**What do you mean “Lifepath On The Road”?**

Several people have asked me that question in various forms, over the past few months, so I thought I would share what we did, giving you example timings so you can enjoy the feeling of the day!

8.30 – Volunteers meet in the carpark. Relevant paperwork completed, habits and masks on and then we prayed.

8.40 – Into the school, where we were welcomed into the school, generally with open arms and shown the classrooms we were to use. This was often the most difficult part; there were gazebos to set up, classrooms to rearrange, and projectors to find and see if they were working as they sometimes hadn’t been used for months.

9.30 – Opening Worship – this was a video presentation with songs and daft humour from John Cooper and Kirstine Davis, explaining the theme of the day was “God’s word” and not “God Sword” as John had hoped. We used the Lifepath songs and actions to engage the children and to make it more interactive. We used St Cuthbert and stories from his Lifepath to illustrate the way our Christian beliefs can affect our day to day lives and how it could affect the children’s own Lifepath.

10.00 – 2.00 – Workshops, breaks and lunch!

There were 4 workshops: Jesus Journey, Prayer Journey, Cross crafts and the Drama story. Every child followed a timetable and did all 4 activities in small groups. In some of the larger schools we use the Gardening workshop too.

Jesus Journey – We created a video of Chris Hudson telling the 4 stories he used, The call of Simon Peter, Zaccheus, The last supper and the Resurrection. These were professionally filmed at various locations around the county, which gave a fantastic backdrop to the stories. For example, Jesus calling Simon Peter was filmed at Berwick with the river and bridges behind, the story of the resurrection was told by a small cave like cellar.

Prayer Journey – Our team lead the children through 4 prayer activities:

* *Thank you* - for the abundance of things we have. We wrote them down and placed them around a heart.
* *Please* – we put our requests on Paper chains and added them to each other to illustrate we can pray for each other. We spoke about how Cuthbert had asked God for food and the Eagle caught them a fish.
* *Sorry* – we used the magnetic picture boards to write / draw what we were sorry for and then to wipe it clean, being forgiven for is and removing it from God’s eyes.
* *Pipe cleaner people* – We made a person our of pipe cleaners and spoke about our community and how we can pray for them.

Cross Crafts – we used a weaving cross kit to create a foam cross with ribbons woven through. This allowed us to talk about the cross, why it is important to Christians and what is symbolises. This is a section of the briefing we gave to the children: “*So Christians use the cross – because they believe it isn’t the end of the story and despite the people around Jesus trying to kill him, Jesus won and beat the worst thing they could do to him. This showed God's power and proved that he was indeed God. Christians use the symbol of the cross to remind them of all these things.”*

Drama – we videoed a drama following a student monk as he met people who knew Cuthbert. He had to travel back in time and interview several people, including Fergus the Farmer, Brother Alistair, the animal specialist (There’s nothing hotter than an Otter), Brother Timothy at Tynemouth and Brother Donald, the duck whisperer. Massive thanks to John Cooper, Val Cowan, Simon White, Claire Cooper and Shirley Clark for their willingness to be put on video acting daft. Thanks to Ed Butlin and John Cooper for their videoing and editing skills and the huge amount of time it took. Also, a big thank you for Helen Hume for allowing us to reuse her script from a previous Lifepath.

2.15pm – Once the workshops had finished, we met all together to spend time in closing worship. This was done “Live”, which was brilliant. We often were able to meet outside for this part too. We recapped the day, asking the children what they had learnt and enjoyed, and then told an interactive story of the Wise and Foolish builder. We then quieted everything down and built a cairn of stones as we reflected on the day we had had. Rather than leaving the day with this quiet reflection we finished with lots of daft dancing as we sang the Lifepath song!

2.45pm – Packing up didn’t take too long and once the gazebo was in the car, the resources packed away and the car packed up, we prayed and thanked God for the provision He had made for us.

Once home, I unpacked / repacked the car, renewing the resources and quarantining the items that may be a covid risk, all ready to start again the next time!