

Impact



Summer term 2024 Newsletter



Thoughts from Jane Spencer, Chair of Impact.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in a field. Though it is the smallest of seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." **Matthew Ch.13 Vs.31-33 .**

Jesus' words in his Parable of the Mustard Seed create a wonderful image of how the Word of God grows and spreads, enabling so many to come and know of God's great love for them. It is this work 'planting seeds' that the Impact workers carry out each day as they share the love of God, engaging children and teaching them in so many creative and interesting ways. The words they share are heard by children and staff in schools, and we continue to pray that this helps **all** understand more about Christianity. We do not know what the impact of Impact's work is, or will be, in the lives of those listening, but we trust that God will be working His purpose out for those that hear and respond. So thank you for your support and prayers - please do keep praying for the work of Impact.

To introduce myself as the new Chair of Impact, I hope I can reassure you that Impact's work is a real passion of mine! Having had the privilege of working with Impact in a school over a number of years, having prayed for and supported Impact through the church I attend, and having been an Impact Trustee, I have seen Impact make a difference in the lives of children, staff, supporters and volunteers too! I am delighted to be able to help Impact now in a new way as Chair of the Trustees. John Creasey was such a super Chair and he will be a hard act to follow, but I will do my best!

Impact really is a team effort though! We have wonderful supporters who give to and pray for Impact, energetic volunteers from churches across Bedford/Bedfordshire who help at events and in schools and seven Trustees from four churches; Christ Church (Bedford), Vale Community Church (Marston), Three Rivers Church (Bedford) and Ampthill Baptist Church. We also have great support from St. John's and St. Leonard's Church (Bedford) who offer their site and storage space for the popular live events (read about the Easter Experience below). A number of churches host events for schools too, and this means that Impact has a great opportunity to help strengthen the links between local schools and their local churches. If you are interested in knowing more about what Trustees do, or wish your church knew more about the work of Impact do have a look at our new website www.impactbedford.org.uk/ or email for information (chair@impactbedford.org.uk). I would love to hear from you!

Jane Spencer.



A message from **Becky**



Before the Easter holidays I ran some Easter activity sessions. This year, rather than focusing on one or two year groups, I had several schools ask for sessions to be run with different classes. So I ended up working with EYFS, Year 3 & 4 classes and in a special needs school with mixed age groups.

I thought of doing something different with each of them but Trish introduced me to a great resource, a pass the parcel Easter story game. I decided to try it in all the schools, tweaking it slightly for each setting. They all absolutely loved it!

They were all fully engaged taking in the whole story. In some of the classes, we didn't even get time to move onto the creative response because they were so engrossed with the story itself and asking so many deep questions that we explored together.

It was truly beautiful to see the way the activity was wholeheartedly embraced by the pupils and staff.

In one school, one of the boys who had taken part in a Christmas activity session that we had run was overjoyed when the music stopped and he was holding the box. He got to open it and showed everyone what part of the story was inside. Afterwards his teacher told me how the Christmas activity session had really helped his communication and confidence as he had told his family and others all about it. He was so excited that he would be able to take part in an Easter activity session too. She was hopeful that it would be just as beneficial to him especially since he got to open a box!

In another school, the pupils had been learning about Pentecost and spent ages discussing how it linked to the story of Holy Week. They were so excited to be able to share with me what they had learnt.

Praise God for such a versatile and exciting way to bring the story of Easter to life.





A message from

Trish

The Easter Experience was held over five days in March for year 5 and 6 pupils. There were 360 children who came along plus staff. The children were fully engaged and had some great questions for the cast like, "Pilate, if you knew Jesus was innocent, why did you allow him to be crucified and free Barabbas instead?" "Jesus, why did you have to die?" and "Caiaphas, why did you want Jesus arrested?"

Some feedback received from various schools: **"I was so impressed with the organisation, special effects and attention to detail. For our special school, that was an amazing experience and they will remember it because it is experiential. They loved it. Those who came Thursday wanted to come again on Friday! They particularly liked Caiaphas!"**

"Thank you very much to all the team for a super Easter Experience today. The children really enjoyed it and asked a lot of purposeful questions to deepen their understanding of the events re-enacted. The cast was wonderful, as were all the helpers."

"Just wanted to send a quick email to let you know how much our Year 5s enjoyed the trip. Staff and pupils said it was great and very engaging. Thank you for the opportunity!"



**GOOD
things
ARE
COMING**

In addition to our usual activities, we have some exciting 'added extras' planned during the summer term.

* In May, we will be supporting Lifepath, this year being held in Olney and looking at the life and times of John Newton. Nearly 1,000 children will be taking part over 3 days, many of whom come from Bedfordshire schools. Please pray for the leadership team, the volunteers, the weather and most importantly for the schools that will be attending.

* Later in the term, we are planning some activities related to Prayer Spaces. We hope to have the opportunity to work with Scripture Union and some of the schools to pilot a new resource supporting pupils with prayer spaces. We'll keep you posted but please pray that the schools that we approach will be open to allowing us to try out this resource and pray for Scripture Union as they develop it further.

* Towards the end of term, we will be running some 'It's Your Move' transition activities for Year 6 pupils. These will include workshops, prayer and reflection spaces and extended assemblies. Please pray for the Year 6 pupils as they navigate the next steps of their school life journey. Please also pray for the staff that will be supporting them through this time and for us as we offer them a chance to reflect and think more deeply about how best to handle this time.

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Welcome to our new trustee Tony!

We are delighted to introduce Tony Daniels who is a new Impact Trustee.

Tony joined us this term and he has a huge amount to offer us, bringing a range of really interesting experience to support us all. Tony loves his tennis and the gym, and spends a lot of travelling with his work as the National UK Director for Community Services for The Salvation Army. You can read more about Tony on the website (click on 'About' and then scroll down to 'Trustees') or maybe you will meet him in person when he is worshipping at Christ Church Bedford.

It's great to have you on board Tony and thanks for offering your time and skills to support Impact.



Home

Impact is a Christian charity offering a range of services designed to strengthen children and support schools, whilst learning about Christianity.

Impact

Website news

Do have a look at our new style website - www.impactbedford.org.uk

**'Supporting schools,
Exploring Christianity'**

Fun, interactive activities to help schools achieve their faith curriculum objectives



A message from Jackie Vickers, Impact Treasurer.

We have such committed support from our supporters and seldom mention individuals as we have so many who kindly offer what they can. However, we would like to give thanks for the life of Mary Shaw (Christ Church, Bedford) and pay tribute to her.

Mary had supported Impact for so many years both in prayer and through her giving. She regularly encouraged the workers with kind words of encouragement, messages about the Facebook posts that the workers had posted and had even suggested that Impact was supported by donations when the Thanksgiving service for her life was planned. She touched so many lives and we are very grateful to her for her commitment and generosity towards Impact.

Thank you to all those who give whatever they can to the work of Impact, as individuals or through local churches. Having read this newsletter you can see all the amazing work God is doing through Impact.

1 Peter 4:10

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."



You will be aware that very sadly Jo-Ann Gaunt is very unwell. We continue to hold Jo-Ann and Steve Gaunt in prayer and do ask that you prayer for comfort and peace for them and their family as Jo continues to receive treatment.

Messages of love and support go only to Steve please - so he can pass them on to Jo when she is feeling well enough to receive them.

<https://www.impactbedford.org.uk/>

Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust

(Registered charity number 1010412) in association with Scripture Union

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