

Spring Newsletter 2020



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Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope that you enjoy it. When we started this newsletter, Coronavirus was still a world away but it is now significantly affecting all our lives. With schools closed and assemblies and clubs already cancelled, our bread and butter work can't be done. Catherine and I are using this time as best we can (whilst caring for our own children) to develop resources for the future but also for parents at home with their children whilst schools are closed. Catherine has already produced a bible story and craft video to be sent to one of our local schools for distribution for the Shine Club (see our feature below). You can also view it on our Facebook page (just put FISS into the search box on Facebook). There may be more so keep your eyes peeled.

Refresh and Renew

As I write this, the sun is shining and it is quite mild outside. Signs of spring and a new year's growth are all around. I feel hopeful for the warmth of summer and all the lovely things that we can do when the weather is good. It's a time for renewing and growth. This strikes a chord with where FISS is right now.

It's been eighteen months since Catherine began working for FISS and six months for myself (Christina). During that time, and as things continue, it is becoming clear that FISS is acquiring a new character. New, because we are different people; new because there are two of us (and that requires a different way of working); new because there is scope for new opportunities but most importantly; new because God is leading us forwards. New ideas keep cropping up and new links are being forged with the YoYo Trust (who do a similar job in York). However, if we are to refresh and renew successfully, it needs to be God's plans carefully discerned and executed.

As a result of this, we were planning on holding an away day for trustees, staff and volunteers on the 9th May at Wydale Hall to pray and plan. This is now, likely, to be postponed until later in the year due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Whatever the timing though, we want to start with God's vision for FISS' future. We want the vision to be unencumbered by restrictions of human proportions and just of what God wants FISS to be. We will then begin to work out the practicalities of that vision!

I fully admit that this could be a little dangerous and result in some new challenges but it is an exciting time. We should be reassured by Isaiah when he says 'Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.' Isaiah 40 v31

If any of our supporters are interested in attending the away day which will include this year's AGM, there may be a small number of places available. Please contact Catherine or Christina. We will release the arrangement details nearer the time. We look forward to a renewed vision for FISS and ask our supporters for prayer for this matter. Thank you for your continued support.



FAITH IN SCARBOROUGH SCHOOLS

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Our Impact so far this Year

116 Assemblies delivered in **19** Schools
24 Fruitloop sessions
delivered in **4** different school
30 Shine Club sessions delivered (see over for details of Shine Club)

Q and A

Some questions and comments that children have put to us recently ...

'How can God be helping us when he is up in the sky?' Woodlands School

'God loves bad people too.' Scarborough College

Focus on Shine Club

Shine (or Bible Club as the children call it) is a relaxed lunchtime club run by FISS at one of the local primary schools. It was started by one of the teachers who then engaged the help of FISS. WE now run it with a teacher on hand for any problems (a very rare / unheard of occurrence). It runs every Wednesday lunch time with up to 15 or 16 children attending. Some are very regular, some dip in and out but there are a few who are there every week without fail! We are currently working our way through the Jesus Storybook Bible with a story each week, a short craft activity and a biscuit at the end—all in the space of about 25 minutes!

Shine Club Comments

Here is a selection of comments from the children at Shine Club...

'We should pray at Shine Club...'

'No matter what happens, it doesn't matter, if you're good or you're bad, God loves you.'

When I was little, I was crucified.' (we think they meant Christened!)



Why is Jesus Inspiring to some people?

This was the question that was posed to us for an assembly / lesson in both Woodlands and East Ayton Schools. It was to address one of the 'believing' strands of the new RE curriculum that has just come into schools this year.

Catherine begins the assembly explaining that inspiration means someone or something causing us to change. She then tells the story of the woman washing Jesus' feet with her hair, tears and precious perfume and how Jesus radically loved and valued her, even though the 'important people' looked down on her. Then she explains that Christians believe God sends his Holy Spirit which inspires and changes us from the inside.

It can be followed up in class using a range of discussion and drama activities.

Ways in which you could support FISS

- Pray
- A regular donation / adopt a primary school (You can download a standing order form and gift aid form from our website: <http://fiss-scarborough.org.uk/support>)
- A one-off donation (Cheques payable to F.I.S.S.)
- Become a trustee
- Promote FISS to your school or educational contacts
- Become a schools champion

If you have difficulty downloading the standing order or gift aid forms, please contact Catherine or Christina (contact details overleaf).

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign up on line or email Catherine or Christina.

Thank you