



# NEWSLETTER

## THIS TERM...

As 2024 draws to a close we want to share with you some special moments from this term. With your continued support and encouragement our work has continued to grow and flourish. Since September we have delivered 40 assemblies, 88 lessons, 94 lunch club sessions and 2 Prayer Spaces events as well as completing NT Mini training!

The PACE trustees have welcomed John Ogier onto the board as a trustee. John has been involved in the work of PACE as a volunteer and was a member of the supervisory board for many years. We are delighted that he has decided to join the trustees and warmly welcome his experience and wisdom at the trustees move PACE forward.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing what 2025 has in store!



## NT MINI

In September we held our NT (New Testament) Live day at Spurgeon Baptist Church with Tom Greene hosting the training and about 30 people attending. We learnt the timeline of the New Testament from Greece-Language to Wait...Christ through 40 stories and 40 handsigns. It was a very interesting and fun day! As part of Tom's visit to Guernsey, he also trained 7 new presenters in NT Mini so we could launch this in our schools. We're very excited to already have four courses booked in for next term. Please do pray for this new project, for the team of presenters delivering it and the children receiving the lessons!

## ASSEMBLIES

Before half term we led 18 harvest primary assemblies. Starting with a relay game to “dress the farmer”, we introduced the theme and talked about the importance of sharing and giving to others. We follow this with the story of Elijah and the woman he met who didn't have enough flour or oil. In the second half of term, we led 15 assemblies with theme of superheroes. To introduce the theme, we start with a quiz to see if the children can guess the superhero from the emoji clues on screen. We then explore the idea that there is more to being a superhero such as being kind and caring and honest and brave. Our story gets the children involved in acting out the choosing of David to be king over all of his other brothers. The children learn that there are lots of different kinds of superheroes, and it is important not to judge others by the outside, and that we too can be superheroes if we work on the person we are on the inside. One teacher said that the superhero theme tied in perfectly as they had been looking at that exact theme that week so she was very grateful that we had also covered it!

We have also relaunched leading secondary assemblies and had many opportunities to share in schools. So far, we have led assemblies on having a fresh start like Peter, being an unexpected hero like David and Christmas. We are enjoying being able to offer this activity again.

# PRAYER SPACES

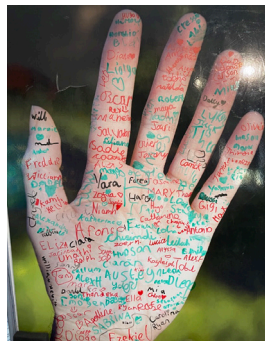
This term, we set up a beautiful space at Blanchelande College for an Advent themed Prayer Space for the senior school students. This is the second year running that we have facilitated this along with Tom Saddington. As Christmas carols play quietly in the background, the students entered a room filled with twinkling lights and seven prayer stations.

Stations included thinking about how God guides us in life and is always with us relating to the star that guided the wise men. They each got to choose and keep a small star. Gift tags were used for the students to think of their gift or talent, write it on a gift tag and add to present boxes to show how our gifts can help others. One student wrote that they were caring, thoughtful and kind and recognised how aspects of our personality are in fact gifts that can be used to bless others. They also wrote on paper clock what they are waiting for and then lay it in a manger as a sign that all these things are brought to God and we trust His timing. One example a student wrote was "For Jesus to come again".

The leader of the session began with a snip and tell, where the students were asked to tell the Christmas story while the leader cuts away at paper which then reveals a nativity picture - they loved it!

We also had a Emotional Learning Support Assistant visit and she was blown away by what she saw and absolutely loved it, she came to pick up ideas for things to do with her students and was so encouraged with the PACE Prayer Spaces and felt it would be of great benefit to the students.

PACE also ran a Prayer Space at Notre Dame this term. The theme was "Personal Prayer." We chose stations that the children could incorporate into their prayer life and help them to see that they can talk to God about all sorts of things! We encouraged them to say sorry, be thankful, and to sit with God as well as asking for God's help for themselves or others during difficult times. We were blown away by the thoughtfulness that these children put into their prayers. It was a pleasure to explore new ways to pray with these children and to make it fun!



## SECONDARY LESSONS

In secondary schools we have been doing a lesson about Christian views on war. The objectives of the lesson are: What does the Bible say about war? How should Christians respond? What is a just war? What is pacifism?

We talk about the sanctity of life, the importance of resolving conflict and working for peace.

The Just War theory is a largely Christian philosophy that attempts to reconcile three things: Taking human life is seriously wrong, countries have a duty to defend their citizens and defend justice and protecting innocent human life and defending important moral values sometimes requires willingness to use force and violence.

In the lesson we watch an appropriate clip from Hacksaw Ridge which shows an example of Pacifism and the true story of Desmond Doss who was criticised for being a coward as he wouldn't carry a gun, but went on to become a war hero, rescuing 75 members of his Platoon and being the first person to never carry a gun to be awarded the highest military award the Congressional Medal of Honour.

An educational and thought provoking lesson that forms part of their RS lessons.

## ANDY BANNISTER

This term PACE partnered with Eldad Elim Church and had an exciting visit from Andy Bannister, a Christian apologist who heads up the organisation Solas. Andy is enthusiastic and passionate about exploring the Bible with others. He has a degree in Islamic studies and enjoys conversing with people of all faiths and none about the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam. Andy led a variety of lessons in 5 different schools on topics such as: Life after death, Arguments for the existence of God, Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? And Jesus' death and resurrection.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and got involved in some great discussions! We are hoping Andy will come again as teachers are already asking about another visit!



## PRAYER POINTS

- Thanks to God for all the activities we have been able to do in schools this term and year.
- Pray for a restful Christmas break for teachers, school staff and children.
- Pray for continued growth in relationships with schools.

PACE is funded entirely by donations from churches and private individuals and is a Christian inter-denominational organisation.

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