

MAST NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

Praise God:

~ **Praise** God for the joy and privilege of visiting each school.

~ **Praise** God each precious each child and staff member that we meet.

~ **Praise** God for the 22 schools that are opening their doors to us this term.

Pray:

~ **Pray** for God's guidance as we prepare and deliver the Acts of Collective Worship.

~ **Pray** for seeds to take root in the hearts of the children that we meet.

~ **Pray** that the gifts will help the children to learn and understand more about God.

~ **Pray** for the staff that hear the Collective Worships and Walk through the Bible Presentations.

~ **Pray** for Christians in schools, staff and children, that they will be blessed and encouraged.

~ **Pray** for our safe travel during the winter months.

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and pray you will have a very blessed 2024 knowing the love, joy and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ! We had a great autumn term visiting schools in Matlock and the surrounding area.

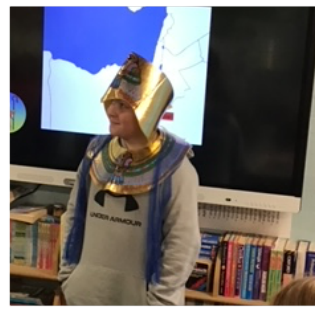
We hope you will be encouraged as you read our news from autumn 2023...

Chloe's News

After almost a year on maternity leave, Chloe has gradually started back in schools over the Christmas period. She had a great time delivering Christmas Collective worship talks. The talk she did was based on Colin Buchanan's song 'King of Christmas' explaining how a Christmas tree, fairy lights, a candy cane and gifts can all remind us that Christ is the King of Christmas. This was then followed by the whole school singing the song along with the ukulele, great fun!

Chloe has started this term by visiting Stretton Handley for Walk Through the Bible - RE lessons. The children are enjoying learning the actions and asking some great questions like; 'why do you find the bible so interesting?', 'Who made God?' and 'what year did God come into the world?' Which is giving great opportunities to share the gospel and answers from a Christian's point of view.

Chloe is looking forward to visiting other schools in this term for Collective worship and focusing on the link between 'garden the curtain and the cross'; based on a book by the good book company. . and the year ahead too. She has had such a warm welcome coming back in over Christmas and is excited for the year ahead.



Hannah's News



During the Autumn Term Hannah delivered Collective Worships in 12 schools on Psalm 23 helping children to understand that God is like a Good Shepherd. Many of the children in village schools have a firsthand experience and knowledge of what a Good Shepherd is like. And even those children in the town schools have some understanding through visiting farms etc. So this Collective Worship helped many children to think about the character and love of God in a way they may not have done before. These Collective Worships were followed by Collective Worships on Isaiah and how the coming of Jesus was prophesied long before he was born; helping the children to understand that the birth of Jesus was all part of God's bigger story and plan.



Hannah supported 'The White Peak group Benefice' with the delivery of a 'Schools Together Messy Church event' which was held for two of the village schools. During this event, the children explored the story from Luke 15 of 'The Lost Sheep'. Through this story the children learnt that God is not just a Good Shepherd but also a Shepherd who rescues and saves the lost.

In 4 other schools Hannah delivered Collective Worships on Abraham and Sarah; helping the children to understand that God can be trusted because he keeps his promises. These were followed by Collective Worships on Abraham and Isaac; hearing how God tested Abraham's trust in him but also provided for his need.



As we drew nearer to Christmas, Hannah delivered Collective Worships where children heard the story of Jesus' birth and heard that Jesus came to earth to be a New King, Rescuing King and Forever King. In 4 schools, Hannah delivered a presentation called 'Elizabeth's Christmas Story' which took the children back 2000+ years to hear about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus from the perspective of the wife of Zachariah, mother of John the Baptist, Elizabeth. This presentation helped the older children to consider and engage with the account in a deeper way than they may have previously. Hannah also helped with the 'Christmas in a Box' workshop organised by Holy Trinity Church Matlock Bath for the local school. Through this workshop the team helped the children to engage deeply with the different characters and to see that the Christmas story is part of God's Big Story.



