

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter, January 2024

We hope you all had a peaceful and restful Christmas and we can't quite believe it's the start of another year. In this newsletter we'll share what we got up to last term and our plans for this term (believe it or not we're already beginning to think about Easter!)

Kingfisher School Christmas Service - Deacon Selina, who volunteers with our TrinityLearning Kingfisher School singing group, decided she would like to offer the school a Christmas Service. Planning started last summer and we quickly realised that demand was high as nearly every class in the school asked to be involved.

In total we ran the service 5 times to pupils from 11 different classes, some classes came to Trinity Church whilst others took part in the Service at school.



The service consisted of a simple retelling of the Christmas Story with songs adapted from nursery rhymes as well as some traditional Christmas favourites such as Little Donkey and Away in a Manger. We made a sensory pack for each child which included some pictures of a baby and a donkey, a bag of scented chamomile hay, a fleecy square (which felt like a sheep!) and a star. Children thoroughly enjoyed finding the things in their pack and holding them up as they sang along.

The commitment of the volunteers was reflected in the enthusiasm and involvement of the staff and children, many of whom had clearly been practising their singing! We're already starting to tweak our plan for the 2024 service.

Volunteer training - September and early October saw us busy with volunteer training. All



volunteers who work in schools with us must complete our Safeguarding Training which is designed by Oxfordshire County Council. We're qualified to deliver this Safeguarding Training to the same standard as schools, enabling us to fully prepare volunteers for their varied in-school roles. Nicola, as our Designated Safeguarding Officer carried out the first training session back in early September and supported Taz as our qualified Deputy Safeguarding Lead for the next

session, with Taz carrying out the final session in October.

In September, we also ran our annual Thinking Books training for all volunteers who are involved in this in-school project which involves mentoring young children through shared reading and discussion of books. This training is run over two days with the focus on the first day being a look at the practical aspects of the project concentrating on the books and other resources we use. The second day we have an external trainer with us who provides an overview of the importance of developing emotional language as well as providing a range of strategies to enable volunteers to appropriately deepen their conversations about the characters and situations in the books.

Coming up: Join us at our 2024 TrinityLearning AGM, 7pm, Tuesday 16th

January on Zoom - We'll be presenting our Annual Report and Accounts at the AGM so it's a great opportunity to hear about what we've been up to and our plans for future work. If you would like to receive a Zoom link, or a copy of our Annual Report please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Experience Easter 2024 - we are beginning to think about and plan for Experience Easter 2024 which will offer schools the choice to visit Trinity Church for live workshops or to take part online. Experience Easter is a series of reflective workshops, which allows Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11-year-olds) to access the Easter Story in a meaningful way. It is also an introduction to mindfulness, using stilling exercises and simple activities to allow the children to consider their emotions. After a successful return to live workshops last year, we plan to continue offering these as well as updating our online offer.



There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for Experience Easter including home-based volunteering for craft preparation as well as in-person volunteering which consists of supporting school groups and storytelling during the live workshops. If you're interested in finding out more, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Trustee? We are looking for a new trustee to join us at TrinityLearning. Trustees are essential to the running of TrinityLearning and work as a team to provide inclusive, strategic leadership and ensure proper governance for the charity. They meet around five times a year – both in person and online. There is lots of training and support available, so whether you are an experienced Trustee, or are thinking of becoming a Trustee for the first time, we would love to hear from you. We welcome applications from all ages (16+) and levels of experience.

As a charity working with volunteers and young people, TrinityLearning is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all those with whom it works. All Trustees are expected to hold DBS clearance and the relevant safeguarding training, which TrinityLearning can provide. A keen interest in children and enthusiasm for promoting their needs is essential.

If you would like an informal chat about this voluntary role, please email Nicola on nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Crafty Volunteers needed - we are looking for crocheters and knitters to help make tiny toys for several of our packs, including tiny Teddies for our TrinityLearning Bereavement Packs and our new Family Change pack. All materials supplied so if you have crocheting or knitting skills and would like to help, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

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/

Thank you all for your time and commitment and continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S