

SPRING 2025

# SPARKFISH Newsletter

Inspiring young people in faith, hope and love!

## Message from the Director

This academic year has been a huge tale of God's amazing provision. Like many charities nationally and locally we have been hit hard by the cost of living crisis and we spent a lot of 2024 unsure of how to make ends meet. Yet like every year since its formation, God came through in incredible ways for SparkFish. £1500 was raised from our Quiz Night in October 2024, over £10,000 from the Big Give, the local churches gave more money than ever and our amazing supporters as always have been incredibly generous! We are so grateful to our supporters for always coming through for us, to the churches for their continued support and of course, to God - for being the amazing provider that He promises us in the Bible!

In Philippians 4:19 it says, 'And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.'

Sadly, we still face some sobering challenges. In September 2024 our Hope Co-ordinator Lizzie Baker, moved on to a new position at her church as Youth Minister and we haven't yet been able to fund a new Hope Co-ordinator to continue our mentoring and small group work in Secondary Schools. As such, the mentoring and small groups we were delivering in Merstham Park and Carrington School has been paused for the time being. We are excited to still be delivering a lunch time club at Merstham Park, with a volunteer team, but we are incredibly sad that this vital support we offered to local young people during times of challenge is currently on hold.

The work in schools continues to grow in incredible ways - with new Christian Unions at Merstham Park, Carrington School and Reigate School this year. Plus, new opportunities for Think Spaces, new schools booking in for our seasonal events Christmas Journey, Easter Experience and transition workshops. We also 'officially' started working in Horley this year, after a warm welcome from the Churches Together for Horley and the local schools.

SparkFish had been 'unofficially' supporting schools in Horley for five years through our partnership with the Horley Anglican Parish and Tim Hill, but this sadly came to an end in February when the contract with the Diocese of Southwark came to an end. SparkFish were keen to continue the good work started by Tim and the Parish and as such, felt called to expand our borders officially and offer our three strands to Horley schools 'officially' for the first time.

With all of this excitement comes a difficult reality for SparkFish as we head into the next academic year. Sadly, our staffing is significantly reduced due to ongoing financial constraints.

Can you help?

We are hoping to set up a volunteer fundraising group for those with experience of fundraising events or an interest in helping us fundraise for the future. This could be bake sales, fun runs, quiz nights, comedy nights, family fun events. You wouldn't need to give up a huge amount of time and no qualifications are needed! We are just looking for contacts in the local community and the churches, a heart for SparkFish and local schools, and some time to give to help us continue to sustain SparkFish for the future.

Please contact Harriet - [Harriet@sparkfish.org.uk](mailto:Harriet@sparkfish.org.uk)/ 07838 495116 for more information!

Please do also join us in prayer for our finances, that we would be able to sustain and grow this much loved work in local schools! And if you would like to give to the work of SparkFish, then please visit our website - [sparkfish.org.uk/donate](https://sparkfish.org.uk/donate) for more information.

Harriet Pearce, Director of SparkFish

## Learn

The summer term is a very busy time for our Learn Strand work. We continue to enjoy being involved in supporting our local Open the Book teams who regularly visit St Matthews and Wray Common School. It has been great to continue with our bible stories, and the children love helping with the dramas too.

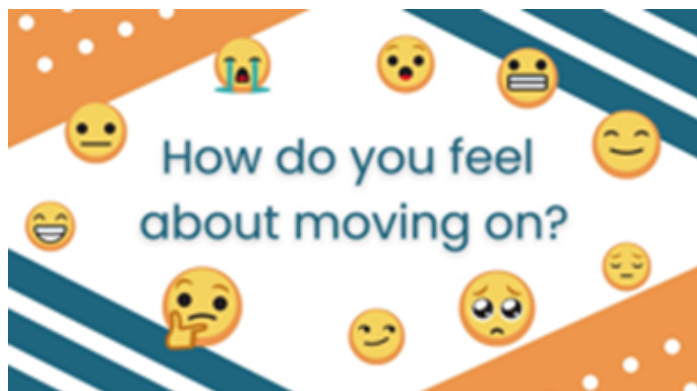
At SparkFish we have been partnering with Earlswood Baptist Church this term to run their Friday after school children's club which has been great fun. With the team from the church we do crafts, cooking activities and games, and share a bible story every week. This term we are exploring stories Jesus told with the children, which has been a lovely opportunity.

In the summer term we also visit local Primary Schools to provide an interactive workshop to help support year 6 children prepare for their transition to Secondary School. This year we plan to visit 9 local Primary Schools to help the year 6 children prepare for their move.

Our workshops include the opportunity to look back and reflect on what they have learned and celebrate their achievements at Primary School, to think about ending well and saying their goodbyes, and then we include lots of practical advice and the opportunity to look ahead to their hopes and dreams for Secondary School.