Christmas gifts

This Christmas we were pleased to once again be able to give gifts to the children. Children in Years 5 and 6 were given 'Discover' Magazines supplied free by 'Good News For Everyone' (formally known as 'Gideons UK'). Designed to engage older children, these magazine style booklets contain illustrations and key passages from the NIV bible. For children from Early Years to Year 4, MAST bought Christmas story booklets produced by the Bible Society called 'Festive Fred Finds the Greatest Gift'. MAST gave a copy of the book, 'The Promise and the Light: A Christmas Retelling' by Katy Morgan, to some schools. This imaginative yet biblically faithful book is suitable to be read as a class reader to older children aged 8+. Children were also given Psalm 23 bookmarks provided by one of our MAST supporters. Both staff and children were delighted to receive these gifts. One Year 4 child expressed how he was looking forward to receiving his Discover booklet when he reaches Year 5.



Comments from some of the staff:

One school caretaker said, 'I saw that assembly two weeks ago and I enjoyed it just as much today'.

One teacher said, 'We really enjoy your visits. You put so much effort into making them interesting'.

One Head teacher said, 'You are helping our children to get a really good overview of the whole bible. They are learning that stories like the birth of Jesus were not isolated events but were part of God's bigger picture. Thank you so much'.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and financial gifts. We are incredibly grateful for all your support.

Financial Support:

If you would like to support our ministry financially please contact

Chris Cookman at:
chriscookman@talktalk.net for further information.

Contact us:

Website: <https://mastrust.org>
Email: matlockareaschooltrust@gmail.com



Hannah's School Visits Spring 2024

<p>Mon 15th Jan</p> <p>Fenny Bentley CW Kirk Ireton CW</p> <p>Wed 17th Jan Carsington & Hopton CW</p> <p>Mon 22nd Jan Cromford CW St.Giles, Starkholmes CW All Saints Infants, Matlock CW</p> <p>Mon 29th Jan Middleton CW Elton CW Winster CW Youlgrave CW MAST Trustees Meeting</p> <p>Tues 30th Jan Wirksworth Junior CW All Saints Junior, Matlock CW Matlock Bath CW</p> <p>Wed 31st Jan Prayer walk</p> <p>Tues 6th Feb Hartington CW Monyash CW Biggin CW Speaking about MAST at Davenport Road Church Ladies Meeting</p> <p>Mon 19th Feb SCHOOL HALF TERM HOLIDAY</p>	<p>Tues 27th Feb Cromford CW St.Giles, Starkholmes CW</p> <p>Mon 4th March Fenny Bentley CW Kirk Ireton CW</p> <p>Wed 6th March Carsington & Hopton CW</p> <p>Tues 12th March Hartington CW Monyash CW Biggin CW All Saints Infants, Matlock CW</p> <p>Mon 18th March Middleton CW Elton CW Winster CW Youlgrave CW</p> <p>Tues 19th March Wirksworth Junior CW All Saints Junior, Matlock CW</p> <p>Tues 26th March Matlock Bath CW</p> <p>Monday 1st April SCHOOL EASTER HOLIDAYS</p>
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Chloe's school visits spring 2024

Thursday 11th January	Stretton Handley ~ Walk Through the Bible 1
Thursday 18th January	Stretton Handley ~ Walk Through the Bible 2
Thursday 25th January	Stretton Handley ~ Walk Through the Bible 3
Monday 29th January	Stanton in Peak CofE ~ Collective Worship
Wednesday 31st January	Prayer walk for the schools with Hannah
Tuesday 6th February	Rowsley CofE ~ Collective Worship
Thursday 8th February	Stretton Handley ~ Walk Through the Bible 4
Thursday 15th February	Stretton Handley ~ Walk Through the Bible 5
HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Thursday 29th February	Lea Primary ~ Collective Worship
Thursday 7th March	Wessington Primary ~ Collective Worship
Thursday 14th March	Hasland Infants ~ Collective Worship
Thursday 21st March	Tansley Primary ~ Collective Worship
Thursday 28th March	Darley Churchtown CofE ~ Collective Worship
EASTER HOLS	EASTER HOLIDAYS