

### Our Trustees



Revd Rob Weston



Revd Keith Wilson



Patricia Brown



Revd Neil Warwick



Revd Jon Salmon



Emma West



Richard Bainbridge



Chris Cobbold



Julia Jones

### Dear friends

As we approach the end of the academic year, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has played such a vital role in our growing REinspired family. There are many people in different roles involved in making every REinspired session happen: people in the office, people cutting out and boxing up resources, people who lead the sessions and work with the groups of pupils, people walking the pupils back to the school. Whatever your role I am so grateful you have given us your time, energy and commitment during this past year.

One of the roles we have at REinspired is being Chair of our wonderful Trustees. The Trustees come from a range of backgrounds and meet regularly to plan, dream and organise the smooth running of REinspired. Having served as the Chair for two and a half years, I am handing over this role to Keith Wilson, as I am moving to Devon in August. Having been involved as a volunteer for 14 years, it has been a real joy to see REinspired grow and grow, locally and nationally. I shall always remember you in my prayers and my hope is that REinspired will continue to inspire young people to learn more about the Christian faith and their own spirituality. Two research projects recently reported on the surprising importance of visiting a church building in young people's understanding of faith, which is just one important aspect of our approach to experiential learning.



Rob Weston

I want to take this opportunity to thank Rob for his hard work, vision and patience as he has led us through a time of tremendous change and growth. From September it will be my privilege to serve as Chair of REinspired. Many of you will know me as the minister of Lower Earley Baptist Church and a long serving volunteer with REinspired. I look forward to working with you and seeing continued growth as we serve every child, in every school, every year.

There are many opportunities for people to join us either as volunteers in school sessions or on the Trustees. If you or someone you know would like to join in the REinspired story please do get in touch. I'm already looking forward with great excitement to the start of the new term! Until then may God bless all of us with a peaceful and restful summer break.



Keith Wilson

### REinspired's Big Question session aims to answer pupil's questions that are important to them.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June at Lower Earley Baptist Church in Reading Bishop Steven Croft not only came to visit an REinspired session but joined in too!



"We have been working with the Year 6 children, of Hawkedon Primary School, since they were in Foundation," says Julia Jones, Project Director of REinspired. "All of our sessions meet the needs of the RE syllabus. But this session is different as it is the children who set the questions and we then design the session and activities accordingly."

As pupils gathered together Bishop Steven settled himself into the big 'Mastermind' chair. With two minutes on the clock the Bishop managed to answer 11 questions fully and successfully before the bell went. Some of the questions included:

"What do you do when you wake up?"

With a smile he answered, "I get out of bed, have a coffee and I pray."

"If God is real why is He not helping people in need?"

Thoughtfully, the Bishop answered, "I think God is helping people in need a lot. God calls us to help these people and has given us all that we need to do so."



Afterwards the pupils had the opportunity of questioning the Bishop directly. One of their questions was:

"If you could change anything in the world what would it be?"

Bishop Steven answered, "It would be war and conflict. It's terrible when it happens. When it happens by terrorists I think it's the worst."

Teachers are invited to feedback their comments after each session. The Hawkedon staff reflected, "REinspired organised this session very well with a good variety of activities and just the right pace. We found it covered useful aspects of PSMSC (Personal, Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural). The children were engaged and thoroughly enjoyed questioning the Bishop."

## Happy days

Hello! I've now completed my first six months as an REinspired Team Leader for Hawkedon Primary School. Time has flown and I have been getting to grips with all sort of new things – jamming a multitude of resources into my car (large crosses, wailing walls of Jerusalem, sheep puppets, palm branches and compost to name but a few). I've been flexing muscles I never knew I had delivering the said items and others into school and churches; getting to know many wonderful volunteers and team leaders from local churches; learning new aspects of my faith from those denominations other than my own and working with insightful and enquiring children who are continually engaged and enjoying the creative sessions that REinspired deliver to them. Oh, and I met a Bishop! There's been a lot to learn (and still is) and I have greatly appreciated the team around me – thank you CTEER team, Julia (Project Director) and Carol (administrator). I am very much looking forward to the next academic year and smoothing off my rather new rough edges.



Sue Harris

## Special letters from pupils after a session on Moses:

"Thank you, Mrs King, for REinspired. It was really fun. We love doing REinspired with you and we hope it never ends. My favourite part was when we did arts and crafts. I made the burning bush. We hope you come back soon."



## Volunteering with REinspired

I volunteer at New Town and St. John's primary schools, usually doing three or four sessions a term. (You choose your own level of commitment, which means you can be very flexible).



Volunteers are sent the session plan to look through in advance but otherwise there is no onerous preparation. The content is delivered via a wide variety of methods, with useful (optional) training sessions provided once a term. Gifted as I am with two left thumbs, the word "craft" makes me tremble, but REinspired craft activities are so well-prepared that even I can manage them.

At the centre of everything of course are the children; it is a great privilege to be able to share the good news of God's love in Jesus with them, and their enthusiasm and openness are a delight. It is also a pleasure to build relationships with Christians from a wide range of local churches. So if you are thinking of becoming a volunteer, I would certainly encourage you to give it a go!

Liz Bailey

## 2017 Transition Event



Oh, what fun at both events, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July! Expectant, lively, wondering, excited are just some words to describe these Yr6 pupils as they settled in their groups. Not only did they achieve some fantastic building of giraffes, ably led by their leaders, but they worked collaboratively with pupils they will see again in September when they begin their secondary school life. How cool is that!

Pupils were engaged, as, while they played jenga, questions they had were answered by the leader. It was good to see the confident smiles come back to their faces as the event ended!

Thank you to all who came to help build, lead and support.



## Prayer Corner

### We give thanks for ...

- Giving all our lovely volunteers the opportunity of three training sessions and a BBQ!
- Our two new fab team leaders—they're learning fast!
- For the pupils inspired by the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft's answers in our BIG Question session in June
- Our two transition events and New Christ Church primary school joined us

### Pray for ...

- Pupils and teachers when they encounter REinspired
- Working in temporary accommodation as St Nicolas Church rebuilding work begins in October
- Churches in Reading to embrace REinspired's vision and engage with their local schools
- New developments :: we'd love to hear from you to help in any way with expanding REinspired in West Reading
- New primary schools, New Christ Church, Geoffrey Fields and Katesgrove, wanting to involve us in their RE sessions



Keep in touch with us each week :: search for [REinspired](#)

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**Volunteers training and lunch**  
**Thursday 14th September**  
9.30am at  
St Nicolas Church



If you want to know more please get in touch with us:  
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