

Impact

Spring term 2025 Newsletter



Thoughts from Jane Spencer, Chair of Impact.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise! Psalm 145 v.3

In this Spring Term newsletter you will certainly see why we are so grateful to God for His blessing on all that Becky and Trish have been working on in local schools.

We are called to praise God at all times and we certainly have many reasons to sing praises to Him for the work of Impact over the last term! We are confident that the new opportunities given to the workers last term and for the year ahead have come to us through prayer and through seeking God's direction for next steps.

We were keen to think again about how we could best support schools in their understanding of Christianity. When we prayed, we realised some aspects of the RE curriculum could be explained and understood better through RE workshop opportunities than through some of the rather dry curriculum materials schools had access to.

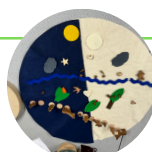
While in schools explaining about how Christians pray, we knew schools were keen to focus on the wellbeing of children, so helping children know how to settle, calm themselves and pray would support this focus too. Through prayer and support this led to new opportunities with schools and churches to think about a permanent Prayer Spaces. Children really respond to Prayer Spaces and Creative Prayer times; staff are often amazed by their wonderful thoughts and ideas and are struck by how the children express their heartfelt needs. Working with other mission partners, Becky and Trish have been encouraged and enthused by the positive responses to their work in these areas too.

We were led in prayer to focus on our links between schools, churches and Impact to see how our work might enable church links with families in their communities. We now have 13 new Church Champions (CC). They promote Impact in their church, pray regularly for Impact, offer spaces for us to meet/hold events, support other churches by sharing children's activity ideas and hold an occasional fundraiser to help fund Impact's work. Keen to be a CC? Just let Trish or Becky know! We remain incredibly grateful for our supporters and volunteers. We are indebted to scientists of faith who volunteered their time to support the Creation workshops, those who support assemblies, lunch/after-school clubs and prayer spaces/creative prayer stations, actors who perform in the Live Nativity in the cold winter air to so many children, those who sustain others offering refreshments and of course all who pray. Thank you again for this fantastic support. As the Psalmist writes '*one generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts*'. God is using us all to enable the next generation to hear more about Christianity. I hope that as you read on you will be greatly encouraged!



A message from

Trish



Last term was a busy one which included our pilot of the RE Creation workshop for schools. We looked at the Biblical Creation story in the context of God the Creator, our wonderful world and exploring the relationship between science and faith. We had seven wonderful volunteers, who are Christians and scientists join us and we delivered the workshop to 400 children. The workshop was split into three activity sessions: an Out of the Box Creation story, How and Why questions and Questions for the scientists topped and tailed by an introduction and ending in a time of reflection.

It was inspiring to hear the children's thoughts on this topic as well as hear their questions to the scientists such as 'Who created God?', 'How did the Big Bang happen?', 'Why is there no gravity in space?', 'Why were we made?', and lots of questions about dinosaurs!

I was deeply impressed by how well thought out all the sessions were by the organisers.



It was very informative & was good to see the creation story explained from different perspectives



A message from Becky



In the last newsletter I promised an update on the permanent Prayer Space that I helped to set up in a local school. I'm very pleased to say it is still going strong and is greatly enjoyed by the pupils and staff. You can see the before and after photos above.

Excitingly, as a result of taking part in the pilot for the 'Scripture Union Prayer Space lunch club resource', we were asked to work collaboratively with SU and Prayer Spaces in Schools to assist with developing a brand new resource to be used across the country. We had our first meeting with team, which also includes other local mission partners of SU, in October and we are all looking forward to seeing where God takes this in future. After hearing about our work with Prayer Spaces and Creative Prayer, we were then asked by 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' to lead one of their online training sessions (you can still see it on their YouTube channel if you are interested!). It was quite scary as there were people from all over

the country who had zoomed in, but it was a great way to share ideas with others and also to raise awareness of Impact nationally.



Christmas Activity Sessions

Once again our Christmas activity sessions were well received by around 750 children in schools. Becky and I used a mix of a Christmas pass the parcel game (characters and props from different parts of the story in each box), Out of the Box Christmas and Advent stories to engage the children in each of our schools. They had the opportunity to reflect on the story, ask any questions and respond creatively by drawing, writing songs and poetry, making things out of Lego or junk modelling.

