

The Religious Education Resources Project

Providing advice, resources and training on Christian Religious Education for schools

Special points of interest:

- Project focus
- School Insets
- New resources
- Creation lesson
- Details of the RERP contacts and website
- Website

Christmas ahead

It is always difficult to fit in all requests near our major festivals and this year has been no exception. With 23 booked on Christmas themes. These are often all requested for the same week so my challenge has been to encourage schools to spread them out and think of Advent and Lent too as part of preparation for these festivals. Some are taking up this offer.



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Bulletin 15

Dear Friends,

Much has happened in the months since my last Bulletin to you. Not least the success of the new special needs church exploration session at Gantshill Methodist in July. I thank you all for your support and prayers in this venture. Gantshill Methodist have now made other links with Gearies school who have started a childrens' lunchtime sports club at the church and whose parents are now visiting the open Thursday tea club. This is very encouraging and I thank you all in the Circuit churches for your hard work in outreach to children and families.

Already this term there has been new work requested at William Torbitt Primary and sessions completed at a new school, Mayespark Primary. Work in these schools expand the geographical reach of the Project. Other contacts have continued and in

November 2016 News

In addition I have been asked to lead Insets for teachers on a range of topics (see below). This year is very much a question of 'see what support is needed' so there will be changes to my usual itinerary. I aim to listen carefully and respond.

Finally I wish to thank you so much for the donations that have been sent to the Project from Circuit churches and members this term. This is very much appreciated and makes a huge difference to the work I can do to retell the Christian story in our schools.

God Bless

*Carol
Dawson*



Teacher Insets

In September I led two teacher training Insets. One to advise on the new RE syllabus and the other to encourage schools to use Godly Play in their classrooms. Both were at the end of busy school days but were well attended by teachers. It is always a pleasure to be invited to talk to teachers, to offer support and hear their concerns about RE in their schools. These sessions often result in me being invited into a school or word of the RERP spreading to a wider group. This helps build relationships with our churches and schools. Other inset sessions are planned for next term



New Resources

I have been busy making new resources to go with the new lessons requested. These involve a wide range of interactive activities for the classroom including, games, quizzes, challenges, music and special needs activities. Where something more substantial is needed I try to work on it over the holiday period. Below is the 'Talk and Play church' to be used with young children as an introduction to the inside of a church. The talk and play questions are used with an adult and allow children to explore symbols, objects, their meanings as well as provide opportunities for asking questions.

RERP web-site update

The Project web-site is currently attracting around 200 hits a month which is encouraging. I now refer teachers to the site when they ask what we can offer their school as there is an extensive list on there. Please have a look at it if you have not already done so to see the types of sessions on offer.
www.rerp-methodist-church.org.uk



The new 'Talk and Play' church



New lesson session – Creation

This term I have led a new Year 1 lesson entitled 'What can we learn from the Christian Creation story?' Children enjoy exploring the story on a power point presentation and through games, and quizzes which I take into the classroom. The main themes they are required to understand from the session are that Christians believe this story illustrates that:-

- God is creative
- Creation has an order and God's hand is in this
- God loves his creation so people should look after it too
- When people do questionable things they feel far away from God.

It can be difficult to find the correct vocabulary for such big themes but so far this has been a popular lesson, requested 7 times by 2 different schools and in a simpler form for Reception classes. There is plenty of scope for teachers to explore Creation further and I always leave plenty of ideas for them to use later with their class.

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