As part of our work supporting positive transition to Secondary School we are also working with St John's Church to lead some lunch clubs for year 6 at St John's school this term.

Please do join us in praying for all those children and young people who are preparing to make a new start at Primary School, Secondary School, Sixth Form College or on to University over the next few months.



- Lindsey Hardwick, Deputy Director & Learn Coordinator

## Think!

### Springing Forward with Purpose

We had a wonderfully full Spring term in the Think strand, delivering eight unique Think Spaces across local schools.

These spaces provided children—and staff—with meaningful opportunities to pause, reflect, and explore values in a peaceful and creative environment. It has been a privilege to witness so many young minds engaging deeply with themes such as hope, kindness, and courage.

This term is a little quieter in terms of bookings, which has brought with it a welcome opportunity to step back and invest in the future of Think. We've been enhancing our resources—adding thoughtful touches and fresh materials that we hope will inspire even greater \*awe and wonder\*. Some of these changes have been guided by feedback from students themselves, helping us better understand how to shape Think Spaces to meet their needs and draw them into reflection more deeply.

Alongside this practical development, a quieter term gives space to grow our vision. We're using the time to reach out to schools who haven't yet experienced a Think Space, offering them the chance to see what it's all about. I'll be writing to headteachers and RE coordinators and visiting schools to share more about the work of SparkFish—particularly the Think strand—and the unique role it can play in enriching school life and supporting children's spiritual development.

We're holding onto the encouragement of Isaiah 43:19:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

This verse reminds us that even in quieter seasons, God is at work—preparing the way for new opportunities, new relationships, and renewed impact.

Please do pray that doors will open as we connect with new schools and continue to grow this strand of our ministry. If you'd like to get involved or learn more about Think, I'd love to hear from you.

With blessings,  
Charlie



## Hope

Whilst the Hope strand looks a bit different at the minute, SparkFish continues to support students in local schools in many different ways.

St Bede's School - Joshua Askwith supports young men at St Bede's on a Tuesday morning through one-to-one mentoring.

Reigate School - Charlie Auton supports students on Thursdays at Reigate School through one-to-one mentoring and with a drop in lunch club.

Royal Alexandra and Albert School - Harriet Pearce is a volunteer 'Independent Person' for boarders at Royal Alexandra and Albert School. Harriet provides an independent listening ear for any student who needs some extra support.

Furzeffield Primary School - Lindsey Hardwick provides bespoke support and Drawing and Talking Therapy at Furzeffield School every Thursday. This year Lindsey has been providing six week interventions looking at emotions, friendship and managing worries. Lindsey has also been providing extra transition support for students who have been identified as needing more support.

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School - Lindsey Hardwick provides bespoke support and Drawing and Talking Therapy at St Matthew's Primary School each Friday.

Merstham Park School - From September Lindsey Hardwick will be supporting a few new Year 7 students who have transitioned to Merstham Park from Furzeffield Primary School.

Our lunch club at Merstham Park continues on a Wednesday lunch time and is an open drop in for students who need a safe space to hang out during the school day. The SparkFish lunch club has been run by Helen Gillett and Joshua Askwith this last academic year and we are so grateful to them for their help!



## Connect with us online

[YouTube](#)  
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[Website](#)

## Prayer Strategy

Trustees spent some time reflecting on the prayer support that is so vital to the work of SparkFish

Currently Prayer is encouraged through:

- Part of all staff and trustee meetings
- Weekly "Prayer Points" e mail
- Weekly zoom trustee Prayer meeting
- Termly prayer meetings hosted by different churches in the area
- Termly newsletter giving information to pray about
- Annual SparkFish service
- SparkFish website giving information to pray about
- Social media posts giving information to pray about
- Church visits by SparkFish

We have added to our prayer strategy that:

Each employee:

- Asks a few people who are committed to pray for them on a personal level regularly and keeps giving those people regular updates.
- Asks their church to adopt them as a missionary and thus encourage their church to pray for them as individuals and the work of SparkFish regularly. Some churches may not do this but may be happy that the employee's house group would do this
- 1 day/ term for prayer for SparkFish as part of their work

Each trustee:

- Asks their church to be aware of and support them in their role as SparkFish trustee. Each trustee asks their church to give opportunity for sharing information about SparkFish and receive prayer requests.

Each volunteer:

- Asks 1 or more people to pray for them each time they are volunteering with SparkFish
- Staff to contact trustees regularly with information on SparkFish involvement in the schools local to the trustees' churches so the trustee's church can pray regularly for these events

We will continue to review this and gradually add more opportunities for prayer.

All your prayers (however long or short) are of great value.

Thank you!

- Hermione Puzey, Trustee for SparkFish

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