

Welcome to our termly newsletter which aims to update you on our activities over the past term as well as keep you informed about future plans.

*Providing an opportunity for primary school age children to hear about and learn from the Christian faith*

## Summer term – more videos

Another term – another batch of **Connect** videos to send to schools for use in their collective worship, class assemblies or RE lessons... We have had good feedback from schools and trust that they are enjoyed and have an impact on young lives. A big thank you goes to all the amazing volunteers who got involved in the filming of these videos.



### Life Lessons – Letting Go

This video related how forgiving is not easy but unforgiveness is not good for us or others. Jesus says we should forgive and God will forgive us.

### Life Lessons – Starting Small

Using the verses from Matthew 13:31-33 Luke 13:18-21 this video shared that small things can have a big impact. Jan made bread with a small amount of yeast and also used the example of a seed growing into a big tree.



### Life Lessons – A time to...

Using the story of when Jesus calmed the storm, plus verses from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, this video talks about the fact that bad things can happen in life but God can be with us through these storms or seasons and can help us through.

### Life Lessons – Asking for help

Paul told the story of the centurion whose servant was sick, from Matthew 8:5-13, to illustrate the

importance of asking God to help us; we shared that Christians believe we can have confidence and faith in Jesus just as the centurion did.



### Life Lessons – Making wise choices

A cartoon of the parable of the wise and foolish builders was the basis for our last video of the term, with the lesson that the best choices are not always the easy ones and the best foundation for our lives is Jesus.



These Connect videos were sent to schools with accompanying reflection and activity sheets. If you are interested in viewing them visit [www.genr8.org/videos](http://www.genr8.org/videos)

## Inspire Prayer Spaces

Siân produced five more **Reflect videos** for the summer term, with short thoughts and activities under the titles 'Opportunity Keys', 'Under My Umbrella', 'Jumping for Joy', 'Unique You' and 'Seasons of Change'. Each video is 3-5 minutes long and is designed to be a short reflection that classes can watch as an act of collective worship. The videos are consistently well received in schools and have been viewed many hundreds of times.

**Inspire Transition** bags were sewn and then filled with resources by a lovely team of volunteers in late June ready to be taken into schools and given to Year 6 pupils. Schools then used these alongside the GenR8 It's Your Move video and SU book, kindly donated by local churches to help them as they make the transition to secondary school. Thank you to everyone who made this possible – over 450 bags sewn and filled, then delivered to the schools.

One school wrote: *Our Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed working through the activities at their own pace. It's clear that a huge amount of work went into producing these (including sourcing the materials, making the videos and making the bags). We have found them very helpful, inspiring and relaxing. Thanks to everybody involved.*



## Inspire Permanent

Over the last 12 months, we have supported nine schools in having a Permanent Prayer Space, giving them resources to display that change roughly every 4-6 weeks. A variety of themes are covered throughout the whole year including Harvest, Easter, Humility and Compassion. Each display had to be adapted so it was durable, easy to wipe clean, did not include any 'touch points' and was simple for school staff to put up. From September we are continuing to provide a simplified and Covid-secure display, with the intention of going back to using original material with interactive elements that make a prayer space inviting, in the second half of the term. Some of the local church volunteers involved in the project have been invited back into schools already to help put up and maintain the prayer space, and we hope that all volunteers can do the same in the near future. Themes for the Autumn Term include Harvest, Remembrance and Advent / Christmas. *A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped and supported permanent prayer spaces over the last year, especially Janet King who worked with Siân to continue sending prayer space resources into our partner schools despite the challenges that the pandemic has brought.*



## Farewell and thank you to Myra

Myra has been part of the GenR8 team for the past 18 years and will be sorely missed now that she has made the move across the border to Scotland to be closer to family. In July we celebrated (as much as we were able within the restrictions!) her many years of volunteering with GenR8 and said goodbye. Myra faithfully served GenR8 with remarkable commitment and loyalty and we were only disappointed that the Covid situation meant that we could not serve on one more assembly presentation tour together, to experience the usual mix of fun, enjoyment and poignant moments that visiting primary schools with an assembly brings. We are hoping that Myra may still join us virtually from time to time, so it is just goodbye and not farewell!

If you, or someone you know, would like to join the volunteer team then please do get in touch – you don't have to sign up for 18 years with us!



## Looking Ahead

Uncertainty seems the only certainty as we look ahead, but we know that God is in control and we need to look to Him as we plan and prepare for the future. We hope that we may be able to start to visit schools in person with various activities this term – initially with the Cool Choices programme for Year 6 children, and then hopefully with a Christmas assembly presentation in December. As you can read in his prayer letter, Steve is planning to step back from the role of GenR8 Director whilst remaining a key part of the team presenting Christianity. We are now in the process of searching for a new director - they will be big boots to fill indeed! For more information see: [www.genr8.org/jobadvert](http://www.genr8.org/jobadvert)  
A new director will inevitably bring changes and adjustments for us as a charity but we pray that the transition will be a positive one for us. In the meantime, we are planning more Reflect and Connect videos as a resource for schools to use as and when they need them.

## Prayers...

- ❖ Give thanks for another busy term where we shared a Christian message in schools despite being unable to visit them.
- ❖ Please pray for the coming term with the uncertainties that exist – that we will do what is right...
- ❖ Pray for Cool Choices, with the prospect of visiting schools in person to talk about making positive life choices.
- ❖ Please pray that God will guide the search for a new director and the right person will apply.
- ❖ Pray for the plans to hold Xcellr8 2022 which we are planning as a residential event again this year.

'Yet hope returns when I remember this one thing: the Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have, and so I put my hope in Him.' *Lamentations 3:21-24 GNT*

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