

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

*I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8*

## Looking back at the spring term

We are excited to report back on another busy term, with a new term in full swing with lots happening – I hope you enjoy catching up with our news.

### Easter Assembly – Forgiveness and saying sorry

The Easter presentation was taken into 114 schools and the reception was overwhelmingly positive. The Bible focus was on Jesus' tomb, where frightened soldiers recognised that even they would be forgiven if they were truly sorry. The puppets discovered the importance of forgiving friends and the song by John Hardwick shared a verse from the Bible – *Be Kind and Compassionate to one another; forgive each other just as in Christ God forgave you* – Ephesians 4: 32. The assembly ended with a reflection on the things we may all need to say sorry for – being angry, deflecting blame onto others, not sharing, saying mean things, and choosing not to help someone in need. Receiving feedback from several schools was really brilliant - *Thank you to the team, the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the assembly, as always. - When the children were told that you were coming there was a loud cheer!!!*



### Inspire Prayer Spaces

Spring term saw two IPS days, in Steeple Morden and Alconbury, supported by their local churches. The theme for Steeple Morden was 'me, my community and the wider world' and at the end of the session one child exclaimed 'I'm going to make a space like this in my bedroom when I get home'! The day at Alconbury, hosted by the church of St Peter and St Paul, was on the theme of Easter. It had been rearranged from earlier in the term and it was so encouraging to have the support from members of the church and a visit from one of the co-headteachers who was not 'at work' that particular day!

We also took Inspire Prayer Spaces to Make Lunch Royston in February half term. It was a new experience to be in a non-school setting, where the children stayed and explored the prayer activities with their families. Our visit was so successful that plans are already afoot to visit Make Lunch Royston again!



### Siân – Commissioning Service

Siân Thorne was commissioned in her new role as GenR8 Director at Christ Church Trumpington, her home church, on Sunday 2 April. GenR8 team members, family and friends attended the service where Liz Jenkin, Chair of GenR8 trustees, shared a bit about GenR8 and reflected on Siân's journey, first as Inspire Prayer Spaces Director, and now as overall Director of the charity.

Siân says: 'Thank you very much to all those that sent messages beforehand, prayed for me and/or came to support the service. I felt really blessed and upheld in prayer. It was also a brilliant opportunity to share my role in GenR8 with my own church family and has since sparked many conversations about the work we do and how GenR8, local churches, and schools, work together.'



### Xcellr8 – Anticip8

A full capacity of 48 children descended on Histon Baptist Church for our February Xcellr8 weekend for children aged 8-11. An exciting weekend was enjoyed by team and children alike and amongst the fun, games, and general mayhem our 'Anticip8' theme explored what Christians are looking forward to and what our Christian hope is founded upon. In the space of two packed days, we managed to look at the Old Testament prophets, parables, the kingdom of God, Jesus' resurrection and the Holy Spirit! Phew!

One parent got in touch to say: 'Our son had a brilliant time, enjoying the whole weekend and inspired to spend more time praying and deepening his relationship with God. He is very keen to return next year and invite friends too.'



## Looking ahead

### Summer term assembly – We can make a difference

Preparations are being made for the summer assembly presentation, that focuses on how we can all make a big difference by loving our neighbours as Jesus taught. This term we have fewer team members available, with some regulars being unable to join us, meaning that teams are small. It will be a challenge but we trust that our God provides; we know the task to reach young people with a Christian message is a vital one and one that we are called to. Can you be part of the answer to our prayers for more volunteers to join the teams visiting schools with a fun assembly next term?

- ❖ Please pray for the rehearsals, booking of the assembly visits and for the assembly tour in June and July.
- ❖ Pray for new volunteers to catch the vision and join the GenR8 assembly teams.

### Preparations for the It's Your Move (IYM) tour and transition bags

We are currently making plans for visits of the IYM team to Year 6 classes with a message of reassurance and support as they face the transition to secondary school. We are looking to recruit young people to join the team for the week 10-14 July with training and preparation days planned for 3 and 6 July. If you or anyone you know are in Year 11, Year 13, or at university and have time to serve in this way then we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Siân (details below). Each class visited will be provided with transition prayer space bags to take home – containing thought-provoking prayer activities and an IYM book (often donated by the local church or the diocese).



- ❖ Pray for young people to join the IYM team and for all the practical aspects of the visits.

### Inspire Prayer Spaces this term

IPS days are booked at Longstanton on 18 May, Whittlesford on 25 May and Barton Primary on 7 June. On each day we will bring a range of different activities to the school, transforming a space into a sanctuary of calm. Children work through the activities in groups of three and are encouraged to reflect and think about themselves, their local community and the wider world. Each activity ends with an invitation to pray and talk to God.

- ❖ Pray for the organisation that needs to happen between GenR8, the schools and the local churches.
- ❖ For volunteers to help run these days.

### Permanent Prayer Spaces

The theme in the 10 schools is currently 'Let's Celebrate!'. We have linked this with the coronation of King Charles III and it encourages children to remember all the times they have celebrated - writing these days down on balloon shapes - for everyone else to see. The next theme, just after half term, is 'growing and changing'. This final prayer space activity of the academic year will focus on transition – the moving onto different schools, teachers, or year groups, that every child will experience. This change can be unsettling for many children and the PS provides the opportunity to think about and reflect on their feelings.

- ❖ For the safety of Janet King and Siân as they travel delivering kits to schools.
- ❖ Give thanks for the church volunteers who put up each display (over 15 across all schools!).

### Financial support

We would like to ask you whether you could consider joining our ministry by supporting us financially – a monthly donation, or a one-off gift would be a great encouragement and would help us as we plan future initiatives. To find out more visit: [www.genr8.org/support-us](http://www.genr8.org/support-us), or you can give by cheque, made out to GenR8 and post it to: GenR8 Bookkeeper, Mr Paul Brown, 9 Stephenson Close, Royston, Herts SG8 5TT

### Celebration

We are aiming to have a celebration later this year to mark GenR8's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and to recognise Steve Whyatt's role in the development, growth and continuing impact of this ministry. Look out for the announcement of the date.

### Also:

- ❖ Give thanks for the Easter tour and the privilege to share the Easter story with so many children.
- ❖ Pray for Siân – for wisdom, strength, good health and everything else she will need to carry out the role of director.
- ❖ Pray for the video work; that the Connect videos: the Jesus, the role model and Jesus, the miracle worker; and the Reflect videos, would be well-received in schools.
- ❖ Pray for inspiration as we continue to provide Christian resources for schools.
- ❖ Steve Whyatt is still very much part of GenR8 as a project leader and continues to work 4 days a week. Pray for him as he adjusts to this new role.

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