



Foot washing and Easter Timeline Drama, Yr6



'Springtime!



Miracles Yr3

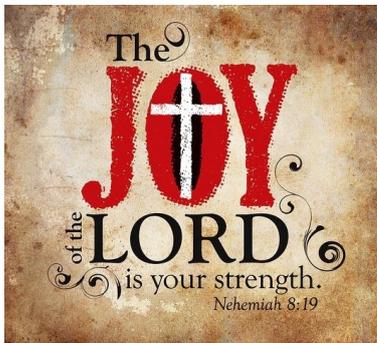


Filming session with Ben

Dear friends,

"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdie is?" Dad used to tell this ditty with a twinkle in his eye and a cheeky smile and it still makes laugh.

In unsettling times, we look for and seek out things that make us happy. They can seem to be an antidote, the thing that helps us feel better. Whilst important, what we actually need goes deeper than that. DNA deep, soul deep. What we need, is Joy. CS



Lewis wrote 'Joy is the serious business of Heaven'. Henri Nouwen said 'Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.' They encourage us to keep looking beyond this earthly realm to heaven and hold Jesus and his promises in our sights.

I see our REInspired family living this truth and being a living witness every day. A gentle yet impactful role model for our children and community. Choosing to buck the 'knee-jerk' reaction of putting up walls opting instead for invitation and welcome. This generosity, your generosity is what fuels REInspired's growth and secures our future. Thank you. We are truly blessed.

Wishing you peace, love and joy this Easter.

Blessings,  
Julia



Julia Jones  
Project Director

### We're saying 'goodbye' to Ben



Engaging creatively with schools is critical to the mission, growth, and witness of the local church. I was surprised by the limited attention given to this area during my time at 'vicar school' (i.e. theological college). I knew it was important, but when I first arrived at St Nicolas I

didn't have the experience or all the necessary skills to step into the uncharted waters of primary education. Working with Julia and her team at REInspired has become one of the most significant aspects of my curacy.

REInspired's sessions are among the best resources I have found for breathing new life into religious education. Every session tailored for its context: age appropriate, engaging all learning styles, sensitive to multi-faith environment. They are written with the current locally agreed RE syllabus in mind. This reinforces learning for children, but it is also recognised and greatly appreciated by teachers. Christians from different denominations and traditions have been partnering together to share the Good News with young people in this school for years. It speaks volumes about the integrity and quality of REInspired that I experienced three years of wonderful and fruitful ministry at this primary school because of the doors REInspired helped open to the local church.

These are the small seeds of faith, hope, and love we can offer – each one an act of trust that God will do the growing in his time. Ben

Excerpts of Ben's experiences :: read more on our [website](#) - News

### Discovering Easter for Year 6

Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth? This was the syllabus question we posed to 90 Year 6 children from Hawkedon School. At the time of the birth of the Christian Church at Pentecost, there were 12 disciples of Jesus - today there are 2.1 billion and the bible is the best selling book. "How did that happen?" we asked the children, "when for most of the 2000 years Christianity has existed, there was no internet, social media, tv and no phones?"



Our volunteers visually explained the timeline events of Easter week, and how we see God's plan for the world play out as Jesus demonstrated love to both friends and enemies. In groups the children experienced having their feet washed just as the disciples did, and discussed how the Servant King turned leadership upside down. We re-enacted the Last Supper before each child reflected on their own response to Jesus' command to GO into the world. They individually placed their creative responses around a shining globe. Teachers and volunteers alike are always touched by the poignancy of this - it's a really beautiful way to end a lovely session.



Sue

## Fantastic learnings at Hillside school

This morning Year 3 had a fantastic time learning about the "Miracles of Jesus", as REinspired visited to share their knowledge with us. This involved acting in drama, listening to stories and craft activities that helped us understand what miracles are and how Jesus performed them to help others.

We learnt how Jesus calmed the storm, healed a paralysed man and how a Roman Centurion had enough faith that his relative was healed. The children really enjoyed lowering their classmate as if they were the paralysed man being lowered through the roof. The house craft with the wind up paralysed man on his mat were very popular too.

"It was a lot of fun being lifted up and down in the sheet," commented a pupil.

"It's interesting how they believe that miracles can still happen," was also expressed.

"I liked it when we were the wind and the rain," said a Year 3 boy.

By the end the children knew what Christians believed about miracles and that Jesus performed them. The children were quite surprised, and very grateful, when I mentioned that nearly all of the adults who had come in were volunteers and they thought that they were generous to give up their time.

Fiona



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Trustee & Volunteers BBQ

Thursday  
11th July  
12.30

at St Nicolas Church  
Earley, RG6 7JN



## Exciting news from Houghton Regis



It's an exciting time for the Houghton Regis REinspired Team. We've been steadily building the number of RE sessions we deliver for schools over the last nine months and we hope shortly to advertise for a part-time paid Team Coordinator to develop our engagement further.

We are also slowly expanding the number of different sessions we deliver. A new locally agreed syllabus means we will need to be doing more of that as we carefully revise what's been before and start to work out how to address new questions that schools would like us to address. Julia's support, as ever, is invaluable.



We have been complementing our volunteer led RE sessions with 'Open The Book' Assemblies. When a community school requested these, we thought it too good an opportunity to turn down. Equipped with material that's drawn from Bob Hartman's wonderfully written Lion Story Teller's Bible, a suitcase of dressing up outfits and a roving mic, team members support students to act out the story and facilitate as high a level of participation in the telling as is possible. It's high energy and great fun and means that many students arrive ready to enter into REinspired's sessions expecting to engage and enjoy their time with us.

David

## Conversations captured ...

One of our volunteers captured this conversation with a primary school teacher after the Yr2 Teachings of Jesus session:

"On the day after I'd been there with the REinspired team to present, among other things, the story of the Good Samaritan: the teacher opened up the conversation by saying that she'd enjoyed sitting in on our session. She'd been impressed by the message of the parable and of the Samaritan's reaching out to help someone in distress who normally would have despised him and with whom he would most likely have avoided contact or conversation. She added that after the story had been presented, acted out and discussed with the group, a young girl protested, 'But as Muslims we only speak to Muslim children.' This drew forth from another girl in the group: 'It's not like that here. At this school we talk to everyone and help anyone, like in the story we just heard!'"

Peter



## And, from Easter Yr6 ...

I had a super group of Yr6 children to work alongside this afternoon. They were such a pleasure to be with. After the foot washing, I said that Jesus had been like a servant to his disciples and I asked the question: Is anyone doing a servant's job for you? Some of them immediately thought of their parents. 'They cook us our meals' 'They wash our clothes'. They thought of their grandparents too, who share their love, and, chocolate.

Kate



## Transition Events

REinspired will be holding two transition events in July. This is an opportunity for Year 6 pupils to meet and work with their peers from other schools.

Through activities we help them to:

- Reflect on how they feel about leaving primary and moving to secondary
- Share excitement, worries and wisdom

Having taught these children since they started school, we pray God's blessing and protection over them as they journey on.

- **1st July**—Loddon Valley Leisure Centre
- **8th July**—The Warehouse

If you can help, please would you contact one of the Team Leaders.

Thank you!



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