

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

Dear friends,

Life is unsettled in a myriad of ways and with today's news feed being brought to us by the number 10, I am reminded how important it is to reflect and review your work, and to learn from it.

I would love to share my musings on this year. Perhaps some of it will resonate with you:

- Things do not always go to plan. But as long as it's only your pride that is hurt, that's ok.
- God made us creative beings, so get creative! Think outside the box. Be brave. You never know where it will take you.
- Be upfront and open with schools about what you can offer. Be flexible and experiment with new ways of delivering sessions. Schools value your efforts and are open to doing things differently if you invite them into the process.
- Never underestimate the power of prayer. You are not on your own.
- Meaningful collaboration and partnering with schools is impactful for them and for us.

I am hugely thankful for our team and our supporters. REinspired people are what make this project sing — they are what moves an idea from the page and into the imagination of our children and young people. They are the tellers of story, unpackers of mystery and busters of myth. Some write policy and seek the means to make it happen. Some are prayer warriors. Some are glue stick wielding Nijas. All are brave and spirit led, generous and prayerful, trusting in what the lord has placed on their heart.

Thank you all for another year.

It is with great sadness that we say a fond farewell to Keith. Keith joined the team in 2008 and became our Chair of Trustees in 2017. He is leaving to take up a new position in Slough, in September. We would like to thank him for all of his work, enthusiasm and support over the years, we will really miss him. Thank you and God bless you Keith.

Have a wonderful summer. Keep safe and have fun.  
Look forward to seeing many of you on the other side.

Julia Jones  
Project Director



# REINSPIRED

helping churches bring RE to life

See our new website:

[reinspired.org.uk](https://reinspired.org.uk)

REINSPIRED

About Us Church School Resources Support Us

Since 1997 REinspired has been bringing Christian RE to life through partnership with local schools and churches

25th Year Anniversary



## How can REinspired help you?

Attracting children and young people to church is a challenge. As a result many are growing up unaware of what Christianity is about.

REinspired takes a different approach through working with local schools to meet the needs of their educational agenda and through that to build a long term partnership together.



## Why work ecumenically?

Community schools don't favour one faith over another let alone one denomination over another. They certainly don't want churches competing over access to their pupils.

What schools want is to help pupils understand the similarities and differences between faiths. What makes all these denominations Christian? And if they are all Christian why are there differences?

What better way to demonstrate Christian unity than presenting our distinct traditions together and celebrating both the differences and what we have in common?



See page 3 for details of  
REinspired's 25th celebrations



### Keith says, "Hello, Goodbye!"

It's great to say 'hello' to you if you are one of our volunteers or wonderful supporters. As you will read we have had a wonderfully busy academic year. It has been so amazing to get back into schools and churches with our sessions. Demand from our local schools has been huge - a testimony to the quality of our sessions and the hard work that goes into the preparation and delivery. This is such an exciting time to be part of REinspired. If you're not already

a volunteer, please do consider taking part. It's great fun and hugely rewarding.

Shortly after arriving in Lower Earley I was offered the opportunity to volunteer at a session. Nothing compares to the excitement and joy of taking part in a session. It has been an incredible 18 years as I've journeyed from volunteering to being Chair of the growing REinspired network. Sadly our time in Lower Earley has come to an end. As we pack and prepare for life down the road in Slough, I need to say goodbye.

But as I say goodbye, I also say thank you. Thank you for all that you have done. Thank you for donating to REinspired. Thank you for helping in session. Thank you for cutting and gluing and generally helping REinspired be all that we are today.



Keith leading us in prayer



Keith in discussion at Yr8 Big Questions



Keith in 'Call my bluff' - was he telling the truth? Yr8 Big Questions

May God bless the REinspired family as I say goodbye and you say hello to all that lies ahead.

*Keith Wilson  
Chair of Trustees*

### Woodley REinspired's News



It has been such a joy going back into Woodley Schools over the past year.

This term has been dominated by our Transition events: 'it's your move'.



