

Toddlers and Pre-schools

As I write I’ve assembled my resources ready for the start of another half-term of visits to toddler groups and pre-school settings. A quick look at the diary in the next column will show just how busy I will be over the next 2 months. This half term I will be thinking about saying thank you to God for Harvest.



These are some of the items in my soft, reveal bag. As I take the plastic replicas out one-by-one we identify them and decide what we can do with them. The loaf of bread is the key element that we focus on. It seems that toast is a universal favourite! We also note in passing that lemons are very important to mummies who use them in their gin and tonics after the children have gone to bed!

November will see me share the story of Jesus and the children, found in Mark 10. The poor old disciples got it wrong again and tried to keep them away but Jesus used the situation to reveal the place of children in the Kingdom of God. Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them.

I use a ‘Big Book’ that I assembled using free Bible images. The bright colours work so well with young children and allow many emotions to be explored in the story telling.



A newsletter to keep supporters informed, inspired & involved.
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Diary Dates

Sept	
29 th Sept	Laleham Playgroup (am)
30 th Sept	Hope Church Hounslow Toddlers
Oct	
1 st Oct	Little Fishes Toddlers
2 nd Oct	Towntree Pre-school (am)
3 rd Oct	Minnows Toddlers
6 th Oct	Playbox Pre-school
7 th Oct	Tiddlers Toddlers
8 th Oct	Footprints Toddlers
9 th Oct	Seedlings Toddlers
10 th Oct	Playtime Toddlers
12 th Oct	North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am
18 th Oct	Staines & Feltham Methodist Circuit Intergenerational Worship Training Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am
10 th Oct	Trustees meeting
23 rd Oct	Staines Methodist 10.30am
26 th Oct	
Nov	
9 th Nov	North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am
11 th Nov	Hope Church Hounslow Toddlers
12 th Nov	Little Fishes Toddlers
13 th Nov	Towntree Pre-school (pm)
14 th Nov	Minnows Toddlers
16 th Nov	Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am
17 th Nov	Playbox Pre-school
18 th Nov	Tiddlers Toddlers
19 th Nov	Footprints Toddlers
20 th Nov	Seedlings Toddlers
21 st Nov	Playtime Toddlers
23 rd Nov	Staines Methodist 10.30am
25 th Nov	Harrow & Hillingdon Methodist Circuit Intergenerational Worship Training
26 th Nov	Laleham Playgroup (am)



Please consider volunteering to help with the production of the new boxes for
Time 2 Share at Home
Every little will helps!
Get in touch and start a conversation. Thanks.

