

Welcome to our termly newsletter which aims to update you on our activities over the past term as well as keep you informed about future events.

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

Summer Assembly Tour 2019: The Bible

The Bible was the topic of our summer assembly and we looked at how it is not just one book, but a collection of 66 books with all sorts of different types of writing – history, songs and poems, prophecy, law, stories, news reports and letters. The puppets found out that it is the world's bestselling book and has been translated into over 2000 languages. We told the story of King Josiah in the form of an amusing sketch and shared how finding an early part of what we know as the Bible today changed lives in a whole country; and that Christians believe that the Bible changes lives even today.



It's Your Move 2019



A fantastic team of ten young people joined our Director for the 2019 It's Your Move week, which saw the team visit 16 primary schools in July to support Year 6 students making the transition to secondary school. The team were a real joy to work with and from the very first school interacted positively and maturely with the students, helping to ease fears and worries particularly amongst those who were going up to different secondary schools than the majority of their class. At the heart of each hour long session is the story of Joseph from the Old Testament: he faced lots of changes and challenges in his life but made really good choices, a message we passed onto the students. Working alongside local churches who provide the Scripture Union Its Your Move books, it proved to be a really beneficial week.

'The IYM session from Steve and the team was really excellent - one of the best I can recall. The Year 6 teacher was incredibly positive about the whole thing - she loves the books too.' – Church leader

'I just wanted to say thanks I had such a great week.' – Year 11 student

The Inspire Prayer Spaces Team led two transition afternoons at Elsworth and Wilburton schools after the It's Your Move session. This gave the children a chance for further reflection on the changes that will happen as they move school. Teachers at both schools commented on how beneficial it was for the children and how much they appreciated it.

Brian and Josephine

Easter 2009. I had already handed in my request for early retirement in July. It was the last day of the spring term and we dutifully trooped off to the hall for assembly. One is never quite sure what to expect when visitors arrive to lead an assembly – many can be embarrassingly awful unless the speaker can engage the children effectively. But this did seem different – a team of mainly young people in blue T-shirts, with a selection of props, one of which looked remarkably like green gunge! It was! There followed an extraordinary presentation, the like of which I had not witnessed during 30 years in teaching. The children were totally engaged and engrossed in all that went on – I recall the Bible story was a sketch about Barabbas, which I was to perform some years later. I had a word with Kevin Baldwin at the end of the assembly and gained a contact number.

The following Sunday I attended my local church, and the Lord really was organising things! There on the noticeboard was a leaflet advertising a training day for a group called GenR8, which sounded vaguely familiar. Well the rest is history.

Josephine and I completed 32 tours over the next 11 years. The West Norfolk team has always been keen to visit as many schools as possible – 3 weeks on the road, with 40-50 schools on many of those tours. I am confident that the GenR8 name has come to be regarded as reliable and totally trustworthy. Tours were booked up remarkably quickly – email replies within minutes very often!

We both feel uplifted and inspired by the work of GenR8. To be allowed to carry the name of the Lord and the Word into schools, especially where a 'church' ethos was not significantly present, has been such a privilege and honour. There can be few higher callings than to bring the name of Jesus to the young, and in such a curiously effective way that combines a sense of fun with the most serious issue we can face – the Cross itself and all that it represents. So it is with a strange sense of relief and regret that circumstances have caused us to retire from the group. We pray that the group might continue under His loving care.

Brian and Josephine, Heacham, Norfolk



An Update From Siân

I have been at GenR8 for coming up to a year now (although it feels like much longer!) and during discussions and reviews about the year, it has been decided that two important things are going to change ready for September. I will be switching my working week around and increasing my hours for GenR8, so my 'GenR8' days will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This fantastic change gives the possibility of offering a much wider range of days and options for holding an Inspire Prayer Space. In fact, we already have 2 two-day prayer spaces booked for next term! I will also be taking a bigger part in delivering the Cool Choices programme, the Growing Young Leaders day that Steve does with Nicola Grieves (Eastern URC) as well as an RE schools project that is in the works. I am really excited to see what new opportunities this school year will bring and extending the range of projects I am involved with. I can't wait! Siân Thorne, Inspire Prayer Spaces Director

Permanent Prayer Spaces (PPS)

Over the last academic year, we have been working alongside six local churches in providing a permanent prayer space for their local primary school. Dry Drayton, Barton and Oakington have had our second-year themes whilst Great and Little Shelford, Wilburton and Elsworth primary schools have taken part for the first time with our year one themes. What is encouraging is that all these schools would like to continue for the year ahead. Excitingly Babraham are keen to come on board for 2019/20. We do have space for two more schools/churches, and we are hopeful that at some point during the next term others will join. This project is not possible without the generous support of Janet King, a GenR8 volunteer who gives her time in purchasing, washing and sorting kit as well as driving to the different locations to deliver prayer space resources and encourage, support local church volunteers. Do pray for Siân who will get more involved in PPS from September including writing our year three themes.



'I really like the prayer space and I like the way children have been engaging with it, writing prayers on the whiteboard we've installed which get read out in Friday's assembly. We certainly would like to continue with the permanent prayer space please!' - Head Teacher

Supporting GenR8

There are new ways that you can support our work with schools and churches.

If you shop online then why not sign up with 'Give as you live' – it is free to join and a percentage of every purchase you make at any of their partner stores will go to help fund GenR8. Stores on their site include John Lewis, Waterstones, Trainline, Booking.com and many others. Just go to Giveasyoulive.com and sign up, choosing 'GenR8' as your charity. Why not spread the word amongst friends and family too?



Give as you Live®

We have recently registered with AmazonSmile, which raises funds for GenR8 every time you shop with Amazon. Just log in to your Amazon account in the normal way via Smile.amazon.co.uk and add GenR8 as your chosen charity.



Wonderful.org is a simple way that you can donate to GenR8. Wonderful can claim the Gift Aid for us too – making any eligible donations go further. Information and links to all these ways of supporting us financially are on our website: Genr8.org/support-us



Looking Ahead

Growing Young Disciples (GYD) is an exciting new initiative being planned for this November (8-9th). Like Growing Young Leaders (GYL), GYD is for young people in Years 6-8 (age 10-13) and aims to support and encourage them in their Christian journey. GenR8 will be working alongside Nicola Grieves from the Eastern URC. Nicola is a former GenR8 assembly team member as well as a valuable member of our Xcellr8 team. Do pray for this venture, as there are still some details to be confirmed including a venue! Do also consider whether you know of any young people who might benefit from GYD and get in touch for more information. We are hoping a flier will be placed from September.

Prayers...

- ❖ Give thanks for the summer assemblies tour, the It's Your Move tour and Inspire Prayer Spaces days.
- ❖ Pray for the future of the West Norfolk team and for Anne Sparrow - looking for volunteers to help the team continue.
- ❖ Please pray for the preparations for the Christmas assembly tour focusing on the journey of the Magi and finding Jesus.
- ❖ Please pray for the 26 Cool Choices sessions in 21 primary schools that are coming up this term.

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GenR8 is a Local Ministry Partner of  Scripture Union