



The Mustard Tree Trust

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A BUSY FEW MONTHS...

Well, it has been a busy few months here at the Mustard Tree Trust. Assemblies are continuing, clubs are thriving and new opportunities are beginning to show themselves. Most excitingly, In the last couple of months, Nikki has begun going in to Chantry Middle School to take regular assemblies, and we are thrilled by the welcome we have received from the school.

The run up to Easter saw us being invited up to Harbottle where we led an Easter-experience day with 3 First schools from the area. We took the children on a journey through the Easter story, eating the Passover meal, seeing the garden and acting out the trial of Jesus, and encouraged them to think through what Easter really meant. This was a great day, and everyone involved seemed to really enjoy it.

Other highlights have centred around the work we do with the older children and teenagers. The youth service is continuing to grow and we have been greatly encouraged to see more and more young people stepping forward to become involved. To see the maturity with which they offer their gifts, and the encouragement that they draw from it is fantastic. We currently have one of these gifted young people, Sarah, on work experience with us.

Children's Work Update

Things are really exciting at the moment. As well as all the usual assemblies and clubs, we have started doing assemblies in two new schools in the last term and been involved in some exciting new projects as well.

I taught my first Bible Explorer course last month; five weeks of RE lessons, telling the story of the Bible, from creation up to the birth of Jesus. Bible Explorer uses hand signs to help children remember each Bible story. By the end of the five weeks children have 80 hand signs to help them



Earlier this month, we also held our Annual General Meeting. It was a useful time to be able to reflect on everything God has done through the work in the last year. We shared with excitement the news that we had established the Drop-in, and The Gap, both of which are thriving, and that doors have opened into new schools. We looked back at the puppet play we toured in the run up to Christmas and reviewed the success of Alive 08 and the Wandering Nativity.

However, those of you who were able to attend the AGM will also know that we had to look seriously at our financial situation. Many of you may already know that I will be leaving in the summer, to pursue a career in teaching. However, at the AGM, we also had to announce that Nikki's hours would also be reduced, effective from July. We are hoping that extra funding for the youth elements will eventually come in, but in the meantime, the Trust has made the difficult decision to cut back.

In the coming months, we hope to be able to invite you along to a number of fundraising events. The first of these is our Afternoon Garden Party on the 6th June, the details of which are over the page. We sincerely hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Lisa

remember the whole of the Old Testament. To my surprise it really worked. The children were really engaged and could remember all the hand signs. It was a really successful course and I hope to be able to teach it again soon.

At Easter we once again got the chance to share the incredible story of Jesus with schools. One of the highlights of this year for me was the Easter Experience day we did for 3 schools near Harbottle. We divided the story into 6 sections and bought them to life using costumes, tastes, smells and drama to create a multisensory story where the children could really experience what happened at Easter.

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Challenging Times

Where to start? Well this year has been quite a roller-coaster. As many of you know I'm getting married on the 24th July and I'm also in the process of finding a place to live. If that's not enough for one month, I'm also currently looking for a part time job! It's now become common knowledge that the Mustard Tree Trust is short on funds and, despite losing Lisa, my hours are being cut to two days. However, despite the uncertainty of the future I have thoroughly enjoyed the past month or so...

Our monthly youth service has been a successful vessel for the growing talent that lies within the young people of Morpeth. Without fail, a group of strong, passionate young people have been coming together on a weekly basis to pray, plan, rehearse and seek Gods guidance. Because of this we have seen the youth service shoot forward in quality and fellowship. I truly believe that we have in our midst the future of the church. All I can say is that it has been a complete privilege to have had the opportunity to see all their skills develop, and their attitudes mature and grow into the most inspiring group of people I have ever come across. I will be doing all I can to keep this going strong.

Alongside the growing success of the youth service, I have also had the chance to get into Chantry Middle School to do a few assemblies in the last term. As an ex-pupil it was like going back in time, and the assemblies seemed to go down well. I am pleased to

say I will be going back in June. I have also been carrying on with the work that we do in Newminster Middle school, delivering assemblies and running an after school club every Wednesday evening. It's been great to see the pupils regularly and have some very interesting conversations. They ask the best questions!

In KEVI it's been great to develop the Christian Union. The sixth formers have taken a leading role and deliver their own Bible studies and an endless list of games to keep everyone laughing and having a good time. A lot of the young people from the C.U. are actively taking a role in the other events that we provide. In May I had the chance to take a group down to the 'Ultimate Event' that happens yearly at Alton Towers. It's a Christian event that includes all the fun of Alton Towers during the day and then a huge outdoor gig that runs into the night. All the best Christian bands and speakers were there and we all had a great time.



So, in conclusion, I'm still passionate about what we do, and I'm going to be working hard in the coming months to make sure that the important work with the older children and youth carries on. Live long and prosper...

Nikki

Cont...

Also Mustard Tree have partnered with Scripture Union to put on a new event for 7-11 year olds called X:site. It is a chance for young people from all over the North East to come together, to have lots of fun and games and to learn about Jesus. If you would like to be involved as a leader or would like to hear more please come along to our vision meeting at Morpeth Methodist Church on the 9th June at 7pm.



...an x:siting new event for 8-11 year olds in the North East

The Mustard Tree Trust
would like to invite you to an
Afternoon Tea Party
6 June 3 - 6 pm
at
ANGERTON WALLED GARDEN, HARTBURN, MORPETH
Suggested donation of **£5 per adult** to include refreshments (bring your own garden seat)
The Mustard Tree Trust
Registered Charity No: 1092538
Unit 20, Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington, NE63 8QZ
Tel: 01670 857766
alice@mustardtreetrust.org

Please pray for...

- Nikki and Adam, as they prepare for their wedding in July. For Nikki as she looks for extra work, and Adam, as he continues touring with the Steels.
- The finances of the Trust. That we find new sources of funding and continue the work that we are currently committed to.
- The garden party, and for the other fundraising activities we engage in over the coming months.
- For Lisa as she prepares to move to the midlands and begins her teacher training
- For more volunteers, who can help us continue the after-school clubs.