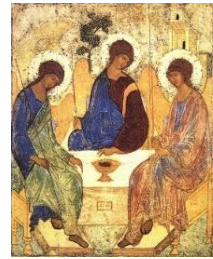


Volunteer Training Event – April 2017

'Delving Deeper'

This was the team's third training event for his academic year and as usual we started our time together with prayer. Working around three prayer stations, the team and over 30 volunteers reflected upon waiting. After the emotional roller-coaster we had experienced at Easter, now in the summer term we reflect upon a new Church season and our risen Christ.

A time of waiting, a time of invitation and a time of action. One of the prayer stations showed Rublev's icon of the Holy Trinity. We explored more on what the painter was communicating, and the invitation we all have to be at the table.



Carousel of workshops – with upcoming sessions in mind



1. **BIG questions:** We have a session called 'Difficult Questions' in both Yr6 and Yr8. Perhaps 'Difficult' is the wrong word! It might make us feel they are too difficult to answer! I think BIG questions is better. They are indeed BIG questions. We all have the resources to give an answer, being an ecumenical team our answers may be not different... we might even not have fully made up our own minds yet, about what we truly believe about a particular question ... and you know what? That's ok.

We explored children's questions like: 'If God is real, why does he let suffering happen?' 'Why did God create us?' and 'What are the criteria for getting to heaven or being sent to hell?' We paused for a moment to consider 'what are the children really asking?'



2. **From Epistle to Postage Stamp:** In this workshop we explored how we can and why we should hone what we say; that honing means 'to sharpen it – to get rid of all the unnecessary information, and refine to a sharp point'. We had an activity based on the nature of God to both illustrate and practice out skills. Rooting our enquiry in Psalm 103 and scripture with School children in mind we explored. *Making sense of the text* – how does it fit into the bigger picture; *understanding the impact* – living as a Christian and making a difference; *making connections* – how does it connect with themselves, others around them and the world.



3. **'Beliefs and Practices' for Yr5.** Using Godly play and reflective story telling methods to explore story and unpack meaning. In particular, the Lord's Prayer and the 10 commandments responding to the syllabus question being

posed this term - 'What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God? Do religious people lead better lives?'

The feedback was fabulous: "very happy; rich interactions with everyone - very valuable in all levels; thank you to all of you for your hard work; time to have reflection; like to have topics with the sessions that are coming".

One of our volunteers, a retired teacher, said, "I think I have been to every one of these since I joined (11) and there has not been a dud one yet! Each one is so relevant to what we are about to do in school ... I have been a teacher all my life and these are better than any of the inset training sessions we ever did". Praise indeed! And, thank you to you for coming everytime.

