



Kings in Nativity drama



Christmas Yr1 activities



Nativity figures used in Christmas sessions



Making a collage of bread and wine

Dear friends,

As we gallop towards the end of another busy and wonderful year I wanted to take a moment to reflect and give thanks. Like any family, personally and corporately, we have experienced challenges and change over the last 12 months and by God's good grace we are not only the stronger for it but continue to flourish.

We have an overwhelming number of things to give thanks for; from funding to new office space, new schools to emerging teams, our talented and tireless staff and Trustees, and, of course, the 'glue-holding' our work together is our team of steadfast and inspiring volunteers — Christians from all walks of life and different traditions coming together for something we all believe is important and to which we feel called — teaching our children about Jesus and faith. If we don't, then who will?

Hearing how time and time again children and staff are excited when they see us in school speaks volumes and it is our volunteers living their faith with a generous servant heart that makes this possible — taking what we write off the page and bringing it to life. What we do and achieve together in this place, with God's blessing and going ahead of us is extraordinary, counter cultural and transformative.

As a nation we are going through uncertain times. But if we can be generous hearted, loving and optimistic throughout, as our Saviour taught us, then I believe peaceful resolution will prevail.

Pray without ceasing, love without measure, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and anything is possible.

Wishing you and those you love, a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas.

Blessings,

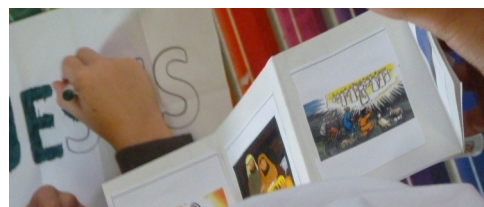


Julia Jones, Project Director

Whiteknights Christmas Year 4 session

We had a great afternoon with Year 4 looking at the question 'What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?'

The session began with looking at different symbols and why we might use these. In small groups pupils took turns to look at some Christmas card images and discuss which are part of the Nativity story and which are representing a commercial Christmas. Pupils then made a booklet using 5 main images to represent the Nativity, with the word JESUS folded in the middle.



The whole year group worked together to tell the biblical story with some dressing up, some acting and some laughing! To finish the session the pupils returned to their groups to think more deeply about 3 characters - Mary, the shepherds and the wise men. What would they have looked like? How old were they? Where did they live? Were they rich or poor? How did they feel as they were travelling miles following a star?



A great afternoon was had by all and went away having learnt more about Jesus, the most significant part of the Nativity!

Sue

West Reading news ... Katesgrove Primary School

Following the pilot at Katesgrove (2017-18) we were delighted that the school wanted us to continue to visit. We are always made very welcome and the staff really appreciate the input we can offer.



So far this year we have made two visits, In September we visited Year 2 and had lots of thoughtful comments as we considered 'What did Jesus teach?' There seemed to be lots of agreement that being kind all the time is quite hard, but that we can all try. In November we had great fun with the Foundation children and the story of Noah. Animal noises were the order of the day!

We have two more visits planned for the New Year, and the RE Coordinator is already talking about what we might do in 2019-20 so this is a really positive relationship. At present we have a small team of committed volunteers; however, Katesgrove is a big school with 90 children in each year group so we do need more people to consolidate and strengthen the team. Please pray for us as we respond to this opportunity to reach so many children. Oh, and any offers of help will be gratefully received!

Lesley

That's what I wrote exactly a year ago, and so it has proved.....

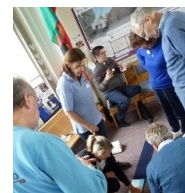


Since starting a new chapter in the life of REinspired Guernsey just 12 months ago, it is very exciting to see what has happened this last year. Deeper connections with all our local schools – 14 primary and 7 secondary; a growing ecumenical team of volunteers increasingly involved; many new primary and secondary RE sessions developed and delivered; and feedback from all the schools has been unanimously positive and enthusiastic, and with the request for more!

One highlight at the end of the summer term was the opportunity to teach a one-hour transition session on the '*Changes, Challenges and Choices*' facing Year 6 pupils in 9 of our primary schools – over 450 of the 600+ children moving up to secondary schools in the autumn. We are very grateful to God for the unique opportunities we have in Guernsey.

Phil

at
St Nicolas Church
Earley, RG6 7JN



reinspired.org.uk

This term our team leaders are offering their schools a leaflet to give to new parents explaining what we do in school.

Your Reinspired contact

Give us your e-Team card for emails, sit in! We'll send you new Team Inspire cards to Reading.

For more information on how to become a Reinspired contact, please visit www.reinspired.org or contact us at info@reinspired.org.

Teachers and pupils of the school we work with share absolute love for the initiative. I deliver for them every Friday evening knowing about Christianity from the inside. I can tell you that I have a lot to learn from them. We see the benefits and value this way of learning. It works because of the partnership agreement between local churches across the country.

If you have questions or would like to be a Reinspired project contact, email: info@reinspired.org or call: 01203 9616 36/29

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A former head says

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REINSPIRED

has inspired over 100,000 children across the country

One of the students attending the recent Yr8 Big Questions session said,
"Suffering helps us learn and makes us stronger"

"I didn't think that God had been around for longer than Science" remarked a Yr4 pupil; "so, he'd been around before the Big Bang!"

Volunteers practiced the 'Diamond 9' technique which is a ranking and sorting exercise for an individual or for small groups. Statements are ranked in order of importance as to whether you agree with the statement. Volunteers have used this exercise with students in their GCSE session, [The Role of the local church in Britain](#), a session that can be downloaded from our website.



Julie, a local primary teacher, spoke of her experience about why it is important to choose strategies in helping children who have autism to learn about RE; using a timetable rather than random lessons gives reassurance; using figures, or little people, to illustrate a story.



Autistic children have problems empathising and have difficulty comprehending abstract ideas and concept formation (eg tell an autistic child to “sit in a circle” and they will literally sit in the middle). Neuro-typical people link ideas naturally but autistic children learn each fact separately and need to have the links explained to them.

Social stories are effectively used to explain abstract concepts, ie, for Key Stage 1, friendship; Key Stage 2, forgiveness. Julie found that the children could express their opinions and even change them during these discussions as they went through the school. Children with autism develop skills of learning and communication at a slower rate so this school's way of teaching is helping them overcome some of their difficulties.

<< Feedback from the volunteers :: it's been helpful to refresh our minds and approach for sessions and to be mindful of these special children in our preparations. >>

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