

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter, April 2024

Last term saw us busy running our annual Experience Easter project which was supported by so many of our volunteers in lots of different ways. But we also managed to squeeze in our AGM as well as a trip to Larkmead school, and we're very excited to be planning our second Volunteer Celebration later this term and would love for you all to join us!



Experience Easter - Plasticine was cut and rolled, flannels folded, beads tied onto string, stickers packed, and Trinity Church decorated and prepared – our brilliant volunteers were amazing as they worked alongside us to make sure that we were able to deliver our annual Experience Easter event to hundreds of local children either online in their schools or in person in Trinity Church.

Experience Easter ran in Trinity Church for two weeks, ending on Friday 22nd March, with schools taking part online in the run up to the Easter holidays at the end of March.

In addition to all the hours of preparation, our volunteer storytellers supported us during the event as they shared a simple, scripted story with groups of primary school children and helped them take an active part in the stories in lots of different ways, from writing their hopes and dreams onto palm crosses to working their way through their angry and fearful thoughts using plasticine.

Teacher feedback from the event was very positive with many commenting on how engaged the children were and how much they enjoyed it – 'Calm, relaxing atmosphere. The class were focused and engaged. A great opportunity for the children to reflect on the Easter story. Thank you.' We even got a mention in the Oxford Mail!

In total 504 children from nine different schools took part in the event. 234 children from five schools came to the live version in Trinity church with the remaining 270 children, from four schools taking part through the online version via our website. This could not have happened without the time and skills given so generously by our dedicated and caring volunteers and we are so very thankful.

TrinityLearning's Easter event draws in over 500 children
Oxford Mail
29th March



By Jacob Maruschka
AI Assisted Reporter

More than 500 children have taken part in an event designed to help them understand the Easter story. TrinityLearning's Experience Easter event, held both in Trinity Church in Abingdon and online, ran from March 12 to 21st. Seven to 11 year olds expressed their hopes and dreams by writing on palm crosses, and vented their angry and fearful thoughts using

plasticine.

Nicola Williams, TrinityLearning's education development officer, said: 'Experience Easter is a key annual event for us and the many dedicated volunteers who support us in preparing and running the workshops.'



Knitted Bears for Bereavement Packs - Following higher than usual demand for TrinityLearning Bereavement packs, this spring we put out an appeal for knitters to create tiny teddies to recoup our stocks. One teddy goes out with each pack and we know that they are a comforting addition for the children who receive them. Thank you to the many knitters who responded to our request and especially to the All Saints church community who knitted 13 bears. If you have a knitting pack, please do keep knitting as we hope to have enough bears to ensure we can meet demand for the coming year.

Larkmead School's MAD Marketplace - We were delighted to be invited to Larkmead School in March for their 'Make a Difference' marketplace event. It was great to be back and have the time to meet and hear from their 6th form students and share information with them about our Toolkit for Happiness project and how they can get involved. We're looking forward to running the project with 6th form volunteers later this term during their Make a Difference week. It's always an energetic and lively week where we learn as much from the student volunteers as they hopefully learn from the project work.

TrinityLearning's AGM - our third AGM was held online on 16th January. Trustees welcomed volunteers, church representatives, and supporters as we launched our 2022 - 2023 Annual Report, and shared news and project updates. The report covered the period when we returned fully to in-school projects again after Covid. It was a really positive year for us and this was due especially to the patience and persistence of our wonderful volunteers who have stayed with us and who supported us enormously despite previous Covid-related interruptions.

Our latest Annual Report is online <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/trinitylearning-annual-report/>

Upcoming Volunteer Events

- **Thinking Books volunteer meet-up** – 15th May 10 -11:30am in Trinity Church. A chance for our Thinking Books Volunteers to get together and discuss how the project is going so far this year and share challenges and ideas.
- **Volunteer Celebration Event** – 20th June 4pm-6pm in the Conduit Centre Hall. All past, present and potential volunteers and supporters are invited to come and celebrate TrinityLearning's work over a cup of tea and some delicious cake!

Call for Volunteers

Thinking Books is Trinity Learning's volunteer mentoring project. Trained volunteers meet children weekly in school for 10 sessions to discuss character's emotions using carefully chosen books. We are now recruiting for volunteers to start the project this September.

Gardeners - are you a keen gardener? Could you volunteer regularly, or occasionally to help look after a TrinityLearning school garden?

Knitters and crocheters- Could you create a tiny bereavement bear or Thinking Books bunny for one of our projects? All patterns and materials are provided.

Please email Nicola; nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com if you would like to know more about any of these projects or about our other volunteer opportunities.

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 look forward to seeing lots of you in person at our Volunteer Celebration later this term and we thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S