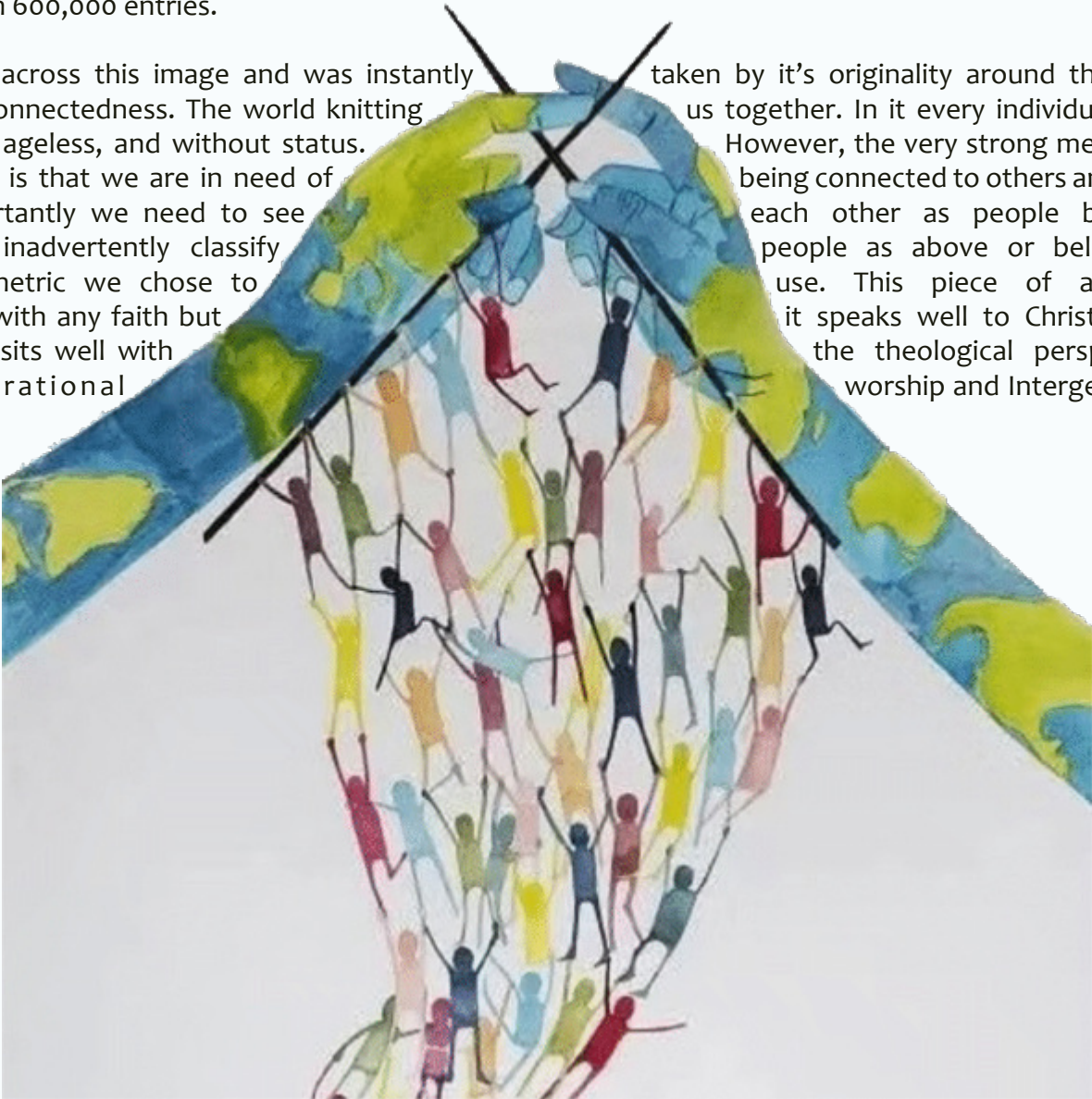


Faith Awareness
in Children Trust

I wonder what you might
see in this piece of art?

This image is a drawing titled "We Are All Connected" or "Unity" by Anja Rozen, a Slovenian student who won the Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest in 2022. Anja Rozen was 13 years old when her drawing was chosen from 600,000 entries.

I stumbled across this image and was instantly taken by it’s originality around the issue of unity and connectedness. The world knitting us together. In it every individual appears genderless, ageless, and without status. However, the very strong message that is conveyed is that we are in need of being connected to others and perhaps more importantly we need to see each other as people before we overtly or inadvertently classify people as above or below us by whatever metric we chose to use. This piece of art wasn’t associated with any faith but it speaks well to Christianity and particularly sits well with the theological perspective of Intergenerational worship and Intergenerational church.



FACT enabling children and households to reflect on the Christian Gospel

Time 2 Share at Home

Time to Share at Home boxes have entered the next phase. This is all about production and marketing or to keep it at my level, it's about making up the boxes with all the fabulous elements and getting them into the hands of households to use them. It's no small task to print, laminate, trim, stick, collate and assemble each box, but with the aid of faithful volunteers this task won't be so daunting. It's not too late to offer your time to volunteer to help in this process. Simply drop me an email, message or phone call and we can make it happen. As always, we pay a high remuneration rate in choccy biscuits and tea / coffee. To help spread the word that these boxes are available, we are holding a presentation event (see below). Although it is aimed at church leaders, who we hope will want to support this, we also want to see key church members attend who might be willing to drive this project in their own setting. That could include a Messy Church or Toddler Group. RSVP so we will be able to cater food wise.



Time to share at home boxes

Simon Shutt, Director of Children's Ministry is excited to invite you to a presentation of a new box of materials to aid faith development in the home. Bring a member of your church who may be interested to hear and enable this new opportunity for your church households.

Ashford Baptist Church TW15 2TT
Monday 10th November 2025
10.30am coffee and pastries
Start 11.00 - 11.45
12.00 - light lunch
Further information contact: simon@thefact.co.uk
R.S.V.P. to aid catering purposes.

