



# FAITH IN SCHOOLS

Our aim is for every child and young person in Newham schools to have the opportunity to meet local Christians and discover what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century

SPRING TERM 2020



## AUTUMN TERM AT A GLANCE

160 lessons delivered  
201 hours volunteered  
6,193 pupils taught  
5.6 average lesson rating

## FEATURES

CHRISTMAS JOURNEY ONLINE: pg2  
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: pg3  
THY KINGDOM COME IN '21: pg4

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Registered charity No. 1147664 and a local mission partner with



## FAREWELLS

### Goodbye to a Good Habit

Our faithful Franciscan volunteer since 2016/17, Brother James Douglas is moving from the community in Plaistow to their farm in Dorset.



We thank him for his humble service on behalf of the children and young people of Newham. He kindly answered all of their questions, from the sublime to the ridiculous, about being called to lead a life of prayer as a monk.

We will miss him but trust that this next chapter of his life will bring new adventures – perhaps nearly as exciting as helping 9-year olds learn about Jesus!

## NEW YEAR

In 2021, Faith in Schools' original vision remains: to enable every child and young person in Newham schools to

explore Christianity through meeting local Christians. Our work may have shifted online for now, but we remain true to our core values. One of the most important of these, which we can continue despite any Covid restrictions, is PRAYER. Pray with us for our schools and families – both church and unchurched.

**Pray Daily** – join our Whatsapp Prayer Group.

**Pray Actively** - turn your exercise time into a prayer walk around your local schools. For a map, go to our website

**Pray Independently** – with our monthly Prayer Letter

**Pray Together** – join our monthly Zoom Prayer Meetings, first Thursday of each month 10am. Ask Rachel for details.

JOIN OUR 150 MEMBERSHIP TODAY - WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE TO OUR WORK IN THE LOCAL SCHOOLS TO YOUR CHURCH!



CALL US  
07414 241948



#FIS150



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ONLINE

[WWW.FAITHINSCHOOLS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FAITHINSCHOOLS.CO.UK)

We invite your church to partner with us. An annual gift of £150 —that's **£3.48 a week** - will resource your local Schools Worker to continue our work.

## UPCOMING DATES

**Prayer Meetings** 4/2, 4/3 @10am Zoom  
(see website for link or contact Rachel)

**Volunteer Training** 20/1 (on Zoom) 10 - 11:30am, to share your faith online



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## FOLLOW THAT GOOGLE LINK!



**"The best thing was making the stars and telescopes and eating [Mary's] breadsticks."**

**(Yr1 Pupil, East Ham)**

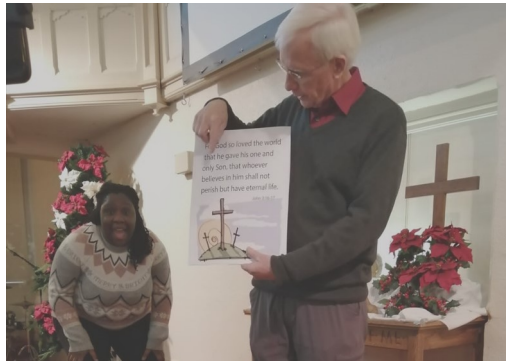
This year, "wise people" (including 1,603 Newham pupils) followed the star ONLINE to take part in our first ever **LIVE STREAMED CHRISTMAS JOURNEY**.

From 7-11<sup>th</sup> December, 25 Primary schools across the borough invited us into their Year 1 classrooms (via video conferencing) to learn about and experience the Nativity live from 12 local churches just down the road.

Over the week, 38 volunteers from across Newham, including peer faith mentors from 2 Christian schools, worked ecumenically together to sing, dance and perform the First Christmas along with the children. In the face of so many challenges - Covid restrictions, staff shortages and "bubble" closures to name a few - we are still able to support

churches to partner with so many schools.

It is encouraging to see our local community using technology to share hope and celebrate joyfully



**"I enjoyed ... the fellowship of working with colleagues of all ages. I was impressed by the technological efficiency."**



**"The children were really engaged and enjoyed it."**

**(Teacher, Maryland Primary, Stratford)**

## LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

RE-flection was the watch word for our online teaching into 35 schools this term. In our RE-Covery Curriculum (24 new pastoral sessions designed especially for learning after lockdown), pupils' mature responses to "big questions" amazed our team as they shared moments of loss and hope, resilience strategies and thoughts about justice.

One teacher said, **"The children really enjoyed the workshop. It led to them being able to talk about changes and what made them feel safe in the current climate."** Across our RE-Discovery (religious education) lessons, feedback was equally positive – teachers and pupils really appreciated the virtual visits

even with the inevitable technical glitches.

**"Just wanted to say thanks for today. The children loved it and learnt sooo much. We had our reflection at the end of the day - they loved the candle being lit!"**

**(Y3 Teacher, Sandringham Primary)**



**RE:COVERY**

## TESTIMONY THROUGH TIERS

**"It's more powerful when the information comes from the source",** commented one Year 5 teacher about our work. Which is why YOU as a local Christian are the key ingredient to a good Christianity lesson!

We can organise things with schools as well as support and train YOU but only YOU can share your story and what your

faith mean to you personally.

Sadly, since lockdown, the hours gifted to us

have dwindled – down from 976 this time last year to 201. This is due to many understandable reasons but the fact remains that the power of our Christian teaching depends on pupils hearing "from the source", YOU.

**We especially need those from a Catholic, Pentecostal or Baptist tradition and BAME background.**

Safely join us whether we are in Tier 0 or Tier 5 via our Zoom filming project. A smart phone and Wi-Fi will enable you to do this from home but they are not essential and we will coach you through the whole process. Contact [rachel@faithinschools.co.uk](mailto:rachel@faithinschools.co.uk) for details.

