

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

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him Psalm 62:1

Here is an update on all things GenR8.

Xcellr8 weekend, Cultiv8

Fifty-one children were at the Xcellr8 weekend at Histon Baptist Church on 15 and 16 February 2025. Cultiv8 was all about growing in faith, from the planting of the seed of the kingdom of God in our hearts, through our growth and development in faith, to the production of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Over the weekend, as well as the teaching and small group sessions, we played a wide game, went swimming, had fun and games over at Impington Village College sports hall and enjoyed some delicious meals! By the end, we had some very tired young team (most had spent a heating-free night at HBC due to a broken boiler) and adult team too, all of whom deserved a good rest after another fantastic Xcellr8!

A huge thanks to all the volunteers involved in putting on the weekend, especially to those who were there for the first time!



Easter assembly, Choice

What a busy few weeks for the assembly teams with the Easter message presented over 120 times. The five teams were warmly welcomed in so many schools with children often spotting our arrival and excitedly cheering "It's GenR8!". This assembly shared about Easter and the choices involved: that Jesus chose to die on the cross to take the blame for our sins, that God raised him from the dead, and that we can choose to follow him. It had some 'egg-cellent' jokes, a puppet on a unicycle, and a sketch in which the events of Easter were reported as if in the news today. We also taught and invited the children to sing with us John Hardwick's song *For God So Loved the World*.

We had great feedback including: *As usual the children loved participating and learning the Easter message from you.* Headteacher.



Permanent Prayer Spaces

The PPS programme is now up and running very successfully in 14 primary schools across the area. The project aims to make a recognised contribution to pupils' learning, spiritual development and well-being as well as encourage a partnership between school and church. By working together with local church volunteers, the display in each school is maintained and a relationship fostered between the local church community, GenR8 and the school – a relationship that needs to happen for GenR8 to be able to continue doing what we are doing!

The last term of this academic year will see two theme changes in the schools: *Let's Celebrate!* (inspiring children to remember the times they have celebrated) and *Growing and Changing* (a theme which fits in well with this time of year, when children will shortly be moving to a new school or year group).

Many, many thanks go to Janet King in supporting the work of PPS – coordinating the distribution of kits, delivering to many corners of Cambridgeshire as well as keeping Siân on track with emails! Thank you, Janet.



New staff member

We are excited to announce that we have appointed a new Project Leader. Julie Hodgkinson will join the staff team on 19 May and will work part-time heading up the Cool Choices programme as well as getting involved in other aspects of our ministry. Julie has spent the last several years working with her local church in Littleport as a Children's Missioner, connecting with children in the community. She has a particular passion for schools work and reaching unchurched children and has frequently engaged with children in two primary schools as part of her role. Outside of this Julie volunteers as a Sunday School Leader with the Kids Team at the C3 Church in Cambridge and on the 8-11s Team at Spring Harvest. Julie lives with her husband, two daughters and seven pets. She has always known of GenR8 and herself helped on one of the first Motiv8 weekends 20 years ago! She says that she can't wait to get going with GenR8 and is looking forward to being a part of the great work it does.



Looking ahead

Summer assembly – God’s Masterpiece

We are currently gearing up for our summer assembly visits. The theme is God’s Masterpiece referring to Ephesians 2:10 (NLT): *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.* It shares that we believe we are all uniquely created by God and uses the story of the lost sheep from Luke 15 to say that God cares for us all just like the farmer. We feel that this message – that each of us is unique and valuable – is so important with all the pressures on young people today.

- ❖ Please pray for the children that will hear the message – that we can communicate how much God loves us all.
- ❖ Pray for bookings, rehearsals and visits to schools and for volunteers to be available.

It’s Your Move

The *It’s Your Move* team will be visiting primary schools in the week of 7-11 July to lead an interactive workshop with Year 6 students who are about to make the big transition from primary to secondary school. The team will go into Year 6 classes and talk about their own experience of moving up, to allay fears and generally provide reassurance as well as share how their faith helped them. It is a great opportunity for young Christians in Years 11, 13 or university, who may be free at that time, to volunteer. If you know young people who have finished exams and might like to join the team please direct them to our [It’s Your Move webpage](#). For more information please contact enquiries@genr8.org

- ❖ Pray for young people to sign up to volunteer with IYM visits to Year 6 classes.
- ❖ Pray for all the preparations for IYM – the bookings, the prayer bags, the local church involvement and more.

Inspire Prayer Spaces

We currently have three schools who are talking about holding an Inspire Prayer Space Day at their school in the summer term. Although no bookings are currently confirmed, this does not mean nothing is happening! There is always lots of communication taking place behind the scenes before a school visit.

- ❖ Pray for the schools who are all talking to Siân about Inspire Days.
- ❖ For more volunteers to be part of the Inspire team, supporting schools when hosting an Inspire Day.

Church Visits

GenR8 is supported by many, many churches in this area – in prayer, financially and through volunteer support. We’ve had contact recently from some churches asking for more information about how they can support the work of GenR8. We are very willing to come and share more about what we do with local church families, showing too what we do when we visit schools! If you would like us to visit your church, please do pass on our contact details as we’d love to hear from you.

- ❖ Thank God for church enquiries about supporting our ministry.
- ❖ Pray for churches to support us, as without this GenR8 simply wouldn’t be able to do this vital work.

Trustees

GenR8 currently has five trustees who are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of GenR8, helping to develop its aims and objectives, in accordance with its values and in line with legal and regulatory guidelines and requirements. Liz Jenkin, Nick Rogers, Jane Magowan, Andy Thomas and Penny Kite all volunteer as trustees, meeting together with Siân every other month to oversee the work. Several of our current trustees have been involved with GenR8 in this way for many years (some since GenR8 became a charity) and all have witnessed the impact that GenR8 has had on children and schools in this area.

In September Liz and Nick are stepping down – we thank them for the time, energy and enthusiasm they have given to GenR8, supporting the charity in this vital role behind the scenes. So, we are on the lookout for trustees to join the small and incredibly supportive team. If you are interested in finding out more about the role or would simply like to have an informal chat about what it means (with no pressure!) please get in contact with Liz at lizi@genr8.org

- ❖ Pray for Liz and Nick as they hand over trustee responsibilities and for what God has planned for them in the future.
- ❖ Pray for God to bring forward new trustees and for conversations we all have with others about this need.

Also:

- ❖ Give thanks for the Easter assembly – sharing the Good News about what Easter means for us as Christians – please pray for all those who heard the message.
- ❖ Pray for the summer term and all that is coming up.
- ❖ Pray for Julie as she settles into her new role with GenR8.

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