

Welcome to this volunteer focussed termly newsletter, which has contributions from GenR8 volunteers across a range of our activities last term. At present GenR8 employs one full time director with two part-time administration workers, so the work of volunteers is vital in everything that we do in both schools and churches. We would love to recruit more volunteers who have a heart to share God's love with children. At the moment we are very short of people in our assembly teams - for the past two terms we have been unable to offer assemblies to all schools that request them. Enclosed with this newsletter is a flier about volunteering with our assembly teams - please prayerfully consider whether you could help us or if you know someone you may be interested. We would appreciate it if you could also pass this flier on to people in your church and advertise our need.

**Save the Date – GenR8 Showcase Evening Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Histon Baptist Church.**

## Xcellr8

I really enjoyed the weekend, and all the young leaders were very fun to be with and there was a real sense of community. Being a young team member for the first time was a really good experience and I got to know all the children in my group really well. As a young leader I learnt communication and leadership skills throughout the weekend. My highlight of the time was helping and joining in with the children during the wide game and team games. At the end of the weekend all the children were sad to go home and had learnt about God and prayer and our relationship with Him. I will always remember that weekend, and all the people there that positively impacted my first time experience as a leader. Thank you Xcellr8, hope to see you again next year! *Hannah Meeks*



## Big Picture 2018



In January we ran our second Big Picture day – a time for children's and youth workers to reflect and grow the vision for their work. This time GenR8 worked alongside the Eastern URC (Nicola Grieves) and Diocese of Ely (Debbie Hill), on a day attended by 40 people. We focused on 3 different areas of ministry: church, community and mission with a 4<sup>th</sup> session focusing on 'you', the person and role of the worker. Each hour-long session included 15 minutes of input with the remaining time available for people to choose from a number of zones (e.g. creative, prayer, continuing the conversation...) with the freedom to dip in and out or indeed to do something different altogether, all with the intention of

reflecting, planning and hearing from God about the way forward.

Feedback was very positive:

*'Inspiring, challenging' 'Format of time to think, reflect, discuss after each session really helpful' 'Thank you for giving me space today to really listen' 'Wow, what a great day! Time to listen, reflect, create, network and time for myself'*

The next Big Picture day is planned for January 2020.



## Inspire

The Inspire prayer spaces team visited Park Street C of E School Cambridge in March, a school previously visited by the GenR8 team. Lucy began by asking the children what they knew about Easter and it was interesting to see that the children knew the Easter story well. There were 3 areas in which to consider different aspects of Easter and the children (Key Stage 1 - aged 5-7) mostly worked in pairs with the help of a year 5 pupil. There was an interactive space on Holy Week and a more reflective area on Good Friday where children were able to think about some of the things that might trouble them – things they found hard and needed to let go of. The third space was a brightly lit room focussing on the joy of Easter, including a banner that the children were encouraged to decorate, plus butterflies to colour and add to a tree as a sign of new life. The children were all very excited to be involved and participated well. Lucy drew the children together at the end of each session to share their thoughts and ideas and talk about what they valued and had enjoyed most. It was a very special day to be part of and a privilege to see the impact the GenR8 prayer spaces day had on the children. *Ruth Terrell*

Lucy Mann is unfortunately leaving us in April - we are very sad to lose her and pray God will guide her future path.

## Easter Assembly Tour 2018: 'Choice' - a new team member's perspective

Being part of the West Team on the Easter Tour has been a fun way of bringing the Easter message to hundreds of children. I have requested prayer for our team to have a successful tour and with God's blessing we had no hitches. There have been some truly memorable moments to share, like when one little boy turned to his friend as we arrived at their school and said, 'the happy people have come.' There has also been a lot of interest in our church about what GenR8 are bringing to school assemblies this Easter. That is just one example of GenR8's Easter message spreading further afield and I am sure there are many others. *Nick Lewis*

The Easter story was told as if by a television news reporter and the song was "For God so loved the world" teaching the children this verse from the Bible. Here is what some of the school staff have said about our Easter assembly:

*'Thank you for coming in – as always the children loved it – I just looked at their faces and they were beaming from ear to ear' – Headteacher*

*'GenR8 has a good reputation amongst headteachers' – Headteacher*

*'I love the enthusiasm of the GenR8 team and the powerful message that is conveyed' – Headteacher*

*'The teachers enjoy watching the awe and wonder in the children's faces!' – Teacher and RE coordinator*

*'Inspirational and very popular with the children' – Staff room teachers' summary*

## Volunteering Reflections

I began as a volunteer in 2002 about 12 months after GenR8 had started. I felt God was calling me out of full time teaching and at the time of leaving I had no idea what He had planned for me. I met Steve Whyatt at a 'Prayer for Schools' meeting, heard about GenR8 assemblies and volunteered to contact my local schools (by telephone back then). In this way I began to organise the logistics for the South Team; a job I still do. Booking is now done by email and Google maps has replaced my road atlas to help work out routes between schools. The booking coordinator role is a vital one in preparing the way for the team to visit and to follow up afterwards. It is a joy to hear back from headteachers about the impact the assemblies have in schools and to sometimes give them encouragement too. For someone who didn't want to be 'up front', this was an ideal role. However when I visited my local schools with the assembly team, I could see their enthusiasm and the excitement of the children and so it wasn't long before I was persuaded that I could join in. I am so glad I did! It is such fun and no one is asked to do more than they feel they can cope with, and everyone supports each other in prayer. A GenR8 presentation takes about 5 rehearsals and some line learning and then 6 or 7 days in school each term. The impact is long lasting; I meet teenagers in my village who still ask me about GenR8. I get waves and smiles from children and hear them explain, 'She is a 'GenR8er', 'They tell us about Jesus.' I thank God for the opportunity He has given me to share the gospel with more than 5,000 children each term. *Dianne Conway*



## Looking Ahead

**GYL (Growing Young Leaders)** is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This is a great opportunity for young people in Year 6-8 to start a journey into leadership. It will be a fun day with time to look at our gifts and talents and explore how we can use them in God's service. If you know anyone who may benefit from this day please contact Steve (see below).

**It's Your Move** is a Scripture Union booklet that has been received by thousands of young people in Year 6 who are about to make the transition from primary to secondary school. It gives reassurance and advice on this big step and GenR8 visits schools with sessions that reinforce this message in the summer term. It is also a chance for students in Years 11 and 13 who have just finished their GCSEs or A levels to join a team and encourage the primary school students by relating their own experiences and giving a Biblical perspective on the move. Contact Steve for more information.

The planning of the **summer tour** is in progress on the theme of God's Masterpiece. There is a continuing need for new volunteers to join the teams around Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire. If you would like to know more about our assemblies, please do get in touch and maybe come along to one of our rehearsals to see what we do.

## Prayers...

- ❖ Give thanks for well-received Easter assemblies, Cool Choices, Inspire days and Inspire Permanent.
- ❖ Give thanks for a fun and encouraging Xcellr8 weekend; pray for a lasting impact on young lives.
- ❖ Pray for Lucy and her future outside GenR8.
- ❖ Pray for the trustees as they look at the future of Inspire and the recruitment of a new worker.
- ❖ Pray for the summer assembly tour on the theme of God's Masterpiece.
- ❖ Pray for more volunteers to come forward for assembly teams, bookings and other GenR8 activities.

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