to make changes."

Brenda, Children's Leader, Croydon

Sundays

Sometimes we are asked if we can stay over until Sunday when Heather can speak to the whole church and the team also do a session with the children so that leaders can see in action some of what they have heard the day before. All-age sessions may also be possible. Our ability to do this relies mainly on the availability of team.



What will this cost?

We are often asked by churches how much we charge for training etc. We have never felt it right to have a set charge but instead like to give some information to help churches in making a decision as to what to give. Powerpack as a ministry does not pay any salaries. Heather is partly supported by her church as a missionary and Nick has a part time role in his church. While both have some personal supporters they are also very reliant on the money they receive from bookings. Other team members that might be involved are usually volunteers. The money given by churches needs to have two components – an honorarium (payment) and expenses (travelling costs in particular). We would also expect accommodation and meals to be provided.

What to give as an honorarium?

Firstly consider how much time is involved for the team

Preparation time: At least one day for a training event (+ another day for sessions on a Sunday)

Travel time to and from the location

The days with you.

Secondly think about how many people have benefitted from the event. It might be helpful to think about what the price would it be to send each person to an outside training course.

Most churches give upward of £200 for a training day honorarium.

Travelling Expenses

We would expect travelling expenses to be covered. Our office is in Aldershot, Hampshire and while Heather, Chris and Emma live nearby, Nick lives in Oxford, so it depends on who is involved as to where the start point is. Sometimes it is necessary to bring two cars depending on who is involved and how much equipment we need to bring.

“Thanks so much to both of you for all your hard work! We have loved having you both here in Jersey. The feedback has been so positive and the team really loved it also.”

Sophie, St Paul’s Jersey

Thinking you can’t afford it?

We never want costs to be prohibitive so please contact us to talk about it.