

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

March 2023

This term has been all about Experience Easter – volunteers have been busy making up packs, setting up, training with us and then helping to run the event. But we've also managed to squeeze in our AGM and – needles at the ready – we are also on the lookout for volunteer knitters!

Experience Easter - It's been a delight to be back at Trinity Church this month with local school children as they take part in Experience Easter. This year, not only were we back in Church, but Experience Easter had an exciting redesign.

After offering our online Experience Easter for the last two years using videos created by volunteers, we felt it was time to return to live workshops in Trinity Church, but with a new look.



This year, rather than moving through the workshops in small groups, each class stayed together and followed through the workshops in order. This meant that we could leave more of the church looking as it usually would, which was hopefully less disruptive for the congregation and enabled children and teachers to really appreciate the beauty and perhaps some of the symbolism of Trinity Church.

As always, Experience Easter only happens thanks to your amazing support. This year, more than 30 volunteers have rolled plasticine, threaded beads, put together packs, built tableau, sung songs, led workshops and completed many other tasks

to help deliver Experience Easter to around 450 children from eight local schools.

That's in addition to the 20 or so volunteers who contributed videos to the online version of Experience Easter which we have continued to offer this year, and which is particularly popular with the schools further away in the Abingdon Partnership.



We received record bookings for Experience Easter this year and we'll be pulling together event photos and feedback over the next weeks, but meanwhile a huge thank you to all the many volunteers and Trinity Church for continuing to support this amazing project.

TrinityLearning's AGM – our second AGM was held online on 16th January. Trustees welcomed volunteers, church representatives, and supporters as we launched our 2021 - 2022 Annual Report, and shared news and project updates. Despite being another 'virtual' AGM it was great to be able to get together! If you couldn't make it, you can find our latest Annual Report online at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/trinitylearning-annual-report/>



Coming up

'Make a Difference' Marketplace event – every year Larkmead school's 'Make a Difference' (MAD) Marketplace gives their Year 12 students a chance to meet local charities and not for profit organisations and hear more about projects students can support during the school's Make a Difference week in July.

Our Education Development Officer, Nicola and Workshop Coordinator, Taz are off to the Marketplace event on Friday 31st March to talk to students about our Toolkit for Happiness project. Last year, during MAD week, 18 enthusiastic Year 12s took part in TrinityLearning training and then ran Toolkit for Happiness workshops with the school's (around) 150 Year 7s. So, we are looking forward to seeing what this year has in store.

Volunteering Opportunities

New remote volunteering opportunity: Calling all knitters! Can you put your knitting skills to good use to make a small rabbit for our Thinking Books project – a school-based project which helps children to understand their own and other people's feelings better. We'll supply the pattern, wool, and stuffing. If you're interested, please email nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com



Thinking Books: Could you spare an afternoon per week to work with children to improve their understanding of others' emotions? Thinking Books is TrinityLearning's mentoring programme. Volunteers share a carefully chosen book with a child or small group of children over 10 sessions. The focus is on discussing characters' feelings to help children think about the feelings of others and develop empathy. There are notes to accompany each of the books and volunteers receive initial training and regular follow up sessions. We are now recruiting for Thinking Books Volunteers to start in September 2023.

Forest School Volunteer

Carswell School is looking for a volunteer to help out with their Forest School on Wednesday mornings. The volunteer needs to be comfortable with taking part in outdoor activities in all weathers! Forest School runs weekly in term time.

Stay in the know: Our TrinityLearning Facebook page has new posts added regularly, so it's a great place to keep up to date with news in between our volunteer newsletters. Join us at www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/

We wish all volunteers a joyous and peaceful Easter and we thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S