



Sessions this term :: Yr6 Transition Event



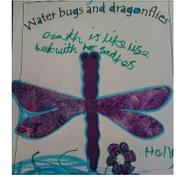
FDN The Lost Sheep



Yr2 Teachings of Jesus



Yr5 Christian Commitment to God



Yr6 Death & Funerals

Dear friends,

Summer is here, hurray! and the holidays are nearly with us.

This year we have much to be thankful for 143 primary sessions and 59 secondary, this meant we had 14,859 'encounters' with our children and young people in our local schools which is fantastic. To God goes the glory. These numbers represent all the opportunities God has given us to offer welcome, share bible stories, hold hundreds of conversations, facilitate wondering, explore answers and model what life as a Christian looks like, not to mention just how many things it is possible to make with paper, card and a glue stick!

We said a sad farewell to Ben and Neil, what a blessing they have been for us, but I am sure we will meet again.

Next year is shaping up nicely, the Holy Spirit is busy. Wargrave's provision is growing, our first year with Oxford Road Primary produced a fresh invitation into Wilson Road Primary. We have been invited to launch in Bridgend, Wales and are hopeful of a new engagement with a new Wokingham school through All Saints Church.

Thank you for your amazing support again this year, it has been a joy to travel with you in this beautiful and impactful ministry.

Have a wonderful summer. I pray that you experience the love of God wherever you go and in the words of my favourite blessing; until we meet again, may God hold you, and the ones you love, in the hollow of his hand.



Julia Jones  
Project Director

>> **STOP PRESS:** Team Leader vacancy. Apply by 1st August. Advert on our [website/news](http://www.reinspired.org.uk/news). <<

### Life after Death— a new Yr8 session

If you were a pupil and heard someone promise that everyone at school would receive a chocolate cake next week, how would you respond? Need proof? Does the cake exist? I haven't been good enough? Great? What if that promise was for life after death – same responses or different? Bulmershe year 8 students grappled with this, then reflected on the words of Eric Clapton's song, 'Tears in Heaven', heard from Christians about their thoughts and why, and looked at relevant passages in the Bible to answer, 'How do religious texts help people decide what is true?'. *Carrie*



### A wonderful quote from a parent

"I'm not sure who was involved with the Hawkedon Year 6 Big Questions afternoon on Tuesday (11th June) at LEBC but my daughter came home BUZZING so THANK YOU!! She said it really made her "dig deeper" and "really think about things." She's come to church with us since she was a baby but has never really embraced any of the children's ministry groups ... in fact, she hasn't been going out to the children's group for a while. For some reason this session really spoke to her. So I just wanted to say a MASSIVE thank you to you all and all the volunteers!"

### We're saying 'goodbye' to Neil

Looking back at how Neil has supported, rallied and mentored us at REInspired, well, it was so full of fun and inspiration! We shall miss him very much ...

Revd Neil Warwick writes, I have been a Trustee and team member of REInspired for 10 years. As I prepare to move to Bristol I have been reflecting on all that is good and worthwhile about REInspired's (REi) work and mission...



### Hearing from everyone with a hand up

At the start of an REi session there will always be a few open questions to the whole class, 'who knows what praying is?' was the one in my last session. Numerous eager hands go up accompanied by loads of 'ooh, ooh, pick me.' The REi team always go to all the hands raised to hear what the children have to say...everyone who wants to be heard is heard and their contribution valued. This is a deep, virtuous character trait of REi in practice, all children can contribute and add to the learning of all. You see children grow as they are caught in the appreciative gaze of the REi team member.

### Children love it!

When I was at school I was never happier than when the teacher said, 'today we're going to...' It didn't really matter where it was as long as it was out of the classroom and you'd see new things and new people. REi gets children out of the classroom and into local churches, where they meet kind and motivated people who sit with them, learn with them and encourage them. Children love it.

### Just do it!

REi is a brilliant way of churches in any given place to form a lasting relationship with the schools in their area in ways that support the school, its teachers and children. REi builds community connections and we need that today more than ever. It reminds children and teachers what Christians believe whilst never seeking to change what they believe...that's why schools love it and why it works in multi-faith areas like mine.