The time shared was thought provoking, engaging and fun!

Feedback from a staff member: **The children always enjoy the sessions you lead, and it was fantastic to see how engaged the children were, and the thought provoking questions that were raised.**



Live Nativity 2024



Once again the Live Nativity was a huge success and we are immensely grateful for the brilliant team who helped us make this event possible.



Nearly 400 pupils and staff experienced the Nativity story being brought to life and we welcomed around 30 adults and children to our evening performance too. The evening performance is always deeply moving and this year was no different.

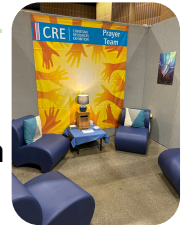
Despite the weather forecast having been very ominous for the week God was great and overruled to hold off the rain until just after we had finished packing away each day. What an amazing and awesome God we have!



Conferences & networking



Becky and I got to visit the Christian Resource Exhibition (CRE) in October. It was great to visit various exhibition stands, obtain useful resources and network with different organisations as well as attend some talks.



Trish also had the opportunity to go along to the Youthscape National Youth Ministry Weekend in November. Trish was able to network with different organisations, learn about other resources that people are using in schools and churches and be spiritually encouraged through the talks.



Looking ahead...

Here are some of the things the workers have planned for the next few months! Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they plan and prepare for what is ahead.

Holy Trinity RE
Workshops in January
and February 2025

Prayer Spaces and
Creative Prayer
24th - 27th February

Easter Experience
24th March - 28th
March 2025

Easter Activity
Sessions 31st March
- 4th April 2025

Lifepath of John
Bunyan in Elstow
20th - 22nd May 2025

Collective Worship
and Assemblies
throughout term

Other things we got up to last term



Outreach and presentations



Filming



Christmas get togethers



New T-Shirts!
(thank you Collette)



OutoftheBox



Team Retreat



Creative Prayer



Collective Worship

Safeguarding

SAVE THE DATE!

We will be running an Impact specific Safeguarding training session for our volunteers on

Tuesday March 4th 2025
9:30am-12:30pm

Venue: Christ Church
140 Dudley Street
Bedford
MK40 3SX

More details to follow but please put the date in your diaries now.

Can you help?



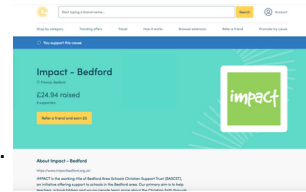
Great Barford Primary School would love to restart their JAM (Jesus And Me) lunch club. We are trying to build a team so we can make this happen. Would you be willing and able to help with this?

For more information or to register an interest please email Becky
becky@impactbedford.org.uk



Easy Fundraising!!

Please continue to pray for Impact's funds in 2025; that income will increase to match the expenditure we make each month. To help with this, there's an easy way to support our work when you shop online without you spending a penny more - take a look.



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

Points for Prayer

- Give thanks and praise for the success of all our activities last term, the Creation workshops, the Live Nativity, Christmas activity sessions and more.
- Please pray for our Holy Trinity themed workshops, for the team involved and the schools we will be visiting.
- Please pray for our annual Easter Experience and Easter activities.
- Please pray for general activities happening alongside our events such as our lunch clubs and after school clubs, Diddy Disciples sessions, assemblies collective worship and mission slots.
- Please pray for discernment as to where God wants us to focus our work in 2025.



A message from Jackie Vickers, Impact Treasurer.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.
Psalm 145:17

As the financial year has come to an end, I have been putting together our accounts.

Despite seeing a drop in income of over £8,500, we have kept costs down, so that we only faced a deficit of just over £1,000.

You have read all the exciting ways that we are able to share God's love to school children so this new year, could you review your giving and consider either setting up a regular donation or increasing your giving to the amazing work of Impact?

How to donate is all explained through our website here:
<https://www.impactbedford.org.uk/donate/>

As a trust, we seek to make the most of the donations received and never take these for granted.

Thank you for your continued support.

www.impactbedford.org.uk
Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust
(Registered charity number 1010412)

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