

FEBRUARY 2022

# SPARKFISH Newsletter

Inspiring young people in faith, hope and love!

## Message from the Director

Hello and greetings from the SparkFish team. We were so pleased to be able to go ahead with our live Christmas Journey in 2021 and it was lovely to see the delight on the children's faces as they experienced the real Christmas story. It was a lovely end to a strange year!

Looking forward, we so hope that our schools ministry will start to get back to some form of normality in 2022. We've already kicked off the new year with an 10 day prayer space at St Bede's School focusing on the theme of peace – peace within ourselves, peace within our communities and peace around the world. What an amazing theme to focus on at the start of the year!

After the busyness of Christmas the theme of peace really resonated with me. It challenged me to think how I can foster more peace in 2022. How can I create more peace in my own life? And in the lives of those around me? Maybe this is a subject that is close to your heart as well?

We have a busy year of school's ministry ahead of us at SparkFish - Think! spaces, mentoring sessions, lunchtime clubs, Christian Unions, Easter Experience, courses, transitions workshops and then it comes full circle and we'll be back to Christmas Journey again in 2022. My prayer this year is that SparkFish can inspire peace in the young lives we meet in local schools! Peace is such a rare occurrence in our busy world but it is something that God promises us. Philippians 4:7 says:

**“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”**

The Message Bible translation reads:

**“Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life.”**

I pray that whatever SparkFish delivers in our schools this year – we create safe spaces where children and young people can come and find peace – rest for their mental, physical and spiritual selves. Please do join us in this prayer for peace this year, it can be so easy for our team to get caught up in the busyness and activity but we are so encouraged that the local churches join us in prayer for the ministry we are involved in.

Harriet



Friday March 11th  
Refreshments from 7:30pm - Performance from 8pm

## Stickmen & Doodles

A Musical Monologue of Love and Emotions

Tickets available online or on the door  
Adults £5/Teens £2.50

St Mary's Church, Chart Lane, Reigate RH2 7RN

Raising Money For  


## Learn

We have had a busy term with the Learn strand preparing for our Christmas Journey event, after having an online version for schools available for Christmas 2020. This year it was lovely to welcome 26 Year Two classes from 13 local schools to visit the Christmas journey over two weeks, week one was at Redhill Methodist church and week two was at St Luke's Reigate. The Christmas Journey is a one-hour session for year 2 children where we explore the Christmas story and why it is important to Christians.

The children visit different stages of the Christmas story where they can meet Mary and see her visit by the Angel Gabriel, pretend to be shepherds on the hillside, watch a puppet presentation of the nativity and visit the home of the Wise Men. The children also have the opportunity to explore where the Christmas story fits into the wider biblical narrative through our story telling. The session finishes with a craft time for the children to make a story wheel of the Christmas story to take back to school with them.

We had some lovely feedback from children and the schools this year, for many of the children this was their first ever school trip. The Christmas Journey would not happen without the commitment of over 40 volunteers from local churches to join with us as story tellers, journey guides, actors, puppeteers, organising the craft time, serving much appreciated refreshments and helping with setting up and packing down. We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers and hosting churches this year for enabling this very special event to happen.

Lindsey



## Hope

Mentoring has been going strong and I've had the pleasure of meeting incredible students over the past few months. The St. Bede's Upbeat course came to end in November and the boys really enjoyed it.

**'My emotional well-being has changed a lot since the start of the course and has had a positive impact on me' - Year 10 student**

We're hoping to start another one after February half-term which I'm very excited about. At Carrington, Almare and I have started back up the lunchtime club - it's been wonderful to be able to hang out and play games with the young people there and to be a place in which they can come and share whatever is on their mind. I'm still learning to be less competitive and win less games of Uno but it's been a struggle...

Charles

We are very excited to return to the Carrington this term to continue to provide a lunch club where all the young people can connect, make new friends and feel safe. We started the Cocoon course which is all about identity and wellbeing and the Lost & Found course on Monday 24th January at St. Bede's. The Lost & Found course aims to provide a safe space for young people to process, talk and work through the hard emotions they feel when someone has died. There are many practical activities, stories, shared experiences, wisdom, analogies, and tips to help them navigate their grief.

Please do pray for the connections we make with young people. Pray that God will continue to work through us and in the young people's lives, as we continue to show them who Jesus is by being His hands and feet in the schools.

Almare

# Think!

We kicked off the 2022 season of Think! Spaces at St. Bede's School with a Think! Space for the teachers inset day on 4th Jan followed by 10 days of Think! for Key Stage 3. It was really exciting to be able to spend time with the teachers as well as the students at St. Bede's and we hope their time with us in the Think! Space helped give them time for personal and spiritual reflection as well as new ideas of how to encourage spiritual engagement with their form groups.

Straight off the back off of St. Bede's we ran a Think! Space at Hatchlands Primary School. This was a fantastic couple of days with their year 1, 2 and 3 classes.



## Stickmen & Doodles

### 'A musical monologue of love and emotions.

From the age of 14, Charles has been writing his own songs. He's never really performed them before but his mum thinks they're better than Adele's or Ed Sheeran's. He's not so sure...

Now, for the first time, Charles will perform a selection of these original songs whilst also taking the audience on a journey through his mental health journey and his attempts at finding love whilst staying true to his faith and morals.

So please join us on Friday 11th March at St. Mary's Church, Reigate. You can purchase your tickets on the door or online from:

<https://stmarysreigate.churchsuite.com/events/x4beerin>

It's brilliant to have some new schools booked in with us this year. This Spring Term is packed with Think! Space bookings and we are heading to The Hawthorns School, Reigate St. Mary's Prep School, and Royal Alexandra and Albert School Juniors all before the Easter holidays.

And on a sad note, I will be saying goodbye to the SparkFish team as I will leave my role as Think! Coordinator at the end of February. I will be starting a new role with Reigate Baptist Church but will still remain part of the SparkFish team as a Church Partner. So SparkFish will be saying hello to a new Think! Coordinator soon. Please pray for the recruitment process and that the right person for this exciting role is appointed.

Jen

## Horley Team Ministry

After waiting all last year for bookings to normalise, and that not happening, I was delighted and surprised that the first week of January brought fresh bookings and actual contact with pupils in schools! I hope it continues as I love doing lessons and assemblies – and the feedback is good. Walk Through the Bible Old Testament is a particular joy and seeing all the children and staff performing the hand-signs and key words (each linked to a Bible story) is amazing – they learn a lot in a short time and remember it for years! And it's fun.

Last year I was able to help with Think! Outside at St Matthew's Primary School and at the beginning of this term I was able to help with the Think! Space at St. Bede's. Working with the SparkFish team is great and they are so encouraging. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, they are much appreciated.

Tim

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