

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

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die". John 11:25  
Here is a snapshot of four of our different programmes last term.

## Xcellr8

Xcellr8 2024 'Particip8' had 57 children explore what it means to be a part of God's team and a member of the 'body of Christ'. There were four teaching sessions looking at: how we need to be fit (and how we can prepare ourselves); the team; the event; and the prize! All went away exhausted yet full of wonder and hope about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. A John Hardwick praise party, swimming at Impington Sports Centre, and such wonderful food, were some of the highlights mentioned by the children at the end! Thank you to all who contributed to running the weekend – to the 42 volunteers on team (adults and young people) who gave up their time to serve and to our prayer supporters too who surrounded the weekend in prayer! Ultimately though we give thanks to God whose Holy Spirit was moving amongst us, protecting us and



helping us see how we can have a relationship with our heavenly Father.

## Easter – A New Start

The assembly focussed on the story of Peter and the miraculous catch. Peter shares about the arrest, crucifixion



and resurrection and how he denied knowing Jesus; but Jesus forgave him and gave him a new start. Gillian from the South team said: *We did 23 assemblies and were very blessed during the tour by such a warm reaction to the presentation. There was a definite appreciation that we tackled this difficult topic of Easter and often set them up for their own Easter plans. One memorable moment was when the disciple, John, was left to 'sort out the fish on his own' and a child called out 'Poor you!' Another was during the sketch when we thought we were going to be joined by one child, thankfully they were led away before getting caught up in our net! John was greatly encouraged by being told that the song was the best we've done.*

The South team were: Jan Newton, John Hardwick, Kathryn Gee and Gillian Overitt with admin and bookings from Dianne Conway.

## Celebration

GenR8's 21+ years of children's ministry in schools and churches was celebrated on the afternoon of Saturday 20 January. The event showcased some of our programmes, both through displays and by sharing assembly sketches, songs, and more, as part of the celebration service. There was the opportunity to pray, praise God for the ongoing ministry, and recognise the impact that GenR8 has had. Steve Whyatt spoke of his journey and how GenR8 developed from a seed of an idea in 2001. At the end he handed over the baton symbolically to Siân as director. The afternoon concluded with a chance to chat, have tea and cake, and reminisce with current and past volunteers (some of whom had not met up for many years!) and many others who have supported GenR8 in different ways. Thanks go to everyone who came along on the day and to Shelford Free Church for hosting us.



## Permanent Prayer Spaces

Kennett Community Primary School in Newmarket has joined Permanent Prayer Spaces, which is now in 13 schools across the region. The *Lent* theme included a challenge to think of ways to be more generous and then to act on them, based on the [40 Acts Lent Challenge](#). Challenges included: ask your grown-up about their day on your way home or at teatime; try to chat to someone you haven't spoken to in a while; and help return lost property to the right owner. Previously, the theme in spring term had been *Humility*, asking the question, *Do you put others first?* The children could respond by suggesting ways they could show humility: holding open a door and letting someone else walk through first; offering something of yours to another who needs it more; or doing a



job no one else wants to do!

## Looking ahead

### Inspire Prayer Spaces

Bookings for the term ahead include one before term even starts! Make Lunch in Royston has invited us back for a session during the Easter holidays – it is a privilege to be part of this valuable work that provides hot meals and activities to children who normally receive free school lunches.

- ❖ Pray for the two schools who have booked Prayer Space Days so far this term – that the preparations go well.
- ❖ Pray for more volunteers to join the IPS team.

### Permanent Prayer Spaces

Permanent Prayer Spaces has been running at GenR8 for almost 10 years now. In that time we have seen growth from four schools to 13 today! It all started when schools said 'Prayer Spaces is brilliant and we'd love to have something like this in school on a more permanent basis'... so Permanent Prayer Spaces was born! Siân and Janet work together to create kits for each school, delivering them and supporting local church volunteers in setting spaces up. This truly is a collaborative project between schools and churches, working together to help strengthen links and build community. Summer term will see a *Celebrations* theme inviting children to say thank you to God for all the times they have been able to get together with others to celebrate, then a *Changing and Growing* theme illustrated using butterflies, to tie in with the end of term and all the changes that will bring for the children.



- ❖ Please pray that children, staff, parents, and volunteers in all 13 schools (Abbots Ripton, Babraham, Barton, Dry Drayton, Elsworth, Fordham, Great and Little Shelford, Guilden Morden, Kennett, Oakington, Steeple Morden, Whittlesford, and Wilburton Primary schools) connect with each display, and with God.
- ❖ Pray for the 14 church volunteers and for the on-going relationships between churches and their local school.
- ❖ Pray for Janet King as she volunteers her time for this ministry.

### Summer assembly visits

The summer assembly is called Respect and is an anti-bullying theme, approaching the subject by promoting the positive aspects of how we should value and treat one another well, respecting each other's differences. This is one of our original assemblies – the basic content was first taken into schools in 2002! It includes John Hardwick's song, Respect, the 'commitment sketch' as seen at the celebration service, plus an interactive Bible story of the paralysed man who was lowered through the roof to Jesus.

- ❖ Pray for new volunteers to join the teams, for bookings and our booking coordinators, and for the school assembly rehearsals and visits.

### It's Your Move

The transition to secondary school is a stressful time for many children and It's Your Move aims to allay fears and give valuable advice to help them in this process. It is particularly beneficial to have older teens involved as they can relate directly with the Year 6 students, having gone through the same transition themselves. If you know young people in Years 11 or 13 who may be free from 8-12 July and interested in joining the IYM team, then please get in touch.

We will also be producing transition prayer bags again this year, for pupils to explore their thoughts and feelings around the move. We will give these out at the end of each workshop to be used in the following days, along with the Scripture Union IYM books, often donated by the local churches.



- ❖ Pray for young people to join the It's Your Move team; also pray for the team putting 100s of prayer bags together.
- ❖ Pray for Ruth as she books the workshops in schools and liaises with local churches.

Also:

- ❖ Give thanks for the Xcellr8 weekend and pray for all who were there.
- ❖ Give thanks for the Easter tour with the message of forgiveness and the chance of a new start that was shared with thousands of children in North Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and West Norfolk.
- ❖ Pray for the upcoming term: Permanent Prayer Spaces, summer assembly, Inspire days and It's Your Move.
- ❖ Continue to pray for Steve and his health, and the health of other team members too.
- ❖ Pray for volunteers to join us.

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