Faith Awareness in Children Trust office@thefact.co.uk www.thefact.co.uk

Intergenerational Worship

The I.W. for September looked at, *'Poetic truths in the Bible'*. As 30% of the Bible is written in poetic language we need to be careful to read it through that genre and not to lift segments and take them as literal. We looked at psalm 121 and did a collective reading of the 8 verses. We took time to slow down and listen to each verse read by a different individual in the congregation. It turned out to be a powerful way of soaking up the poetic truths about God. We allowed an opportunity for everyone to write a single line of poetry that started, 'God you are like...'. Here are some that were written and shared.

God you are like...

A fire engine because you are always there in an emergency.

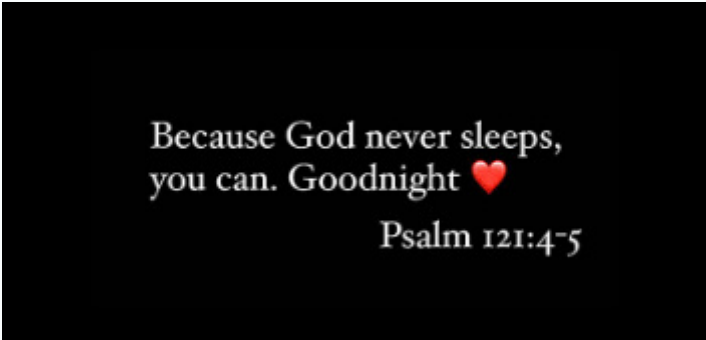
A puff of wind that I can feel but I can't see you, and I struggle to describe you.

The beanbag in my bedroom, when I sit in it, I feel safe, warm, comfortable and snugly.

A lawyer, as you are always defending me.

Then these and many others, were shared, and pauses taken to reflect on the similes of what God is like. I suspect that each sentence revealed where that person was in relation to God at that moment in time. Poetry is such a helpful way of expressing the inexplicable about God. I wonder what you might write?

One online commentator had summed up the Psalm in this way.



Intergenerational Worship

October's I.W. will consider the text from Hebrews 12:1-2. The passage starts with 'Therefore'. I was always taught to ask what the therefore is there for. It's a famous text that only makes sense if you have read the previous chapter, so we will do that in the service, but in a auditory and visual way! This will involve 3 readers and someone pressing the computer enter button to move the PowerPoint slide show on in time with the readers! This sounds straight forward but, with so many moving parts anything could happen and probably will!



One of the activities will be to construct a keyring showing the idea of running the race of faith. We will have spent time recognising the examples set by those in Heb.11. That makes sense of the 'therefore' in chapter 12.

Finally everyone will be invited to write their name into the word, 'FAITH' that has been printed poster size. This prayerful opportunity allows people to show that they are committed to running the race of faith or perhaps acknowledge they are moving towards joining that race. Either way they get a keyring to take home as a reminder of their daily race of faith.



Definition of Intergenerational Worship

Simple worship approaches for church and unchurched households that offer opportunities to encounter God that encourage interdependence and intradependence.

As we start another academic year the 3 churches that I worked with last year are continuing into their second, and final year. It is in this year that, bit by bit, I will hand over more and more of what I do to small teams that I will help establish in each church. This time next year, they will be up and running without me.

With this in mind, I will be delivering at least 2 training opportunities for them in the coming year. The first training sessions will build on the training from last year and these are set for this autumn. (Shown in the diary) We will revisit the definition of Intergenerational Worship (above) considering what I.W. is and also what it isn't. We'll look at the elements in it, we'll consider online resources and how to make best use of them. We will also start to train up team members and look at what each team needs to function well in the creation and delivery of these acts of worship.

The Church has long used a missional position of 'education before belief'. Essentially, you need to understand before you can believe. The world we live in is biblically illiterate with no understanding of religious language. Mission must start with an encounter of God which then leads onto education and instruction to help frame that encounter. We need to put the horse back in front of the cart!

Society has moved from being aggressively atheistic to spiritually curious. So, we need to be less defensive and more open and straightforward with our faith. They want to see authenticity in what we say and do!

**He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber.
Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.**

Psalm 121: 3-4