

# Open the Book/ICE Torbay Newsletter

## January 2016, Issue 13



Last term we were very busy setting up new lunch clubs, running Christmas themed Prayer Spaces and starting up new Open the Book teams.

We had a great time during the first couple of weeks of December, running the Christmas themed **Prayer Spaces in Schools**, in four primary schools across Torbay. We ran Prayer Spaces in Collaton St Mary, Roselands and St Marychurch primary schools, and this year for the first time we also ran one in Tower House school, and as always, we were very encouraged to see how appreciative the head teachers were about us being there.

*'Good stories enable us to see our own life-story in new ways. These prayer activities invite students to reflect on the events and relationships in their lives, and encourages them to express their thoughts and feelings, ask questions, and if they want to, try praying.'* (Prayerspacesinschools.com)



We had six prayer stations setup, all of which encouraged the children to reflect on the Christmas story as it unfolds. As the children moved around the activities they were able to explore prayer and were given the opportunity to pray. They also learnt that 'Nothing is impossible for God', and how God tells us not to be worried or afraid, but instead to hand our concerns over to Him. The children also learned about saying sorry to God for things they'd done wrong, as well as how to ask God for guidance whenever they wish. They enjoyed making playdough models of the gifts they had received in life, (whether Christmas gifts, or gifts such as skills and talents), whilst learning about how we should always thank God for all the wonderful gifts that He has given us.

The children were very excited to experience these activities and really enjoyed learning more about the Christmas story through them.

*"What a wonderful afternoon it was for both children and staff alike. Thank you so much for coming and encouraging us all to reflect and share our thoughts in such interesting ways, engaging with the Christmas story at the same time. Inspirational!"* Alison Musty, Tower House Junior School

### ICE Lunch Clubs

The ICE Lunch Clubs which we started running during autumn term have been very successful. We ran lunch clubs in St Marychurch & All Saints Babbacombe initially, then started another one up in Curledge Street Academy during November. The children had an introductory session on 'The Fruit of the Spirit', followed by three more sessions where we looked at, Love, Joy and Peace. We finished the term with an exciting Christmas session which the children really enjoyed. We intend to develop the lunch clubs further and hope to start more of them during the spring and summer terms.



### Open the Book

There are now 15 Open the Book teams in Torbay, with more schools asking for teams to start. There are also 9 teams in the South Hams, and 1 new team in Teignbridge. The teams are reaching thousands of children in the local area with Bible stories who wouldn't normally hear them. For more information about Open the Book, visit their website: [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net)

## Getting involved



### **Back to School with God prayer, Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 7.30pm Brixham URC, New Road, Brixham TQ5 8NE**

Join us as we pray at the start of a new term for children and young people as they go back to school after the Christmas break, and for activities run by churches and organisations for children and young people locally.

### **Lunch Clubs**

We are currently running three lunch clubs across Torbay primary schools, and hope to start another two during the spring and summer terms. ICE Lunch Clubs offer a half hour program of activities including stories, crafts, games, quizzes, drama & video clips.

***If you would like to be involved in helping with lunch clubs, please contact us on the details below for more information. If you could spare about an hour every fortnight or even every four weeks (during school term-time) we would love to hear from you. (All volunteers will need to have a current DBS & work within ICE Torbay's policies & procedures.)***



## Support

There are three main ways in which you can support the local primary schools work:

**Practical:** Open the Book storytellers & ICE Torbay volunteers are needed across the local area. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact us for more information.

**Financial:** The work of Open the Book Torbay & ICE Torbay is funded by South Devon Evangelical Trust, and your financial support, whether as a one off donation or a regular gift is vital for the work to continue. Gift Aid forms are available.

**Spiritual:** Please pray for the work of Open the Book and ICE Torbay & sign up to receive the monthly prayer diary.

## Prayer

- Thank God for all the Open the Book teams & volunteers who go into schools each week.
- Thank God for the Christmas Prayer Spaces in Schools Project, and pray for all of the children who took part.
- Thank God that Gemma and Nick have been able to set up some ICE Lunch Clubs, and pray for Nick as he continues to lead them and for the children as they come along to learn more about God.
- Pray for Gemma while she is on maternity leave.
- Pray for Nick as he manages the work of ICE Torbay, in Gemma's absence.
- Pray for enough volunteers to help with existing Lunch Clubs, and with the new ones that we plan to start up over the spring and summer terms.
- Pray for Exeter ICE, and ICE partnerships in Ilfracombe, Dawlish, Exmouth & Wales



**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.  
Colossians 4:2**

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