

# Open the Book/ICE Torbay Newsletter

## July 2016, Issue 15



During the Summer Term, our **ICE Lunch Clubs** have continued to prove very popular with children in both Key Stage 1 & 2 (5 to 11 years old), in primary schools across Torbay.

God has bought forward several talented and dedicated volunteers to help us with the clubs, which has led to us now being able to run clubs in five schools, and we plan to continue taking on more schools during the Autumn Term.

Our Summer Term clubs have been based on two themes; **The Fruit of the Spirit** and **Abraham's Exciting Journey**.



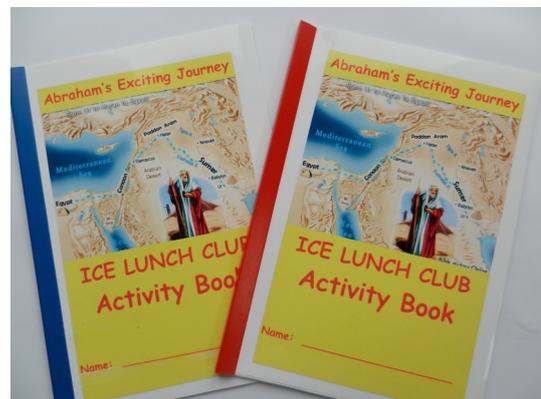
As always, the clubs are great fun, offering 30 to 45 minutes of games, drama, video clips, crafts, exciting activities and much more. We give out sweets (where allowed) and Christian stickers to the children, and there are always opportunities to win small prizes (i.e. a bookmark, pencil, small pad or a paper fan - all of which have a Christian message written on them).



**Fruit of the Spirit** - This series enabled the children to learn how the Bible uses fruit to describe the attitudes and characteristics that God gives those people who trust in Jesus Christ, and how you can often tell a lot about someone by the kind of life they lead and the things you see them do. We looked at Love, Joy, Peace and Patience. They really enjoyed making the crafts during the sessions on Joy and Peace. The children also created some pretty good spider diagrams, when asked what love and peace meant to them.



**Abraham's Exciting Journey** - Over the term, using video clips, drama and plenty of craft, we talked about Abram's journey from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran, and eventually to Canaan. We also talked about God's promise to make Abram into a great nation and bless him. As the series continued, we looked at Isaac, Jacob & Esau (where we did a great drama involving a hairy arm) then Joseph (where they made a 'coat of many colours' bookmark). Talking about Abraham gave us the opportunity to discuss what God meant when He tells us in Genesis that, 'Abram believed the Lord and he credited it to him as righteousness'. During the final session we presented each child with a booklet, (kindly made by one of our volunteers), along with a certificate to say they completed the series.



**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 in Teignbridge. For more information about Open the Book, visit their website: [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net)

**Contact:** Open the Book/ICE Torbay, 98 Kings Ash Road, Paignton, TQ3 3TT  
E: [icetorbay@gmail.com](mailto:icetorbay@gmail.com) T: 01803853772 W: [ice-torbay.weebly.com](http://ice-torbay.weebly.com)

## Getting involved

### ICE Lunch Clubs

We currently run five lunch clubs in primary schools across Torbay, and we hope to take on more schools during the Autumn Term. There is an increasing demand from primary schools for the clubs that we offer, but it is only possible to meet this demand if we have sufficient volunteers.

The 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 of the 'Open the Book' teams and other volunteers who go into schools each week.
- Thank God for the volunteers who help with our various activities, and pray that He will continue to provide suitable volunteers in line with our needs.
- Pray that God will continue to guide us and make clear to us where to concentrate our efforts. (Offering After School Clubs and one-to-one mentoring are future possibilities)
- Thank God for the various opportunities that He has opened up in primary schools, and pray that He will continue to grow our lunch clubs, and continue to equip us with the skills and resources to run these clubs well.
- Pray for Exeter ICE, and ICE partnerships in Ilfracombe, Dawlish & Exmouth.



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

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