



Impact

Term 2026 Newsletter



Thoughts from Jane Spencer, Chair of Impact.

Reflecting and looking ahead

*'I am the Lords Servant,' Mary answered,
'May it be to me as you have said.' Luke 1.v 38.*

Praising God as we reflect back to last term.

At Christmas, we explained to children about the willingness and faithfulness of Mary as she responded to the news that the Angel Gabriel gave her, that she would bear God's son. This reminded us how we might respond to the Good News. Through Mary's willingness to do as God asked of her, history was turned upside down. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, Christian believers were reconnected to a loving Father who longed to guide their lives and choices. Christians are called to continue as God's servants and to respond to what God asks of them. We are so grateful that many of you responded to a call to serve and supported Impact last term.

We had wonderful offers of time, energy, skills, finance and prayer as God called individuals to help during the Autumn Term. What a blessing that was! Without this incredible support, Impact might have really struggled. Trish was on medical leave and Becky worked without her colleague for most of the term. One Trustee also had an operation, and another two Trustees had family illnesses to support. It might have been that Impact needed to go 'on hold.' However, through God's grace, great pre-planning by both workers, Trish's hard work encouraging volunteers over the years and Becky's resolve and dedication, Impact was able to meet 99.9% of our commitments to schools, children and staff last term. We even saw growth in the number of our volunteers and growth in the number of churches linked to Impact. Most importantly of all, through the Live Nativity and Christmas events, we were able to offer the meaning of Christmas to nearly 1000 local children in our schools and in our churches. Amazing! Thank you so much.

We praise God that Trish is well enough to be busy at work again, that Becky has her colleague back alongside to work with her, that our wonderful volunteers and churches continue to support so faithfully in so many ways and that our Trustees can continue to commit to Impact.

We also give thanks for the life of Ruth Dant who sadly died before Christmas. She was a remarkable woman of God who faithfully led an Impact prayer group at Ampthill Baptist Church for many, many years and who was a devoted supporter. Even into her 90's, Ruth was praying regularly for Impact and was keen to know how things were going, giving us encouragement and wise words to consider. It was a great joy and privilege to have prayed with her.

Looking Ahead. *'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 26 v11.*

This term, we look ahead to children and staff understanding more about the Holy Trinity in our school workshops; to schools learning more about Christian prayer through Prayer Spaces and Creative Prayer, and we look ahead to Holy week and Easter. This gives us the incredible opportunity to share an understanding of Easter in schools and via the Easter Experience. We are excited to see how God will be at work in our schools through Impact.

From our prayer times and through discussion, we recognise we have seen God developing our work in new ways over the past few years; we also recognise we are in a time of change regarding faith work in schools in our country.

To build on our new ways of working, and to support schools in their uncertainties about how to explain faith as well as teach religious education in schools, the challenges we have set ourselves are:

- *to encourage more of our supporting churches to consider giving regularly to the work of Impact. We are so grateful for those who give individually. Currently 40% of the churches who provide volunteers (or link via our schools) do this. This is great, but wouldn't it be amazing if 100% were able to commit regularly so that we can develop our work with schools events even further!*
- *to encourage churches to suggest new Trustees to help develop our ministry with fresh ideas and new skills.*
- *to ensure schools know that, in a time of change regarding faith work in schools, we are a constant and reassuring resource to them, and will ensure their children and staff get meaningful and valuable support from Impact.*

Join us in prayer - it will be exciting to see how God works and leads us in 2026!



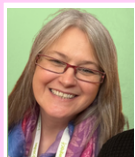
A message from

Trish



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who prayed for me while I was on medical leave, which was most of last term. As always there is a lot of preparation that goes on before events, which I was able to help Becky with. I managed to be part of some of the Live Nativity, which was fully booked and 420 children attended. It was great to witness the children's excitement as they journeyed round experiencing the Christmas story and hearing their questions.

Thanks once again to all the team that supported us especially Becky in my absence with the Live Nativity and RE Creation workshops.



A message from

Becky

I want to add my thanks for last term too.

Firstly to Trish, who worked so hard to ensure that everything was in place and ready for the Creation Workshops and Live Nativity.

I am so grateful to our fantastic trustees and amazing team of volunteers.

We had a team of 9 for the workshops and 44 for the Live Nativity, including 5 people who were new to volunteering with Impact.

I thank God for all of you and couldn't do this without you.

'And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'

2 Corinthians 9:8.

Impact

Live Nativity 2025

This is like our Christmas play. It's the same story!
- *student.*

The live Nativity was even more magical within the church setting
- *staff.*

It was so cool
- *student.*



Creation RE Workshops



We had a lovely start to the school year running Creation themed RE Workshops in 7 schools across Bedfordshire, working with approximately 320 pupils. Although we missed not having Trish with us, it was great to welcome some new members to the team this year.

The schools really appreciated having a team with such varied backgrounds visit and found it really valuable to the learning of the children; as you can see from the quotes below.

It was great to hear the range of interpretations that people have about the Creation Story, as we had only really taught from one angle.”

“Having visitors with such a vast wealth of knowledge was great. Having the chance to speak to them and learn from them was incredible.”

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Safeguarding

SAVE THE DATE!



We will be running another Impact-specific safeguarding training session for all our volunteers on

**Tuesday February 24th 2026
9:30am - 11.45am**

Three Rivers Church
88 Denmark Street
Bedford, MK40 3TJ

More details will follow but please put the date in your diaries now.

Volunteers Thank You lunch

**Tuesday February 24th 2026
12.15pm - 1.45pm**

Three Rivers Church
88 Denmark Street
Bedford, MK40 3TJ

Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Easter Experience and Lifepath

Looking ahead...

Here are some of the things the workers have planned for the next few months. Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they plan and prepare for what is ahead.



Holy Trinity RE
Workshops in January
and February

Running Prayer
Spaces and Creative
Prayer Spaces

Easter Experience
the week of
16th - 20th March

Easter Activity
Sessions the week of
23rd - 27th March

Planning for Lifepath of
John Newton in Olney
later in the year

Collective Worship,
assemblies & lunch
clubs throughout term



A message from Jackie Vickers, Impact Treasurer.

Thank you to all the Church Champions, who have encouraged our churches in so many ways. Some were able to support donations towards the cost of the Christmas booklets, which we gave to every child who attended the Live Nativity.

This financial support is much appreciated! We know churches are being asked regularly to consider their budgeting and their giving. **We also know God loves a cheerful giver!**

Please can I ask you to encourage your **church** to consider giving **regularly** to the work of Impact if they don't already do so. Your fellowship may not know quite what Impact does, or what happens in schools regarding Christianity these days. We are very happy to meet with them to explain our work further if that is helpful as they may still think Christian worship, prayer and Bible teaching happens in daily assemblies, as it may have done when they were at school. This isn't the case in the majority of schools. We are so grateful for those who give individually and for the 40% of the churches where we have volunteers, or link with via our schools, who already give. This is great, but wouldn't it be amazing if 100% were able to commit regularly so that we can develop our work with schools events even further!

www.impactbedford.org.uk

Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust

(Registered charity number 1010412)