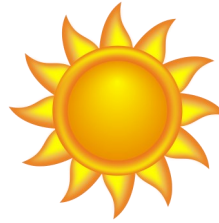




NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025



Dear friends,

"At first there was nothing, except perhaps a smile on the face of God."

Isn't that a wonderful opening to the story of creation?

Through Godly Play, craft, discussion and stories we share with children, in age-appropriate ways, the story of creation that we read in the bible. The drama of the story helps to foster a sense of wonder and thankfulness.



In small groups children are given the chance to express their creative imagination using a wide variety of colours, paints and the option of 3D

modelling or simply writing a poem.

We seek to convey that God in his love and his creative action is literally the creator of the universe. To respect creation and to live in harmony with God's complex and beautiful world is part of our calling as Christians.

Living sustainably is a matter for the heart and soul as well as the head.

The work of REinspired is a contribution to developing our young people as creation-aware citizens of our planet.

We have come to the end of another school year. Our creative and committed team leaders and volunteers have delivered an impressive number of sessions. Meanwhile the Trustees have been making exciting plans to help secure the sustainability of our work. All of us have a role to play as ambassadors and supporters.

Please remember our work in your prayers as we prepare for another year of REinspired.

Rev Richard Bainbridge
Chair of Trustees



Inside this edition:

Yr1 & 2 Creation

Yr5 Commitment to God

Next Training morning & lunch

Saying Goodbye to Fiona

Yr7 Spirituality & Art

Thanks and Prayers

REINSPIRED

helping churches bring RE to life



Our world :: David Attenborough's film, Ocean, tells us that the sea is the planet's support system and humanity's greatest ally against climate catastrophe.

Read about how pupils become inspired in their

Creation session on the [next page](#)

Yr1&2 Creation

90 Year 1 & 2 pupils from Aldryngton school, visited Earley St Peter's church to hear the story of 'Creation'.

They enjoyed a presentation of some amazing photos from nature to inspire them, followed by an interactive storytelling where they acted 'growing, flying, splashing, walking and crawling things' along with the 'sun, moon, stars, Adam and Eve'. This set the scene to go into smaller groups around the church to hear and see the story of Creation played out in Godly Play style.



Afterwards the pupils had a discussion about which day they liked the best, which was most important and whether we could do without any of

the days.

In response to 'Why do we have the 7th day, a day of rest' one pupil said, "to thank God for creating life and for us to enjoy Creation". Another responded with "To stop working and look at what we've got".

Profound thoughts from 6 and 7 year olds.

Pupils then had the opportunity to respond to the story through artwork or writing. They shared what they had made with each other and thought about ways in which they can look after this wonderful world we live in. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of time to just create - evident in their fantastic creations!



Sue R

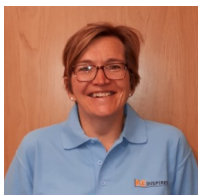
Fiona — goodbye and God bless you — we will miss you

The verse from Jeremiah 29:11 has always been one that I have turned to throughout my life. "for I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord "plans to prosper you and not to harm, plans to give you a hope and a future."

It is such a wonderful promise that has repeatedly been fulfilled in my life. When I left full time teaching it was a step of faith and the Lord provided me with my role at REinspired which on paper, and in reality has been my dream job, to teach RE from a Christian viewpoint. The role has been challenging, in a good way, and fulfilling.

It has been a real privilege to work with all of the volunteers, other team members, schools and of course the hundreds of children that we each reach every year. I have developed an even greater understanding of the importance of RE and its place within the school curriculum.

I joined REinspired and then within a few months we went into lockdown and a new way of delivering the sessions had to be found - oh, the joy of Zoom calls and remote learning. REinspired of course rose to the occasion with pre-recorded sessions being created. Whatever challenges come our way the REinspired team rise to the occasion and show adaptability, flexibility and dedication to the job at hand.



It has been a pleasure and honour to be a part of this amazing team, and I will miss all the laughter, friendship and love that exists within the whole team.

Fiona



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

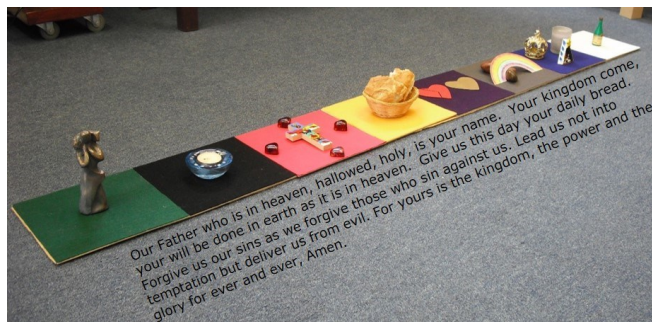
St Nicolas Church, Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley, Reading, RG6 7JN

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Yr5 Christian Commitment to God

What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God?

What a brilliant question. And so many ways to answer. This is one of those sessions whose content can vary a little from school to school to ensure it dovetails and supports their particular programme of study. What needs supporting or further explanation, where can we add value?



My personal favourite is when we are asked to talk about prayer, especially the Lords Prayer, using Godly Play. It is rich and deep. Stimulates imagination and conversation. Different lines in the prayer landing differently with each child, with some of the artefacts cleverly drawing connections to memories they have of previous sessions.

This year, many children were particularly drawn to this part -

'Your Heavenly Father loves you so much, that he has spread his love to every corner of the world. North, south, east and west.

There is no part of this world that he does not care for.

There is no part of this world that he does not want us to care for.'

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Beautiful. Food for the soul and a gentle reminder.



Julia

Volunteer Training

Thursday, 18th September 9.30am
Prayer stations - Workshops - Lunch
at St Nicolas Church, Earley, Reading



Donations / Time

1. Please make donations [here](#)
2. Email [Julia](#) to become a [volunteer](#)
3. Email [Julia](#) to start a [new project](#)



thank you



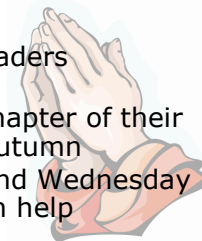
Thanks and Prayers

Giving thanks for:

- Our new Team Leaders: Sue Bruce leading at Alfred Sutton and Redlands; Sarah Godwin leading at New Town; Jill Bird leading at Maiden Erlegh Reading.
- Our positive school partnerships
- Our Trustees to help keep the REinspired mission going forward
- The upcoming volunteer training event on 18th September
- Thanks for your all support in so many meaningful ways—we are truly grateful

Praying for:

- For our current and new Team Leaders preparing for the Autumn Term
- Our Yr6 pupils beginning a new chapter of their lives at secondary school in the Autumn
- More volunteers in our Tuesday and Wednesday sessions—speak to Julia if you can help



Yr7 Spirituality & Art

This term we have been looking at "Spirituality and Art" with the 10 classes of year 7 in Bulmershe school. How could Sister Wendy Beckett's quote be true, "Looking at art is a way of listening to God"?



After looking at some examples of historical Christian painting, we spent more time with two pieces by Sue Batchelor, a contemporary local artist, seeing how she combined different Christian themes into a single abstract image.

One of the key questions we addressed in small groups was, "Why did Sue Batchelor express her spirituality through art?"

Responses from year 7's included:

- "Some things are too powerful to be described in words"
- "I want to show my thoughts on God in a creative way"
- "So she could spread the word"

The students engaged really well with this session which is rather different from their usual RS lessons. As one volunteer commented, "I was so impressed at the young people's enthusiasm and insight as we talked about spiritual journeys and where God can fit into people's lives."

Chris



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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