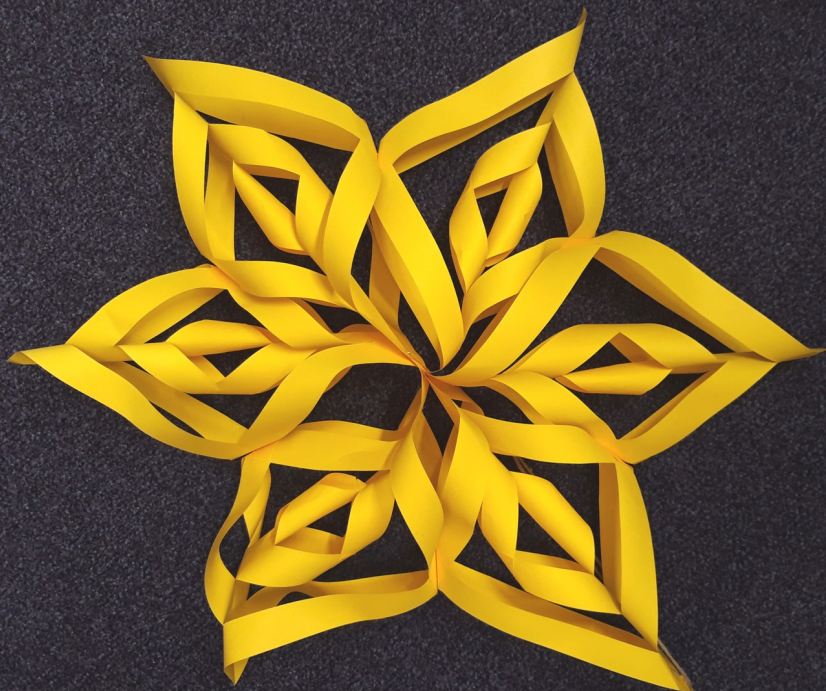


# NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2022

# REINSPIRED

helping churches bring RE to life



**We wish you  
a happy Christmas**

*With our love*  
**the REinspired team**

*\*Star craft from a Yr6 Christmas session*

Dear friends,

We said goodbye with huge thanks to Keith over the summer. All he contributed to REinspired (REi) as Chair of Trustees was greatly appreciated. Now I have the great privilege of taking the role of Chair. I have been a volunteer for REi since I retired as a vicar of a parish in SE London and for several years I have been one of the Trustees. This is a very exciting time for REi. We are going back into schools and delivering sessions face to face.

More of our volunteers are returning and we are recruiting new people. However the sessions this term have only been possible because our regular volunteers have been supplemented by our wonderful team leaders. They have voluntarily stepped up time after time. This has helped as we make the transition back to presenting sessions in person. However, Trustees are aware that this is not sustainable. It is important to grow the volunteer numbers and, if necessary, fall back on delivering sessions online. The best way to recruit new volunteers is to tap someone on the shoulder and say "Have you considered volunteering for REinspired?"



As well as volunteers for sessions we are on the look out for new Trustees. Skill in applying for grants is an urgent need, for instance.

As well as the busy schedule of sessions in Earley and East Reading we are gearing up to nurture local REinspired projects in other areas, with access to our resources, methods and training. Our newly re-vamped website – well worth visiting - gives a step by step guide to churches and schools which may wish to start up REinspired in their own local area.

Please pray for the green shoots appearing, and listen for further developments. Our work in schools is a really important and strategic act of witness. There is an open door for us to share the riches of our faith in ways that are appropriate for a multi-faith community. Please hold our work in your prayers and encourage your churches to continue their vital support.



*Richard Bainbridge, Chair of Trustees*

## Wonderful Christmas Sessions for schools

We spent a great afternoon early November with **Yr4** Whiteknights pupils looking at the question 'What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?' Why do we use symbols, we ask?

With the thoughts, feelings and the emotion of the nativity scene, particularly the characters, in their minds the children excitedly dressed up and acted out the nativity story. The children enjoyed retelling the story and were then led to delve deeper into Mary, the shepherds and wise men. They used 'role on the wall' helping them in their exploration: Mary was young, the shepherds worked hard and the wise men were astronomers, etc.

The pupils shared their thoughts with the rest of the year group at the end of the session. The teachers were

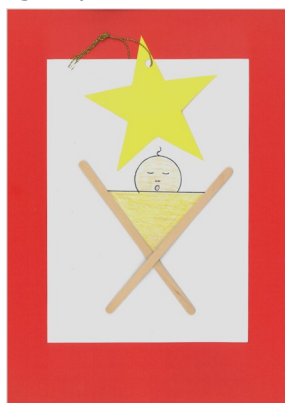
impressed and enjoyed watching them engage with all the REinspired volunteers. They also felt it enriched their RE learning by being at Reading Gateway@St Barnabas' church.

Sue R

At this **Yr3** Christmas session we welcomed 90 children from Alfred Sutton to explore the question, "Has Christmas lost its true meaning?" The children enthusiastically discussed what Christmas meant to them, heard and explored the nativity story followed by a craft symbolising Jesus's birth.

At the end we revisited the wondering question. Approximately half thought that, for a variety of reasons, the true meaning of Christmas had been lost. Whilst this is not what we have seen across other schools, it does reinforce the importance of engaging with our school community.

Fiona

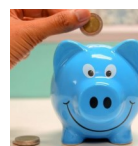


## Giving thanks and praying for:

- Our Team Leaders: for their creativity and good relationships they have with teachers
- Our wonderful volunteers in school and in helpful preparation
- Our prayerful supporters behind us all the way
- The joy of taking the Christmas story into schools
- Our schools, teachers and pupils
- Our Trustees; Richard as he leads them
- Continuing prayers for our new partner, The Lauderdale Trust, who are supporting our new national growth
- Our inspiring Project Director, Julia

## Donate here

We can only continue with our work due to your generous donations, *thank you*



## Pictures from REinspired's 25th Anniversary celebration



## Diary Date

### Volunteer's Training morning

**Friday 13th January, 9.30am**

**Primary and Secondary**

**with lunch afterwards** at St Nicolas Church, Earley



If you want to know more please get in touch with us: **0118 966 3929** [office@reinspired.org.uk](mailto:office@reinspired.org.uk)

[www.reinspired.org.uk](http://www.reinspired.org.uk) **St Nicolas Church, Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley, Reading, RG6 7JN**

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