

## NEWSLETTER

Easter 2023

### God so loved the world .....



# REINSPIRED

helping churches bring RE to life

Dear friends,

REinspired is very special. In 40 years of working in schools, as a teacher and as a minister, REinspired is the best Christian engagement I have come across. The material is excellent, the sessions are diverse and well planned, the leaders have developed relationships with the schools and volunteers have a chance to work and talk with children about what Christians believe. How good is that!!

As a church leader I am conscious that many churches today don't have any contact with children and young people. The reality of declining numbers of children and young people in our churches makes the work of REinspired even more important. The other week thanks to REinspired I was able to talk to a class of 13-14 year olds about prayer. And the school had invited us to do this; to share a Christian's understanding of prayer! How amazing is that! Our church does have children and young people but not 25 x 13-14 year olds!

At times in my ministry, it felt that schools were getting more reluctant to invite Christians in. They were suspicious. I was also becoming hesitant about 'hit and run' assemblies. Certainly, in Secondary schools I could see the shutters coming down in the eyes and minds of the young people. There was a danger of reinforcing a view that Christians and Christianity is boring. With REinspired the reaction of schools and students is very different. Schools are keen to have us, because they know we offer quality sessions, and they trust us. Students remember us from when they've seen us before and their remembrance is positive.

Thank you for your support of REinspired. Please continue to pray for us and if you don't already, I invite you to consider giving regularly to support this vital work.

Have a blessed Easter.

David

(Volunteer and Trustee)

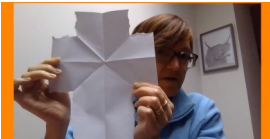


Revd David Shaw

### Yr3 Easter

It is amazing how many different wondering questions can be thought of for the Easter story – Understanding Christianity and Discovery curricula only have different wondering question for all but Year 3. Easter for Yr3's has a great wondering question: **"What is good about 'Good Friday'?"**

We tell the story of Easter, but the highlight for the children is making a 'torn cross'. We use paper which is difficult to tear, adding to the fact that Good Friday is a difficult story. After hearing the



amazing events of Easter Day, tissue flowers are added to the torn crosses to show that something which was so dreadful is transformed by Jesus' resurrection. We finish with a drama showing how Jesus clears up our mess of

sin (newspaper on floor) so we can be close to God the Father again. It is such a privilege to be part of sharing this incredible story with generally inquisitive and engaged children.

Sue A

### Yr6 Easter

We visited Hawkedon School to deliver an Easter session with the wondering question;

#### **Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?**

We explored Jesus's background and the events that led up to his crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and the birth of the Christian church. We created an Easter to Pentecost timeline using a variety of props, washed a pupils feet, took part in drama and read an action poem. We then went on to learn about the instructions that Jesus gave his followers and how the initial 12 disciples increased to in excess 2.4billion. The pupils explored how Christians continue to serve within the local community, nationally and world wide through a number of charities. The pupils had a good knowledge of the charities and recognised them through their logos. The pupils then took part in an activity that involved recognising a need of a friend or family member and how they could help that situation.

The majority of pupils felt that Christianity is still a strong religion.

The teachers fed back that this had built upon that mornings assembly and the children were engaged.

Fiona



### Yr9 Prayer

Recently, Yr9 students at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading have been working with REinspired in a session called Prayer. This is part of their GCSE work, and starts with the wondering question: **'I wonder, what is prayer, and how and why do Christians pray?'**

It is part of their topic on Christian life, and we are welcomed in to explore some general information and some personal thoughts. We start with a sorting activity where students have a selection of nine statements, such as:

The Lord's Prayer is the best prayer; Praying is more effective if you are on your knees, eyes closed; Prayer is an experience not a ritual. They have to discuss and decide whether to put these statements under the headings 'yes', 'no', or 'maybe'. We have had some fantastic discussions, with plenty of opportunity for students to share their thoughts and REinspired to share their personal experiences.

This is followed by looking at how Jesus prayed, what advice he gave about prayer, a drama based on The Lord's Prayer, and some questions from the floor. It has been great, the students have got really involved, and it has been appreciated by staff and students alike.

Carrie



### Giving thanks and praying for:

- Thousands of engaged enthusiastic inquisitive children (and their teachers) who have learnt about Jesus this term
- Our joyful team leaders leading in person sessions at school
- Wonderful Easter sessions—sharing so much with them—it's been a privilege
- For committed volunteers and team members going the extra mile
- Our helpers who knit, photocopy, draw and cut
- Prayers for more volunteers especially for help with Carrie and secondary work
- Our fundraising event—a quiz night in June
- Our need for donations
- Our Trustees and the need for one skilled in fundraising

### SAVE THE DATE

#### **REinspired's Quiz night**

Saturday 10th June,  
7pm  
St Nicolas Church

Included: raffle, table-top quiz and more .....



### Donate here

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



### Diary Date

#### **Trustee's & Volunteer's Summer BBQ**

**Thursday, 13th July  
12.30**

St Nicolas Church, Earley



**If you want to know more please get in touch with us: 0118 966 3929 office@reinspired.org.uk www.reinspired.org.uk**

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