

Ending the Prison Cycle

Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School has embarked on a new initiative to help prevent prisoners' children from following in their footsteps.

Headteacher Judith Finney says, "Schools grow the adults of the future so we need to meet the needs of all

children at all times. I was staggered to learn that 200,000 children are affected by family members being in prison.

Could this be a major issue at any school?

"We may not know, or a family may not feel they can tell us about it.

"We received an 'Outstanding' grade from Ofsted in March 2013, in part because of our commitment to every child. We know good pastoral and emotional care of all our children promotes high academic achievement."

Teacher Sarah Beveridge is being trained as part of a scheme begun

by Nick Howard, custodial manager at Erlestoke Prison. Nick is one of the School Governors. The training programme operates in partnership with Barnardo's and Erlestoke.

"It is an initiative to tackle prejudice and to help any children who are part of these 'hidden sentences'. Largely, we would be a listening ear and a signpost to other services. The real thing is to encourage those affected to share with us rather than suffer in silence, through any sense of guilt or shame."

"We are enormously proud to be the first school in England to take part in the project."



Bishop's Letter

The Right Revd Nicholas Holtam
Bishop of Salisbury

A few issues ago, Grapevine reported on the rebuilding of the small Church school in Powerstock.

A bit over two years ago, on the day after the original school burned down, the Headmaster picked up a nail from the floor of the charred building. At the reopening of the School last Autumn he said that whenever the rebuilding project had got difficult, the nail had given him hope.

He gave me the nail and hoped it would help me when things were difficult and that I would eventually pass it on to someone who needed it

more.

I am using the Powerstock nail to help me pray in Lent and will pass it on after Easter. The nail links me to the cross and makes me think about the suffering of the world. It also points to the power of love and the hope of resurrection.

The stories of the Passion of Christ are of God being very close to us. At the beginning of Holy Week, we remember Christ being welcomed into Jerusalem by the crowds and him weeping over Jerusalem because it did not recognise the things that make for peace.

As events unfolded, the disciples were all too ordinary as Peter denied him, Judas betrayed him and the others fled. It was a dislocating experience, as suffering and death so often are.

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Early on the Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and some combination of others came to the tomb and discovered it was empty.

We can hang the whole story on the nail by which Christ was crucified.

He rebuilds the community of the

resurrection with the same people who let him down so badly. Thank God the story depends less on our believing in God and more on God believing in us.

I hope you will have a hopeful and very happy Easter.

Innovation in Being Church

175 people gathered at St Paul's Church in Salisbury to discuss how to be innovative in growing the Church.

With the help of Bishop Graham Cray, national Director of Fresh Expressions, the gathering explored how to begin to reach out to local communities in new and fresh ways.

Fresh Expressions are new ways of being Church that work alongside parishes and existing styles of worship. They should be focused on those who do not already attend



church. The Church in the Hall at Redlynch was cited as an excellent local example.

Further courses are planned in areas like Messy Church, Cafe Church and being a Pioneer Minister. E-mail penny.joyce@salisbury.anglican.org if you would like to attend.

Making The Mind A Temple

The William Temple Association was founded 60 years ago to help Christians understand the application of their faith to contemporary social issues.

In the spirit of the great wartime Archbishop of Canterbury for which it is named, the Association helps Christians take 'responsible action in Church and society'.

Open to Christians of all denominations, the Bournemouth branch meets in most months for dinner and talks by well-qualified speakers, followed by questions and discussion. It attracts members from across East Dorset and beyond.

Visitors are always welcome. Learn more at www.williamtemple.org.uk.



Dancing With God

Nikila Newman has been dancing since the age of 3, with a passion for street dance. She has lived on Poole's Turlin Moore estate for nearly all her life. A few years ago, Nikila decided to use her skills to change her community.

"The estate has a negative reputation. I wanted to change that and give

people here something to be proud of."

Within a year of setting up the *Infectious* dance academy, she had more than 100 dancers. Nikila credits this not to her skills but God's love.

"While I'd always been a Christian, God started seeming bigger and more real as developed the project, when I realised I couldn't do it on my own."

Then Nikila met Sally Hicks at St Mary's, Longfleet, where they both worship. Sally was recruited as an outreach worker, and *Infectious* became about more than dance.

"We now have music lessons and the *Infectious Sound* choir. I teach music to kids who couldn't pay for lessons", says Sally. "It allows me to have one-on-one time with some kids who need a friend."

There's a perception that people are hostile to Christianity in today's Britain. Nikila doesn't agree:

"I've always talked openly about my faith to young people and the trustees. Sometimes I just start praying for crazy stuff! Even people who aren't religious are very accepting.

"We don't preach at anybody. We just talk about what God means in our lives and give people a chance make up their own minds. If you're honest and see the funny side of it, people really respond.

"Some young people and adults have become committed Christians because they're involved here.

"God is using us to change lives and call people to faith. It's making Turlin Moor an infectious place to live!"

