



Our new REinspired office



Prayer stall at Park URC



Volunteers engaged in training



Yr7 Visit to Church

Dear friends,

They think it's all over...it is now...until September at least! (sneaky footy ref there) And so, we come to the end of another extraordinary year with 149 Primary sessions, 43 Secondary, 15 assemblies, locally. The completion of three new school launches - Geoffrey Fields Junior, Katesgrove and New Christ Church Primary Schools; with emerging projects for September being Maiden Erlegh Reading, Oxford Road Primary, Robert Piggott Junior Wargrave, and possibly Evendons Primary in Wokingham with Jennett's Park meeting with us for a conversation before end of term!

This year we have had a palpable sense of God going ahead of us, Jesus walking with us and the Holy Spirit inspiring and sustaining us as we go. We have seen a significant shift this year, from churches approaching REinspired to the schools themselves seeking us out having heard from colleagues what we can offer. This is hugely encouraging. We also heard a SIAMS inspector praise the school for partnering with us. Apparently, she knew all about us! Good news :)

In a time when the media tells of volunteer fatigue and charitable donations feeling the pinch, your faithful, prayerful and generous commitment to the work of REinspired is extraordinary and inspires every new and emerging group I encounter. You are a blessing to us, our children and our community, thank you. Reading the articles from our other REi family members is also hugely encouraging. The Spirit has been busy. God is indeed good.

Check out our September Training event where we will have an interesting guest speaker talking about Autism and RE.

Have a wonderful and well-deserved summer break. God bless,

Julia Jones, Project Director



Busy REinspired Caversham

REinspired Caversham has had a busy year! We have reached over 1300 children in over 30 sessions in 6 schools, increased our number of paid staff from 2 to 3 ... and one of us has even found time to have a baby! Congratulations to Caroline who gave birth to gorgeous Edith on 20th July 2017.

Congratulations also to Liz who covered Caroline as Project Manager whilst she was on maternity leave and liked it so much (and we her!) that she stayed when Caroline came back!

We are very grateful to our financial supporters who have enabled us to increase our paid staff, and therefore reach more children in the Caversham area. From the start of June we are pleased to have a team of 3 - Helen, Caroline and Liz.



We have worked with Caversham Preparatory school for the first time this year, investigating with Year 4 how the bible is important to Christians. We have also offered a 'Transition to

Secondary school' session to all Yr6 classes in our area and are looking forward to visiting 4 of our local schools in July as they take this very important step.

Helen

Bulmershe students visiting Church

On Monday 14th May, REinspired had the great pleasure of hosting a session for 30 Year 7 Bulmershe School students at Earley St Peters Church - the first time we have taken secondary students into a church!

The brief was to look at things within the church that helped believers engage in worship. We had a really enjoyable session where, after hearing some fascinating facts about what was on the site before the church and why the church had a bell, we linked our 5 senses to items and experiences within the church.

Sound :: The church organist treated us to a variety of live organ music

Sight :: We looked at the Bible on the lectern and the stained glass windows

Smell :: We saw how infant baptism used anointing oils

Touch :: Holding rosaries and crosses

Taste :: While discussing Holy Communion the students had an opportunity to taste some bread and grape juice

At each station, the students put their thoughts onto a worksheet to present to others in their year group back at school. They really enjoyed the session and most commented that they hadn't realised how much the senses were involved in worship. The teachers were delighted and were keen to come again - maybe also with a Year 10 group. Many thanks to Revs Philip and Hannah, Alison, Elaine and David the organist for all their support.



Greetings from REinspired Chinnor

We are keeping to plan with our 2 church schools in Chinnor and Aston Rowant and by the end of this summer term we will have delivered at least one lesson to every child in every year group. Every time the session has been very well received by both the children and staff and the team is growing in confidence as the excellent feed back continues. Margaret is an expert when it comes to leading the sessions and as is always the case, the team of volunteers from across the churches in Chinnor provides a robust back bone.



Following a request from one of the schools we recently delivered a session that had been devised by Margaret and myself: The Good Shepherd for Year 4. We are blessed in that we have our very own shepherdess in Chinnor who was more than happy to be involved and tell the children all about caring for sheep.

Thank you from all of us here for providing the practical and spiritual support when it's needed!

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DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY

Volunteers Training

Thursday
13th September
Doors open - 9.15am

Guest speaker—9.30am

Julie Easton
'Autism & RE'

Friday
11th January
9.30am

at
St Nicolas Church
Earley, RG6 7JN

Maggie

Transition Events

There was an air of expectancy as pupils and teachers entered the halls at Loddon Valley and at The Warehouse. It was lovely to see the groups working collaboratively and creatively on their giraffes; there were lots of happy discussions going on!

Jenga-time saw lots of pupils engaged, concentrating hard on the question and answer time. Maiden Erlegh's Yr7 teacher at Loddon Valley spoke reassuringly when answering the many questions the pupils had.



All the pupils were winners as they left the halls having found new friends.

A big 'thank you' to our lovely volunteers who led and guided their groups confidently throughout both activities.

Carol

FEEDBACK from Schools & Articles

Yr6 Big Questions

"The children had lots of philosophical questions to ask and were very engaged"

Yr7&8 Sessions

"Thank you for all of the amazing session you have delivered to Yr7&8 this year. They are truly memorable and they're truly grateful."

Yr4 Prayer

"The children understood that prayer can happen anytime, anywhere and it is a conversation with God"

We feel enriched and encouraged :)

PRAISE & PRAYER

- ◆ So very grateful for our new office given to us by St Nicolas Church :: it is lovely
- ◆ Thank you so much to our volunteers :: you are an extraordinary flexible group
- ◆ For our fabulous Transition Events :: pray for Yr6's as they'll soon be Yr7's
- ◆ For new Schools reaching out for our help—3 new schools to launch next year in Reading and Wokingham
- ◆ For our REinspired groups in Reading and beyond; for the imagination and creativity in sessions and for their Team Leaders
- ◆ For Ben leading us, and our wider network of colleagues, on our Quiet Day :: we shall miss his support in Hawkedon School when he leaves St Nicolas



Hello from REinspired Woodley

In the Spring our volunteers got together to have an in-house training session. We looked at what we do and why we do it and explored some of the lessons coming up in the term. It was a real encouragement to hear our volunteers' voice to what they felt their role was:

- ◆ Enable the lesson to happen
- ◆ Supporting the theme
- ◆ Listen to the children — we're like a garden with lots of different flowers

The summer term always has a mix of different lessons: Miracles; What's so special about the Bible, Prayer stations, Religious artefacts, How Christians respond to global issues — playing the banana split game. I'm always blown away at children's responses during the prayer stations — 'ask God any question' brings up questions about forgiveness, justice, why God allows bad things to happen — deep questions from 8 and 9 year olds.

During the year we ran a prayer station session with Yr6's thinking about transition. We had 5 stations: **Sorry** — which looked at regrets, **WOW** — celebrating positive memories of their time at school, **Please** — thinking about things that they feel worried or anxious about, **Thank you** — remembering people who have helped them at school, **making a jigsaw** to remember they are unique, special and all have a part to play.

Linda

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