

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

Do the good things for other people that you would want them to do for you. Luke 6:31

Here is a snapshot of some activities last term.

Summer - Respect

This assembly was a joy to present and well received. It focused on what respecting each other means, how much God values us and how Jesus taught us to treat others as we would want to be treated. Three teams went out this summer – it wasn't all sunshine due to the mixed weather, but in the words of one teacher: *'It may be dull and cold, but today's assembly won't be dull because it's GenR8!!!'*

With the sound of Aretha Franklin's 'Respect' song kicking off our assembly the children loved the opening sketches which were fun and laid out the Respect theme clearly. The 'Cooking Beans' sketch showed the children we are more than a mix of elements and how important human beings are to God, because He made us and wants us to treat each other with care and respect because we are so precious to Him. The puppets explored 'standing in someone else's shoes', so we think about others in line with Jesus' teaching. This was a very interactive assembly, and the children readily joined in with both the Bible story and the song, as did a lot of the staff.

It was clear from the sum-ups that schools appreciated the theme; respect is one of many schools' core values, and many commented that they were working on this value and appreciated the assembly adding to this. Here are a couple of the many positive comments:



'Lots of things to think about - remember respect today and in the days ahead.'

The children really

appreciated it, and the content was very in keeping with some areas we are working on in school.

Bev Thomas (Central team)

Garden Party



On Sunday 21 July, in the beautiful garden of Bev and Andy Thomas (thank you!), the team had the chance to gather and thank Jane Farewell and Laura Andrews for their contributions to GenR8 over the years. The primary reason to meet however was to express our gratitude to Steve Whyatt – without whom none of us would be part of the ministry. He was given a photobook of GenR8 memories, plus gift cards donated by the team members to thank him for his many years leading the ministry. We were very grateful that Steve could attend despite his ongoing health issues.

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. Thanks go to Antonio and Rose for volunteering on team, joining Siân on the visits to 15 schools. Over 500 prayer and reflection bags (Janet King and a small team assembled these - Thank you Janet) were handed out along with the *It's Your Move* books.

Inspire Prayer Spaces

Two events happened in the summer term: Park Street Primary School had a space for two days in May in a small classroom. The days tied in with their school values of honesty and respect and saw all children visit, some many times! Feedback from the children, parents and school staff was very positive – one parent said afterwards *Thank you for encouraging my child to talk about prayer and what it means. I have been trying to do this at home [without much success] but now she is talking about it non-stop!*

Linton Free Church held a Prayer weekend in June with Inspire Prayer Spaces featuring on Friday and Saturday. Children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 from Linton Infants School visited, making some amazing 'Thank You' bunting of all the things we have in our lives that we are thankful for. The prayer activities stayed out on Saturday for families to visit, alongside other prayer events happening in the church.



Looking ahead

Cool Choices

Bookings are in place for the autumn term workshops over 14 days in September and October. Cool Choices aims to help students make positive life choices and includes a Christian perspective using video clips plus the wise and foolish builder Bible story. Cool Choices workshops give students an opportunity to express their thoughts and discuss their feelings as well as reflect on their futures and the choices that they will need to make. The success of Cool Choices is shown by the fact that schools invite us back each year and from the feedback we receive from Year 6 teachers and students.

- ❖ Pray for the team delivering the workshops - Liz Jenkin, David Newton, Bev Thomas, Siân Thorne, and Cheryl Titmus.
- ❖ Pray for the Year 6 students; for a positive impact and that they will be open to discussing good choices.

Permanent Prayer Spaces

There will be three Permanent Prayer Space themes in the autumn term: Harvest, Remembrance and Advent. Harvest material is currently being gathered by Janet King and Siân, ready to distribute in mid-September across the 13 schools we support - Abbots Ripton, Babraham, Barton, Dry Drayton, Elsworth, Fordham, Great and Little Shelford, Guilden Morden, Kennett, Oakington, Steeple Morden, Whittlesford, and Wilburton Primary schools. This year we will be adding Coton Primary school to our number!

- ❖ Pray for Janet and Siân as they travel delivering kits to volunteers.
- ❖ Pray for the local church volunteers we link with at each school and the supporting churches. We are in particular need of a church link with Fordham, Kennett and Oakington schools.

GenR8 Volunteer Team Day

This will take place on Monday 30 September. It will be a chance for all who volunteer with GenR8 to get together, worship, pray, reflect and learn. We will be joined by Amy Robinson who is leading a session for us looking at spiritual styles and how we use so many of them within GenR8. Amy is a former GenR8 volunteer who has also written some of our assembly scripts and is an author, performance storyteller, and children's worker.

- ❖ Pray for Amy as she leads the morning session, that God will give her the words we need to hear for our ministry.
- ❖ Pray for the whole team, that it will be a refreshing day, setting us up for a new academic year.

Christmas assembly visits

The assembly planning is underway for our Christmas visits to schools. The theme is 'No Room' and shares that, with Christmas being such a busy time with so many exciting things to do, it can sometimes be difficult to find room for Jesus in our celebrations, just as there was no room at the inn at the first Christmas.

- ❖ Please pray for the teams, for bookings and our booking coordinators, and the school assembly rehearsals and visits.

Xcellr8 weekend

Xcellr8 plans for 2025 are in the pipeline and discussions are happening over what the theme should be! The core team will be meeting early in September to make some final decisions. The event will be Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 February 2025 (the first weekend of February half term) at Histon Baptist Church.

To thank all volunteers involved in Xcellr8 2024 we will be having a fish and chip dinner together on Monday 9 September; it will be a chance to gather together, to reflect, pray and look forward to what's coming next!

- ❖ Pray for the core team (Siân Thorne, Susan Meah, Eliane Hamaia, Nick Cairns, Andy Staplehurst, Libby Dear and Connie Wilson) and all the decisions to be made.
- ❖ Pray for Revd. Ruth Barry writing the small group material, and Issy Vetoshkina and Ros Cairns who will be leading more up-front this year.

Also:

- ❖ Pray for the new term and for wisdom as we look at future ministry opportunities.
- ❖ For the trustees as they discuss strategy.
- ❖ For Siân as she juggles the many tasks involved in leading GenR8 as director.
- ❖ Continue to pray for Steve and his health, and the health of other team members too.
- ❖ Pray for volunteers to join us.

Contact: Siân Thorne, GenR8 Director - siant@genr8.org 07598 378800