

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

December 2020

December is usually a really busy time for TrinityLearning as we welcome many local schools into Trinity Church to perform their Nativity plays and concerts. Although this year is very different, we still want schools to have accessible resources for sharing the Christmas story at school or at home in case of lockdown. With that in mind, we're excited to announce that this year we have gone online with Nativity story videos and Christmas videos, as well as a new Wildlife Walk and new Peaceful Activity Packs – all of which can be accessed through the home page of our website at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/>.



Advent Activities: TrinityLearning's workshop leader, Taz, has created some short videos telling the Nativity story from the perspective of Mary, the shepherds and the kings. These versions of the Christmas story have been specially written for children to learn to tell themselves. We have also created some fun craft videos and instruction sheets for simple, calming Christmas crafts which can be made at home from readily available materials. These resources can be found at: <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/christmas-storytelling/>

TrinityLearning Wildlife Safari walks: TrinityLearning is very proud to be able to present our first volunteer planned Wildlife Safari Walk! This walk is based around the Abbey Fish Ponds and includes lots of interesting plants, fungi and animals which can be seen there in the winter months. Click [here to see the walk in full](#). If you know of an interesting walk in Abingdon, or the surrounding area (from Milton, to Marcham and beyond!) and would like to share it, please do get in touch. We can give simple instructions for the information we need to create a walk sheet.

Fantastic funding news for our Peaceful Activity Packs: Following on from the success of the trial Peaceful Activity Packs we sent out earlier in the year, we were excited to hear in October that we had been awarded funding from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed on behalf of the government by The National Lottery Community Fund. This funding enabled us to provide Peaceful Activity Packs for 18 local primary school pupils (six from each of three local primary schools as well as 24 children from Kingfisher School).



Peaceful Activity Pack -
Rabbit & Bear

Recent conversations with headteachers highlighted schools needed more packs than the lottery funding would cover. In order to meet these additional demands, TrinityLearning Trustees agreed that some of the donations made regularly and generously to TrinityLearning by St Helen's church could be used to provide additional packs for a further 18 children. In total, TrinityLearning will be sending out three packs each to sixty children, with the next set of packs going out in January/February and the final set for this project going out in March/April.



Kingfisher Singing
Pack

Kingfisher Singing Group: Developed from a brilliant idea by the Kingfisher Singing Group volunteers, we have created a password-protected Kingfisher Singing Hub containing short videos of volunteers, and Taz singing simple nursery rhymes. This has been very enthusiastically received by Kingfisher School and is accessible by the classes and families of children who usually benefit from Kingfisher Singing Group visits. If you would like to be involved in this project please do get in touch. You don't need to be a brilliant singer, but you do need to be confident enough to sing simple nursery rhymes with enthusiasm, with whatever accompaniment you can provide yourself! Each child who usually benefits from the Kingfisher Singing Group visits has also received a Peaceful Activity Pack, based on the singing hub, providing them with resources to be able to join in at home or at school. More information on the packs, and links to the resource sheets are available on our website at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/>.

Advice and support for School Staff: Many people find Christmas difficult so our [Advice and Support for School Staff](#) leaflet continues to offer up to date, useful mental health links as well as details of two local, trusted and experienced Pilates teachers who run regular online classes which can be done from home.

Facebook: Our TrinityLearning Facebook page has new posts added regularly, so it's a great place to keep up to date with news in between our volunteer newsletters. Please do like and follow the new page and share the link with friends and colleagues:
www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/

What's coming up?

Experience Easter is going virtual! After Christmas we will start working towards a 'Virtual Experience Easter' which will utilise the usual Experience Easter story and craft activities but will be presented to schools virtually through videos and craft packs. We are hoping as many volunteers as possible will join in to help us create a memorable and interesting Experience Easter. We will be getting in touch with previous Experience Easter storytellers to see if they would like to be involved in this project. If you have any ideas, or would like to be involved please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Volunteer training and meet-up sessions: We have enjoyed welcoming a mix of new and experienced volunteers to our volunteer meet-ups on Zoom this autumn and plan to run some more in January. We are also planning to run Safeguarding Training as soon as the return to in-school volunteering is confirmed.

AGM: We will be holding our first formal TrinityLearning Annual General Meeting via Zoom on 11th January at 6pm. This will cover our first full reporting period as a charity - 1 April 2019 - 31 August 2020. In future, TrinityLearning's financial year will run from 1st September - 31 August. The trustees will present their annual report at the AGM and it would be lovely to see you there! Please email Nicola nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com for a Zoom link if you would like to attend.

We would love to hear from you! We would love to hear from volunteers who want to share their experiences of volunteering for TrinityLearning, so if you are interested or just want to find out more, please contact Nicola nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com or Taz taz.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S