



Happy Easter

Dear friends

As I write this we have recently passed the pandemic's two year mark and are transitioning to 'living with covid'. News of war atrocities, famine, urgent climate change priorities and fuel costs hitting the most vulnerable in our communities, makes for bleak reading. With uncertain times ahead, how as Christians can we be hopeful?

In this year's Easter Assembly we are thinking about Hope and will be asking our children to share with us what hope means to them, why it's important, what do they hope for and what helps them feel hopeful especially when things feel otherwise. Big questions. I am expecting, as always, to be encouraged and inspired by what they say. I wonder how you would answer these questions?

It feels like, for many reasons, we are living through one of the toughest seasons of Lent in recent memory and as a resurrection people we long for the joy and release of Easter day. On the horizon though, is Pentecost. God's invitation to join in, partner with the Holy Spirit and be God's hands and feet in this world. To share the Good news, to love our neighbour, to be a living witness in all that we do and in every context we find ourselves. God gives us opportunity.

Whilst we do not evangelise in schools as you know, providing opportunity for children and young people to talk about, explore and learn from topics of justice, stewardship, loving our neighbour, being Christ like in the 21st century and where that imperative comes from for Christians, all within the educational framework, is a precious privilege.

We are so grateful for your continued support and encouragement, be it a financial donation, prayers or as a volunteer. Requests for sessions hit an all time high this spring which given the circumstances is amazing. Your support enables us to respond to our schools' needs generously and with confidence. God is indeed giving us opportunity. How can we not respond? We go where the spirit leads and find he has gone ahead of us.

Where he is, hope abounds.

Love and peace to you and those you care for this Easter.

Julia, Project Director

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit Romans 15:13



Yr5 'Salvation' Understanding Christianity

One of the Understanding Christianity 'Salvation' units with Earley St Peters Yr5 answers 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?'

I began retelling Holy week whilst a table was laid for the 'Last Supper', surrounded by all 70 pupils. As I read the story pupils and volunteers considered how the disciples would have felt that evening.

In small groups, pupils discussed whether they had been 'saved' from anything, leading to a sorting activity thinking about what Christians believe Jesus saved us from.

A quiet response time followed, as they thought about what 'saved' means to them - what does it look like? What colour, shape or pattern is 'saved'?

Well, they gave me some amazing personal responses!

They went on to learn about the Old Testament sacrifice, that a lamb was a temporary sacrifice which had to be repeated but that Jesus' death was a permanent, once and for all sacrifice.



To finish the session we saw a clip from the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe where Aslan sacrifices himself to save Narnia.

Staff said that it was an 'insightful session furthering the pupils' understanding of this unitwhich was very interesting and enjoyable'.

Sue R

Yr8 Life after Death

It has been wonderful to be back in The Bulmershe School doing the Life After Death session with all year 8. It has been well received from all staff and students.

We have allowed more time for students to ask us questions about our thoughts on heaven and hell, who might go to which, where we find things in the Bible that help us decide what is true about this.

Their responses in discussion time have been thoughtful saying that, if there is a heaven, they think it would be calm, peaceful, no wars, colourful, and where we will be happy.

Carrie



Feedback from Volunteer training

WORRIES: Volunteers read verses from the Bible. They took a pebble and dropped it into the water, and as they did this tried to give their worry to God hoping to be assured of His peace, letting go and letting God.



CELEBRATION: The idea of this station was to give volunteers, who may not have done an REinspired session for over 2 years, the opportunity to chat about and remember how wonderful it is to be working with the children in schools.



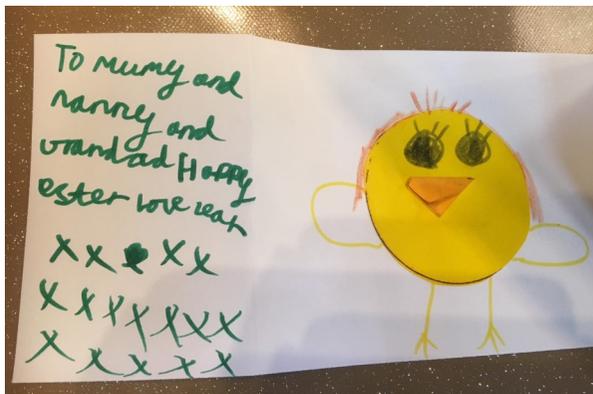
PRAYERFUL: Lots of people lingered relaxing as they prayed and watched their 'bubble prayers' rise to heaven.



Foundation pupils hear the story of Easter; last year through videos; this year face to face—it's been marvellous



Easter Sessions Yr 1-3



I joined REinspired as a team leader in September 2019; consequently, I had only done a few live sessions before covid chaos - the run up to Easter this year has been amazing. For my two primary schools I had 8 different sessions booked over 3 weeks - a challenge but a huge blessing at the same time.

Many of the teachers had never experienced an REinspired session before and all were very positive about what we had done, both on a personal level and on behalf of their students.

Several children have commented something like "this is the best lesson ever", or even "I want to stay here forever". Many of the Y1 & Y2 children have never heard the Easter story before.

In one of the sessions, we tell the story of Good Friday from the front, then go to groups for a craft. The children return to the front to hear the surprising events of Easter Day. On returning to the group for the next craft, I had one little boy who very excitedly declared "I never expected the story to end like that!"

It is such a huge privilege to be there at moments like this - of which there are many, and many of which we pray will have eternal significance!

Over the last two years the team has evolved as you would expect, and we are currently seeking additional volunteers. If you have a morning or afternoon free, enjoy sharing your faith and working with children or teenagers, we would love to welcome you to the REinspired family - it is great fun and very rewarding.

Sue A

Prayer Space

- For our wonderful volunteers, especially those who have attended in person sessions this term
- Our Team Leaders and school teachers relationships
- For our prayer warriors who continue to hold us in prayer as individuals, with our project and within our school communities
- We rejoice as our new website will be launching very soon: this gives more information on our national work (outside of our local work in Earley and East Reading)
- At our recent Volunteer training day we were reminded with a few verses from the Psalms to say our thanks to God who gives us hope.

Praise the Lord; praise God our saviour! For each day he carries us in his arms. Ps 68v19

Date for your diary

Volunteer's BBQ

14th July at 12.30

St Nicolas Church, Earley



Our new website will be launched very soon

REINSPIRED

Session plans Churches Schools Training Support us

Members Area

Churches working together to bring Christian RE to life for local schools

