



Dear friends

New Director Update

After a second round of advertising, we invited two people for interview and offered the position to one of the applicants. Sadly, due to recent changes in personal circumstances, they turned the offer down. The trustees are currently following up on a couple of leads and will be meeting soon to talk about what's next. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as to what those next steps might be! We may need to consider alternative ways forward. It would be good to know what God has in mind, so pray that we will be open to what He has to say - pray that I will be open to what He has to say too!

Back in Schools!

What a privilege to be back in schools! And what a welcome we have had... *'It's great to see you again', 'we have missed you', 'the children think you are film stars'* (in reference to videos we have been producing), *'I can't believe you're here in person!'* are just some of the many comments we have had since being back in schools with our Advent and Easter assembly tours. As one team member commented: *the headteacher of one of the schools was almost overwhelmingly pleased to see us again!* With two years having passed since our last visits it's fair to say some of us wondered whether anyone would remember us! Any fears were soon eased and if anything, we felt our relationships with many schools had strengthened, there was more than one comment that expressed we have missed you because you are part of our school community. This did much to warm our hearts.

Whilst putting a video together some time ago, one of our volunteers commented that for hundreds of children GenR8 is part of their primary school experience. I think recent encounters have strengthened that feeling. How amazing is that! For many of the team encounters with young people and adults in shops, on the street, even whilst overseas, who remember GenR8 positively brings such encouragement. Just this week a former GenR8 team member emailed to say: *'At a business award recently I was on a table with a local cinema team and a young apprentice who had been nominated. None of us won awards but all those in their 20s remembered me from GenR8. It was a bit of a sight with the entire table doing the GenR8 waves!'* For many their faith journey has been inspired through the work of GenR8 and we are privileged to play a small part in building God's Kingdom. Do consider whether you would like to join us in sowing seeds.

Family

Rachel's uncle Peter passed away last November - another reminder of life being fragile. But in the midst of the fragility there can be beautiful things. As an executor of his will, I have discovered so much about Peter's life; his generosity in time and finance; the number of people whose lives he touched, those who were sick, bereaved, lost, and lonely; those of other faiths who spoke so warmly of a man of integrity and honesty; and a man who commanded respect as a scientist and as a man of faith. Peter has left a huge hole and a legacy that is an inspiration! I pray that will be true of GenR8, as well as being the challenge for my own life.

We loved having the team in on Friday, it was just what we needed. It's been a difficult time with staff sickness and was good to try and get back to some form of normal. Deputy Headteacher

- 🌸 For the trustees and staff as we look to the future and what God might want to say.
- 🌸 For preparations as we work towards a summer presentation on the theme of forgiveness.
- 🌸 For young people in Years 11 and 13 to join our *It's Your Move* team visiting schools in July.
- 🌸 For volunteers to join the GenR8 assembly presentation teams.
- 🌸 For ongoing inspiration with Connect and Reflect videos for the summer term.
- 🌸 For Siân as she heads up the work of *Inspire Prayer Spaces* as we look to get back into schools to run days as well as produce prayer space bags for Year 6s.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. Elizabeth Andrew