Here in Woodley the

Churches have paid for every Yr6 pupil in a Woodley School to have a copy of Scripture Union's 'It's your move' book. Books are delivered along with a 20 min presentation exploring some of the questions and concerns Yr6 pupils may have about the move from Primary to Secondary. 414 pupils will have taken part this term. There is always much excitement over the chocolate challenge and what chocolate buttons, chilli chocolate, celebrations, a chocolate orange, and a bar of dairy milk have to do with moving to secondary school.

It's always lovely to see how ready the Yr 6's are for this next adventure and reflect on the role REIW has played as we've journeyed with them during their primary school years.

*Linda*

Is Forgiveness always possible?

A searching question in the schools Yr4 Easter session



Reproduced with kind permission of Hillside Primary School (Twitter photos)

## Foundation Noah



What a session! School hall, timetable & team leader availability restraints meant that teachers asked if we could deliver this session to 90 foundation children, in one go!

This would have been the first time the children had met us and experienced a session; in fact, the first time they had met any visitor to school.

Any of you who know this session and how we usually deliver it might think we had taken leave of our senses but the last two years has taught us to embrace opportunity, think outside the box and lean into prayer.

So we did. 90 foundation children. Three zones - one storytelling, one craft and one for parachute games (behind the sliding partition-just to help manage the noise & excitement a tad). 4 REinspired staff.

Foundation staff had prepared the children really well and were ready to support us in each zone.

Solid planning, clear communication, and a willingness to partner with us, ensured that the session was a huge success in the school. Staff were thrilled. Children had a great time. One TA popped back to let us know that her 1:1 child was still immersing himself in the craft and all things Noah; his imagination had been captured and he was still enjoying where it was taking him.

A valuable lesson for all of us to step out in faith.

Revisiting the wondering questions 'what can we learn from stories' one little girl said loudly 'I learnt that God saved the world' ... bit of a mic drop moment 😊

*Julia*

## FEEDBACK from Schools

It's been humbling and thrilling to hear more feedback like this from pupils and teachers:

*"it's the best day ever when REinspired teams come in"*

*"The children were engaged throughout and completely interested in everything Fiona had to say. They were absorbed in the learning and didn't want Fiona to leave!"*



## CELEBRATION DATE

\*\*\* 25th Celebrations \*\*\*

Thursday, 13th October 2022, 7-9pm

**Join with us for thanksgiving, prayers and worship for 25 wonderful inspiring years of REinspired at St Nicolas Church**

Since 1997 REinspired has been bringing Christian RE to life through partnership with local schools and you have made that happen with your support. A big thank you

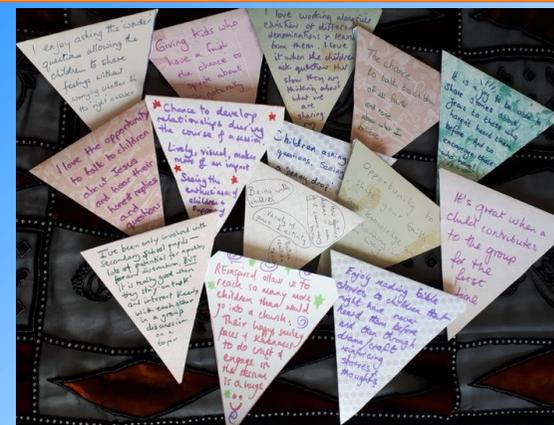
## Prayer Space

### Giving thanks

- For 25 years of grateful service of REinspired
- For our wonderful volunteers, especially those who have attended in person sessions this term
- For delivering a new secondary session: Yr10 Science & Religion
- For your prayers continuing to hold us as individuals, our project and our school communities

### Praying for

- Our Team Leaders and school teachers
- Our Trustees as we say goodbye to Keith
- Our Yr6 pupils as they transition to Yr7 students



## Diary Date

**Volunteer's Training morning**

**Thursday 15th September, 9.30am**

St Nicolas Church, Earley

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

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