If you're a church leader, teacher, church member reading this...I recommend you explore REi in your context and see what riches it can bring. *Neil*

Read more from Neil on our [website/news](http://www.reinspired.org.uk/news)



## Chinnor news

I've recently left Chinnor to take up a new position in Bridgend, South Wales. I leave behind an established team, ably coordinated by Margaret Poole, which is marvellously dedicated and committed to offering REinspired sessions in the united Parish. The two C of E primary schools have been particularly willing and enthusiastic in embracing the project. In my last meeting with the Head Teacher in Chinnor, I asked her to give a short statement on the contribution of the project in the school. She remarked particularly on the engagement of the children and how all of the sessions are relevant for them; they are unique in that they are delivered by an ecumenical team of lay and ordained members. The sessions link well to the curriculum and the team offer expertise that the staff often don't have. The impact on the school is the way in which the project makes connections with every pupil from Early Years (The Lost Sheep) to Yr.6 (Death, Funerals and the Christian Response).

Chinnor has a happy team, happy children and happy staff. REinspired is very much a win - win project and without doubt 'Good News' for Chinnor.

I very much hope to launch REinspired in Bridgend and have a dream that it will ignite a flame in South Wales.

Maggie

## Transition Events

Both halls were buzzing when 11 schools came for their Yr6 Transition Events. Leaders formed the groups into teams building giraffes— wonderful to watch. The feedback from pupils through the teachers - they had a great time with friendships beginning to develop and feeling more ready for their new secondary schools in September.

That was what we hoped for.



## Primary Volunteering

I retired from teaching at Radstock Primary School in the summer of 2013. I had already witnessed the REinspired team in action both in school and at Trinity



Church on several occasions. I knew I wanted to be involved with this wonderful team when I retired, so when September came and the children went back to school, I started volunteering. I can truly say that I have enjoyed every session I've been able to do.

I love working alongside Christians who go to other local churches and I learn from them by listening to what they have to say in the review sessions. This helps me on my Christian journey.

However, what I care about most of all is the opportunity to share the Christian faith with children in a non - threatening atmosphere. In small groups we can explore different aspects of the faith. The short activities are well prepared by an amazing team at St Nicholas Church. The children enjoy making and doing at the same time as talking about difficult issues and often challenging choices that they face today.

It's a real privilege to be involved with this project. If anyone 'out there' is wondering whether to volunteer, come along to one of the sessions and see for yourself how rewarding it can be.

Kate

## Praise & Prayer

- Our wonderful volunteers
- Our local and national teams
- Our schools and churches
- Our training sessions
- Yr 6 starting as Yr 7 in Secondary Schools
- For our Trustees - nurturing and growing us
- For a refreshed time during the summer break
- For our teachers and staff in the coming year



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

### Volunteer Training

Thursday 12th September

9.30 -12.15

with lunch afterwards

at  
St Nicolas Church,  
Earley, RG6 7JN



## Could YOU be Trustee?



It's great to celebrate the amazing opportunities God is giving us at REinspired. We've more groups. More incredible leaders. And more contact with schools and children than we've ever had before. This is something to shout about.

REinspired relies on volunteers. You undoubtedly know that we always need volunteers to help in school sessions. But did you know

that we also need people to volunteer to be a Trustee of REinspired?

As a charity REinspired needs Trustees and are volunteers drawn from our varied churches. They have responsibilities to ensure that REinspired is well managed and running sustainably, ensuring REinspired meets its safeguarding and other legal requirements.



But it's true that Trustees have fun.

Our meetings are held every second month and are often filled with the sound of laughter as we share, encourage and equip one another to serve God within REinspired. As a growing organisation, there's always plenty to encourage us. And we do like to be set one or two challenges from time to time.

Who can be a Trustee? We've got people from all walks of life and church experience. Some are retired. Some still work full or part-time. We've got leaders from churches and people from the world of business.



Interested? If you think this might be for you why not get in touch. I'd love to chat with you and explore this further.

Please pray for our REinspired Trustees. May God give us wisdom and grace as we work together to serve our schools.

Revd Keith Wilson, Chair

