

MAST NEWSLETTER

for MAY 2015

Wonderful Words

At Stanton School on a recent visit one of the children met Michael with these words that she had written for him the night before:

"A story can bring love and laughter, sorrow and tears, but to save a life ... that will require the greatest story of all"

Praise God that we can all tell "the greatest story of all."

Whoosh

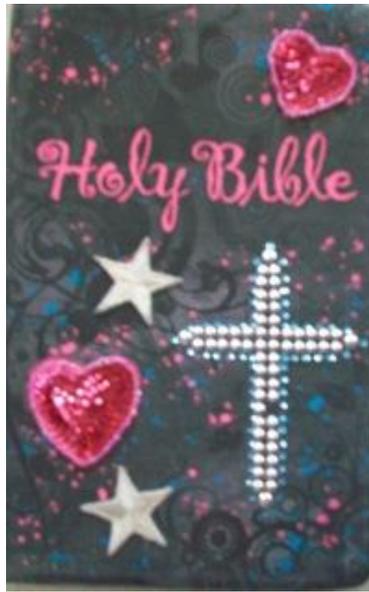
And it's not just the children that give a big cheer and a "whoosh". Recently, at Tansley, for example, the teacher in charge for the morning said it was her who gave a cheer and a "whoosh" when she heard that it was Michael's assembly that day. Some might say it was because she didn't have to do an assembly herself, but she said she looks forward to the "magic and laughter" and "always learns something new."

Bibles

At All Saints' Infants one of their children told Michael how she had been given a Bible and had asked for one like Uncle Michael's. After our review last year the school workers have had very distinct Bibles (see below) and obviously the children must associate them with their assemblies.

PRESENTATIONS

Talking of Bibles, Michael has traditionally given Head Teachers a Bible, but with the success of these colourful Bibles we are going to present this type to three retiring Heads this summer.



Two other retiring Heads are actually Christians, so the trustees decided that we would present them with Bible reading books. Our ministry is to people in all walks of school life.

LEAVERS' BOOKLETS

MAST is delighted to have been given 850 books from the Derek Fentem Trust Fund to distribute to Year 6 leavers.

The colourful, 36-page book will be a lasting memory of the school assemblies conducted by MAST workers over the last four years. Many of the Bible stories that the children have been told are recorded amongst the various quizzes, jokes and visual aids.

The booklets are financed by a trust set up in memory of Michael's father, Derek, and this will be the third year they have been distributed.

No longer "Uncle Michael"
- now "Grandad Michael"

Michael and Mandy are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild - Leo Marc Ferguson - on Saturday, May 8th. Leo was born to Michael and Mandy's foster son, Jamie and Rachel Osborne. Jamie lived with Michael and Mandy for eighteen years before moving out to live with Rachel in their own home at Victoria Court Gardens. They are members of "Church in the Peak", Matlock.



Mast Celebratory Service

This is an invitation to everyone. The service takes place at 6pm on Sunday 14th June at Steep Turnpike Evangelical Church in Matlock. The service will be followed by refreshments and then the MAST AGM will take place. Everyone is also invited to the AGM should they wish to stay on.

Pastor Matthew Quinn, our own MAST minister, will be speaking, with a presentation by local Head Teacher, Hazel Henson of All Saints Junior School. Readings by local school children will also be a feature of the service.

Christian Clubs at Highfields

These ended at the end of last term. We have had a great year and look forward to building on this foundation when we begin again in the autumn term 2015.

Upper Site attendees have been going through a Youth Alpha course and we have had about eight young people every week. They have really enjoyed it. We usually watched the short video before moving into groups to discuss issues and questions raised. Thanks are extended to Jackie Merrick from Steep Turnpike Evangelical Church for all her hard work.

Lower Site meetings finished on a high with 19 children attending on the penultimate week and 18 on the final week. The year ended with a party, which included a "pass-the-parcel" game (see picture below). There was a great atmosphere and it's a real encouragement to us all to see these young people coming along in their lunch breaks to learn about God.



The previous week they had done a presentation of the story of Noah, with drama, puppets, magic and a great deal of fun and humour for the speakers, who have been attending all through the year. Nine people attended from different churches and afterwards the young people spent time talking to our speakers.

Thanks are due to Zania van Schalkwyk, the youth worker in the Methodist Circuit, for her help and encouragement. It is hoped that Zania will join the team next year.

Displays

We have had a lot of feedback from you about the excellent displays within schools. Here are two more, from very differing schools. The first, from Highfields Secondary School, is a display about Easter. The second, by Unstone Nursery and Infants school, is a display showing their local church, St Mary's



Financial Donations to MAST

We are massively grateful for all donations to the work of MAST. These can be sent to the treasurer, Mr C Cookman, 91 Wellington Street, Matlock. Telephone: 01629 582851. Please make cheques payable to MAST.