

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 reflections

It has been a great term with lots of opportunities to go back into schools – in life, you often do not appreciate the value of things until they are gone, and we have truly seen the value of face-to-face schools work and hopefully will never take any of these opportunities and activities for granted.

It's Your Move



For five days in July, Steve, Siân and six young team were on the *It's Your Move Tour 2022*. After two years of not visiting schools in person, we were all very pleased to be able to run a workshop at 14 schools across Cambridgeshire. The *It's Your Move* tour supports Year 6 students in making the transition to secondary school and is based around the Scripture Union *It's Your Move* book. In many schools we visited in partnership with the local church and the church leader accompanied us and gave these books to all students as a gift. The churches also assured the students that they were praying for them.

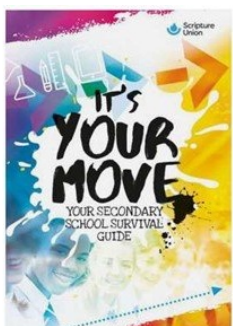
The team, although nervous at the beginning, settled into the rhythm brilliantly, interacting with the students and hopefully helping to dispel any nerves about the transition! On team this year were students who had been the only one in their class moving up to a particular secondary school, students who had taken some time to settle in, as well as some who'd got lost in the first few weeks. We hope that by sharing these experiences (and some top tips too) the Year 6s will have come to realise that they can thrive in their own secondary school experience. In the workshop, the Old Testament story of Joseph is shared - he faced many changes and challenges throughout his life but continued to make good choices, a message we hope will stay with the students. Many teachers said how great it was that we were back in-person in 2022!

For those schools we were unable to visit, we sent out a video alongside a teachers' guide. These were similar to those provided in 2020 / 2021, and have proved an invaluable way to keep in contact with schools and support the transition process for many more students than those we are able to see in person.

Many of schools visited also received a Transition Prayer Bag for each of their Year 6 students to keep: a project first started in 2021. Each individual drawstring bag contains the items needed for six prayer space activities, designed to help students reflect on their time spent at primary school and process their thoughts and feelings associated with the transition to secondary school. Thank you to all those involved in sewing, packing and delivering these bags – it truly was a joint effort! *Siân Thorne*



Many teachers commented how the workshop and the prayer bags were highly valued by staff and students:



The children absolutely loved the session. The balance of the workshop helps to maintain their engagement throughout. We love how the team provides such an important message in such an inspiring way. Staff and children

Thank you for such an amazing experience, I have loved the entire thing from start to finish. I hope I can do it again some time. Rose (IYM team member)

'It's Your Move' is a great event and so valuable for young people on team. Parent of team member

Summer Presentation – Forgiving isn't easy

The theme of forgiveness was well received by staff and children alike. The assembly related the story of the Unforgiving Servant and shared how we should forgive others as God is always willing to forgive us. Four teams visited 68 schools, plus one homeschool group in a garden – a first! The Royston team was excited to welcome a new team member, Gillian Cowen, (on LHS) who said: *Being a retired primary school teacher it was lovely to go into schools to share God's love and teaching as part of the GenR8 team. The team made me feel so welcome and we had so much fun. I had a fabulous time! (even if I did get water thrown over me up to 4 times a day 😊)*



Videos

A video of the *Forgiving isn't easy* presentation was sent to all the schools on our list as some are not 'back to normal' yet. This term we also sent schools three **Connect videos** for use in their collective worship, class assemblies or RE lessons on the themes of Trust, Truthfulness and Inspiration. Siân also produced three **Reflect videos** with short thoughts and activities entitled My Team, Clouds and Leave it Behind. The videos were a new project for GenR8 during the pandemic and have proved useful with great feedback from schools.

Also in the summer term:

Cool Choices – Nine workshops took place, three in partnership with Actios schools work charity in St Neots.

Inspire Prayer Space day – The first for two years! As part of well-being week in St Phillip's school Cambridge.

Permanent Prayer Spaces – Continuing to resource nine schools in partnership with local churches.

Family Services – It is encouraging to get invitations to lead or participate in church services after a long gap.

Team news

It was good to welcome a new assembly team member, Gillian Cowen, and that Sarah Reynolds has signed up for the Christmas assembly tour. There is a place for you too if you would like to be part of this local ministry.

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Jan Hubbard who has been part of the King's Lynn based West Norfolk team for several years. Steve had the privilege of going to her funeral which was a great tribute to her life and faith.

Thank you and goodbye to Jennifer Harrison, who has volunteered as West team booking coordinator for three years. This role became even more vital during the pandemic as we sent resources to schools and kept in touch when visits were not possible. Thanks, Jennifer for your commitment during this particularly challenging time.

Looking ahead

Cool Choices – fully booked with visits to nineteen Year 6 classes in September and October.

Team Building Retreat day – 10 October at Histon Baptist Church.

Inspire Prayer Space days – currently taking bookings for the autumn term – volunteers are needed.

Growing Young Disciples – bookings are open for this day for those in Years 6-8 on Saturday 12 November.

Christmas assembly tour – preparations underway for next tour, sharing the message of Jesus' birth.

Xcellr8 - Anticip8 (11/12 Feb 2023) – the planning process has begun and bookings will be taken from October.

Prayers...

- ❖ Give thanks for the summer term and all that we could do in schools.
- ❖ Please pray for the autumn term and all our activities – Cool Choices, assembly presentations, Growing Young Disciples and more – that we will rely on God in everything we do.
- ❖ Give thanks for the continuation our Permanent Prayer Spaces in schools, and the support of volunteers and churches.
- ❖ Please continue to pray for the director role and for wisdom as the trustees look at the future leadership of GenR8.

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