

APRIL 2023

SPARKFISH Newsletter

Inspiring young people in faith, hope and love!

Learn

The Spring Term was very exciting at SparkFish, as we were planning our Easter Experience event.

The Easter Experience is a drama presentation of the events of Holy Week, for school year 5. Following this, the children can ask the actors questions in character. This year we were able to present the Easter Experience to over 750 children from 13 local schools in eight performances!

The children engaged well, with some great questions for the actors. They asked a range of questions such as [why Pilate let Jesus die](#), [why Judas betrayed Jesus](#), [why the priests didn't like Jesus](#), [why no one helped Jesus at the trial](#), [did Jesus prefer swimming or walking on water](#), [what happened to Barabbas](#), [how did Jesus come back to life](#), and many more!



We have had some positive feedback from schools, and are very thankful to our volunteer actors, those who help with setting up and welcoming, providing refreshments and to our two venues, Reigate Park Church and Redhill Methodist church for all their support for this very special event.



Work in our Learn strand this term has also included leading some assemblies, and supporting our local Open the Book assembly team who are now leading assemblies at St Matthews School and Wray Common school.

I have also led a 5-week course at St Matthews school; Walk Through the Bible 'Old Testament Mini'. This is a series of RE lessons exploring stories from the Old Testament using story and drama, and the children learn hand-signs to help them remember 40 of the key stories.

We are now looking forward to the summer term where we run workshops for year 6 children helping them feel prepared for their move to secondary school. Please pray for this transition for them.

Lindsey Hardwick
Deputy Director and Learn Co-ordinator

Hope

The Hope Strand has been going well and I have been continuing to do mentoring in Carrington, Reigate School and Merstham Park School. This term I have started running group sessions in both Reigate School and Merstham Park. During these sessions we have looked at creating healthy habits to promote good emotional and mental health and healthy self-esteem. The sessions have been interactive and creative and well received by the students. One group in particular went very well and a real sense of openness, honesty and encouragement was development amongst the girls attending. At the end of the group they said [it was the first time they had felt listened to and heard and they loved having a time and space each week when they could talk to someone](#).



Please continue to pray for good relationships with staff and students in the schools and also for the development of mentoring resources that can be used for both one to one and groups sessions with students.

Lizzie - Hope Co-ordinator

Think!

For our Think strand, the Spring term was a busy but enjoyable term. We went to six schools to cover topics including 'being different', 'connecting with others' and 'connecting with God'.

Salfords Primary School received their first Think space which was warmly received by all!



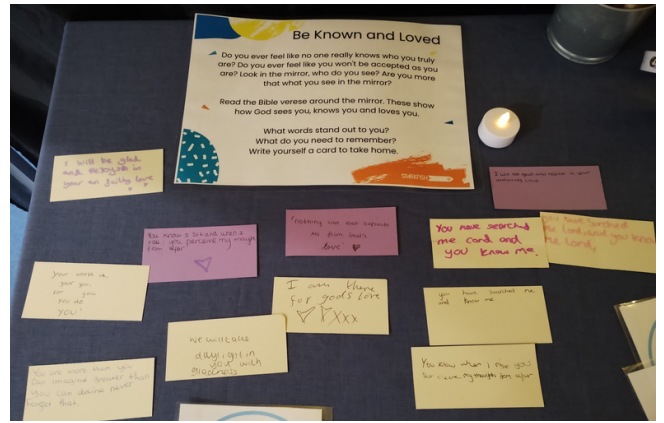
Each Think space is something I eagerly anticipate, and it is wonderful to hear how helpful they have been to staff, students, and Sparkfish volunteers.



Aside from Think spaces, I spent a training day with the Winston Wish Foundation, a UK organisation that helps children who have faced bereavement. It was a highly informative workshop that equipped me with numerous ways to support children facing bereavement. The training has enabled me to continue growing and supporting the welfare team at Furzeffield Primary school.

We also held a Think training morning during this term for volunteers who wanted to learn more and find out how their skills and talents may be used. If you were not able to come, don't worry; if you're interested in finding out more, then do get in touch with me using the information provided below, or contact the SparkFish office.

Blessings,
Charlie
charlie@sparkfish.org.uk



Horley Team Ministry

Working with SparkFish to put on the Easter Experience is a highlight of the year for me re-learning the script is a test but we got there and the 800+ pupils plus many staff who saw it benefitted big-time!

Walk Through the Bible was well received again in Jan/Feb and in April I began the WTB New Testament Course with Meath Green Juniors Yr6 (90 pupils). I will also be starting that same course at Trinity Oaks.

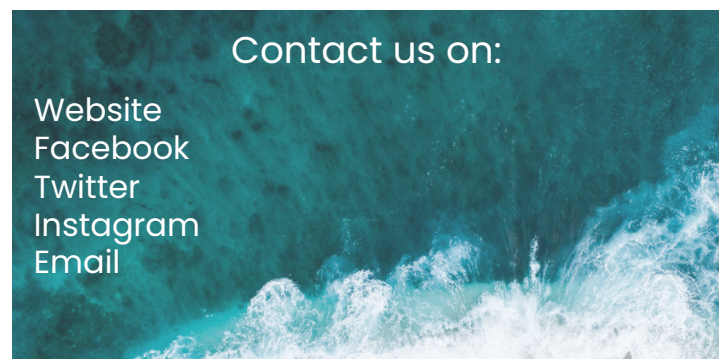


I'm hoping to get a "Think Space" in at Meath Green Jnr and also a visit to some of the schools with footballer "DC Freestyle" who is a brilliant witness.

I'm running an event on the first Sunday of each month at Trinity Oaks school hall at 4pm (feel free to come) – it is called "Songs and Stories" and takes a different theme each time – in May it will be "Kingship". It will include singing, storytelling, magic and a Quiz! Anyone is welcome.

Please pray for these events, my stamina, good health and regular time off. Also please pray for my son-in-law Ben as he approaches ministry at St Mary's Reigate. Thank you."

Tim - Horley



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