

*Do not be afraid,  
I bring good news  
of great  
joy*



**Happy Christmas**

# REINSPIRED

every child, every school, every year

NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2021

Dear friends

Is it beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in your house? It feels like it has kinda snuck up on me this year, even though we have been preparing Christmas school resources for weeks now!

This term, especially since half term, had seen more 'in person' visits being requested than expected, which is really encouraging. This has been particularly noticeable with our secondary schools as more staff have sought to take up REInspired's offer. We have even had an additional secondary school inviting Carrie and the team in, as one of the contributors to their new RE Day. Read more on Carrie's article.

Currently as news of the new variant comes through schools are revisiting their protocols meaning that some 'in person' sessions have reverted back to being pre-recorded. Our videos are really coming into their own!

Only time will tell what the impact of the new variant will be, but in the meantime we are cautious but optimistic.

At the end of November we received some wonderful news we had been waiting on. All is as we had hoped and prayed for. Our [Prayers of Thanksgiving](#) tell you more and we will share further at our volunteer gathering on 28th January. We look forward to the new year with optimism and excitement.

So much has changed globally over the last 20 months and some things will be different for REInspired in a post pandemic world. I am mindful that it is not over yet. But, that which is important remains the same. Learning how to cherish and honour these things in a new way will be challenging, but with God we know that anything is possible and we hold on to the fact that God is with us. As I write this I keep hearing that small still voice saying 'do not be afraid'.

In the meantime, we have an important celebration ahead. The birth of our Saviour. A reminder that come what may, God seeks to show us how much he loves us, is with us and for us.

Wishing you all love and peace this Christmas.

Julia,

*Julia Jones*

*Project Director*



## A message from Keith

Dear friends

Christmas is coming and with it the end of another calendar year. Have we a moment to stop and give thanks?

Writing to the church in Colossae the Apostle Paul wrote, "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you." (Colossians 1:3)

What can we, as a REInspired family, thank God for?

The first term of the 2021-22 academic year has been a time of change for REInspired. New schools, new sessions, and new ways of delivering. Much has changed. Yet our desire to support schools and help children understand key Christian beliefs remains. In the middle of much change the involvement of our volunteers remains vital.

We are so grateful for your prayers and much needed practical support. The run up to Christmas can be busy and hectic - especially in schools. It is good to stop for a moment and express our gratitude to God. Gratitude for the hard work of our volunteers and team leaders. Gratitude that we have contact with new schools and classes. Thankfulness for the developing relationships we have with existing schools.

2021 has brought its challenges - yet there remains much to be thankful for.

May God bless you, your families, and our local churches this Christmas and throughout 2022.

God bless

*Keith, Chair REInspired Trustees*



## The gangs all here!

A huge shout out of thanks to the knitters who made these beauties for us in record time — we have more angels but they are in the 'wing shop' at the moment :-)

All that was stolen has now been replaced.

Thank you ladies, from all the team.

*Julia*

## Update from South Reading

**RE** SOUTH READING  
**INSPIRED**

It was great to be able to go into Geoffrey Field Junior School in person to deliver the Y4 Christmas session with the question "What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today".

We did it one class at a time in their classrooms. The children loved the symbols quiz and making their Nativity booklet craft. We had some great discussions around what is in the Nativity story and what isn't.

Some children wondered whether Santa was one of the wise men. They had a good grasp of the story by the end and that Jesus is the most significant part of the Nativity story.



*Sarah  
Team Leader  
Geoffrey Fields Junior*



## A new invitation

On 13<sup>th</sup> October, REinspired went in to reading Girls School to work with year 9 on, 'The Role of the Church in Britain Today'. This was a new venture for us, as the school is feeling it's way with providing RE tuition via whole school off timetable days. The session was well supported by REinspired staff and volunteers, and was well received by the school and students. There may be other opportunities to deliver days like this in the future, which is exciting. Please pray for the school as they explore this new way of delivery.



Carrie, Team Leader

## A snap shot of this terms feedback

- Yr 5 pupil from Hawkedon said 'I have never thought about Christmas like this before' we took that as a positive thing :-)
- One of the teachers at New Christ Church said she'd missed all previous sessions and this was the first one she'd been at - with a big smile on her face she said she was loving it!
- F2 church visit at St Peters, one of the little ones said at the end, 'I'd like to live here'. So sweet!
- Yr1&2 in person session with volunteers at Aldryngton, Teacher said "it was the best day ever!" They were all really proud of what they made.

## Prayers & Thanksgiving

- For our wonderful volunteers, especially those who have attended in person sessions, knitted our nativity sets to replace what was stolen, cut out resources or helped us with content for our pre-recorded sessions
- Our Team Leaders and school teachers relationships which have continued through the most difficult of circumstances
- For our prayer warriors who hold us as individuals, the project and our school community
- For our new partner the Lauderdale Trust who will be supporting a new project on the national side of our work, heralding in a new way of working, sharing and growing beyond our local area.



## Date for your diary

**Friday 28 January 2022**

**10–12 noon**

**St Nicolas Church**

**Earley**

A time to catch up, share news, reflect and give thanks. 'Velcro moments' to sustain us as we venture into the new year and beyond. We cant wait to see you.

