

Open the Book/ICE Torbay Newsletter January 2017, Issue 17

It's been a great start to the new year, with two new schools coming on-board for our ICE lunch clubs, and two new members of staff joining us at ICE Torbay.



Meet our new team members:

What a fantastic start to 2017. God is good!! Joining ICE Torbay has truly been a blessing. My background is in education, having taught from Foundation to Year 3, and I have been responsible for children's work in church for a number of years. I love handicrafts and belong



to my needlework group at church. What better way to combine all my passions than to be part of ICE Torbay lunch-time clubs? I have been greatly encouraged by children's responses to Bible stories and their knowledge of Jesus. I am really looking forward to many new experiences as God leads me on the next stage of my journey with Him. **Christine Hargreaves (Christian Schools Worker)**

Hello everyone! I am so thrilled to be joining ICE Torbay, it really is an honour and an answer to prayer. I have a huge heart for both working with children, and for sharing the Gospel - so I feel particularly blessed to have been offered this position. I have been a Christian for many years, and at my church (Living Waters, Paignton) I'm currently an active member of our Sunday School team, as well as being involved in our worship team and an outreach club. I am also a Street Pastor!



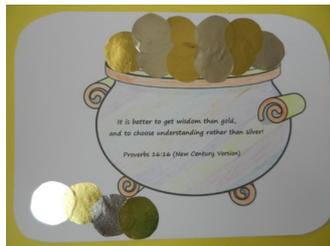
Over the years I have held a variety of positions, many of which related to my interest in acting. As a trained actor, I've been involved in numerous different projects including performing with a Christian theatre company. I was also a nurse for a number of years. I know that all of my achievements have only been possible because of our Lord's love and guidance, and I humbly pray that He will continue to lead me in His way in my new role with ICE Torbay. As it says in Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it", and again "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him." (Psalm 127:3)

Nicola Samuel-Stevens (Christian Schools Worker)

Update on Gemma Drew: Following the birth of Gideon in January 2016, Gemma has decided that for the time being she intends to take more time off from her work at ICE Torbay, to spend with her family. She continues her interest in our work and we hope to see her return at some point in the future.



ICE Lunch Clubs: Since October the children have learnt about King Solomon and his wisdom - where we looked at how, "It is better to get wisdom than gold, and to choose understanding rather than silver!"



(Proverbs 16:16). We also had a session where we talked about Zacchaeus, (the little man who climbed a tree in order to see Jesus). The children really enjoyed making the crafts for these two sessions. We finished the term off with an exciting Christmas session. Since the start of this term, we have talked about Adam & Eve, and Noah, where the children have enjoyed taking part in exciting and interactive stories along with making some brilliant crafts.



Open the Book - There are 25 schools in and around Torbay that now have regular 'Open the Book' assemblies with several more schools very keen to start. For more information about Open the Book, please visit their website: www.openthebook.net

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Getting involved

Interested in volunteering?

The ICE lunch clubs have proved extremely popular since we started running them in October 2015. The clubs provide us with an opportunity to talk with primary school children about the Christian faith, in a fun and exciting way. With two new members of staff now on-board we are planning, within the next couple of months, to offer our clubs to many more schools in and around Torbay.

Our work within local primary schools is only possible because of the generous help from volunteers, who play an active role working alongside members of ICE Torbay in order to run our lunch clubs.

If you would like to be involved in helping with our 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

- Pray for Nicola and Chris, our two new team members, that God will help them settle into their new roles, and equip them with all the skills that they need.
- Thank God for all of the dedicated and talented volunteers who regularly go into primary schools, to help with 'Open the Book' or with our lunch clubs. Pray that God will continue to provide suitable volunteers in line with our needs, as we plan to take on more schools.
- Thank God for the various opportunities that He has opened up in primary schools, and pray that He will continue to grow our work and equip us with the skills and resources that we need.
- Pray that God will help us to overcome any difficulties which we might encounter, (and have previously encountered), that may prevent us from working with certain schools.



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