

## TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter, December 2024

This autumn term is one of the busiest periods of TrinityLearning's year and it is all about volunteers. In September and October, we ran training sessions for our regular school-based volunteers, and our key long term in-school projects Thinking Books and the Kingfisher Singing Group restarted with groups of children across Abingdon. It's now almost Christmas and, as we write this newsletter, our festive activities are in full swing!

**Celebrating Christmas** – We've had a fantastic time supporting our Kingfisher Singing Group Christmas Services. The services were specially written by Deacon Selina and use simple Christmas songs, many of which use nursery rhyme tunes. We've run the service multiple times so children can take part in small groups - some came in person to Trinity Church and some took part in school. Read all about it in our [Fleecy blankets and soft feathers: Celebrating Christmas with Kingfisher blog post](#).



We'll also be providing support to other school Christmas events including Carol Concerts, a Nativity play, and a celebration of St Nicolas day. It is always wonderful to see all the different ways schools remember and celebrate the Christmas story.



**Thank you to Christ's Hospital** – this term we were delighted to learn that Christ's Hospital agreed to a £1440 grant to cover the costs of resources for our Thinking Books project for the next two years. Thinking Books is our volunteer mentoring project. It involves trained volunteers meeting children for ten weekly in-school sessions to discuss characters' emotions using carefully chosen books.

This grant will help us keep the book boxes well stocked and, most importantly, allow us to give each child who takes part in the project a copy of the book they have worked with. The children love choosing their books and are proud to take them home when the project is completed.

**Join us at our 2025 TrinityLearning AGM – 6pm, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January on Zoom**

We would like to invite all our volunteers, partners, supporters and friends to join us, so if you are interested in finding out more about TrinityLearning and what we did last year, please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) for a copy of the Annual Report and a zoom link.

**Call for Volunteers** - Please email Nicola if you are interested in the opportunities below  
[nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

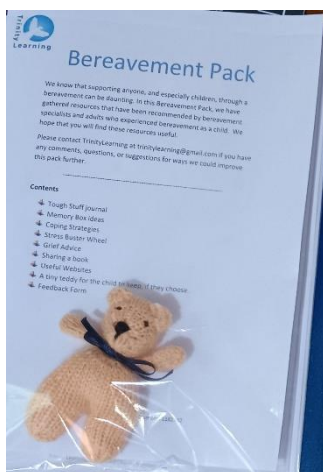
### Experience Easter Volunteers needed

It seems strange to be talking about Easter in December but we are starting to plan for Experience Easter 2025, 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, specially developed by TrinityLearning to allow 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.



TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding so all Experience Easter volunteers must have completed safer recruitment procedures, including an enhanced DBS check and Safeguarding Training. We are always very happy to support people with this but it all takes time, so please get in touch soon via email or by dropping a note with your contact details into the Conduit Centre if you're interested in helping out at Experience Easter 2025.

### Crafty Volunteers needed



We are looking for confident crocheters and knitters to help make tiny toys for several of our packs. Over the years some of our fantastic volunteers have created tiny Teddies for our TrinityLearning Bereavement Packs. These packs are designed for adults working with bereaved children. We send one bear out with each pack and distribute an average of 10 packs a year to local schools. The packs have been very well received by schools.

TrinityLearning will provide all the materials needed so if you have crocheting or knitting skills and would like to help, please get in touch.

**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.

**Thank you for all your support in 2024** – as the year draws to a close, we would like to thank all our volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills to support our work. We are immensely grateful and could not run without you. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to bright and busy 2025.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S