



# A strange year... still an amazing vision



## Primary Team Update

Greetings from the ICE Primary Team. What a different term this one turned out to be! As we made our plans in January, who would have thought that soon our working world would look so different? But God is good and, although we cannot work as we usually do, there are still plenty of opportunities to let young people know about His great love for them.

When the lockdown first began, we were on the cusp of our Easter Prayer Spaces project. We had a number of schools booked in that we were going to visit and run prayer activities. Unfortunately, due to the tactile nature of this project, we decided to postpone Prayer Spaces for the safety of all of our children. But this did spark an idea. In a time of stress and uncertainty, could families make a prayer space at home to help them take time out and talk to God?

We decided to start writing up our prayer spaces ideas (and inspiration

from other sources) to post to our website's schools blog so that anyone who wanted to, could access them. As a whole team we then decided to do even more, aware that so many young people are now homeschooling. This led to a weekly schedule of blog posts and videos that we have been working on and posting since Easter. If you would like to see some of our work, do take a look! You can find it all on our website: [icetrust.co.uk](http://icetrust.co.uk)

We were also very aware that the year 6 children, leaving primary school, will be going through an even harder transition than in other years. Normally, we would work with schools in our MOUSE (Moving On Up to Secondary Education) lessons to help them through this time, but of course we can't do that in the usual way at the moment. So, we decided to record these lessons instead and make them available online, with downloadable work sheets and activities. They are all published on our Youtube channel and we're praying that they can be a blessing to these young people as they face

## Latest Statistics

# 50

Videos made over the lockdown period

# 1,929

Views on our YouTube channel

# 70

Blogs on our website



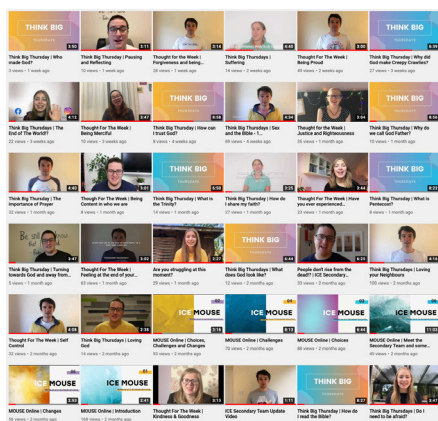
such a big change.

It has been a strange time - so much of our work is relational and we miss the children very much. Their energy and enthusiasm is such a joy and to not be able to have that contact is hard. But it has also been a time of development. We have both learned new skills in video editing, web page design, illustration software and photography, that we never had time to properly delve into before. All of this will go into our work going forward and hopefully make it even more interactive and creative. It has also been a great opportunity to remember how powerful our God is – though we are limited, He is not. He is able to work in every circumstance and is working across Exeter as I type this, bringing hearts and lives to Himself. So please do keep on praying, for the children in our schools (or at home as the case is at the moment!), for the staff who care for them and for the work that we are doing. We really value your prayers and support!

The screenshot shows the ICE Schools Blog homepage. At the top is the ICE logo with the tagline 'Inspiring faith to life'. Navigation links include HOME, PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, BIBLES & BIBLES, ICE AWARDS, and ABOUT US. The main heading is 'SCHOOLS BLOG'. Below are six article thumbnails with titles and brief descriptions:

- How should I spend my summer?** (Secondary Schools, Uncategorized) - Summer holidays are great! The weather is hot (at least for Britain) and it really marks the end of the school year. There are many things you can do this summer. When I think of summer I think of sunshine and ice lollies so a great thing to do is to make your own... [read more](#)
- We Recommend | The Prince of Egypt** (Primary Schools) - What is it? Our resource recommendation this week is the Dreamworks film The Prince of Egypt. You can find it on DVD available at most DVD retailers (HMV, Amazon etc.) You may also find a copy at your local Christian bookstore. Who is it for? This movie is suitable... [read more](#)
- Thought for the Week | Lost and Found** (Uncategorized) - This week I experienced a scary five minutes - I thought I had lost my engagement ring! I had dropped it and but when I glanced down, I realised I couldn't see it, it was gone. My ring is very special to me (for obvious reasons) and so my heart sank in my chest as the... [read more](#)
- Downloadable Worksheet | The Lord is my Shepherd** (Primary Schools) - You can download today's reflective colouring sheet here: The Lord is my Shepherd Take a moment to read the lyrics of this song: The Lord is my
- What I learned in lockdown | Back to Normal?** (Secondary Schools, Uncategorized) - Over the next few weeks it looks as if things are slowly returning to this word we like to use 'normal'. I have used
- We Recommend | Guardians of Ancora** (Primary Schools) - Our resource recommendation this week is for: The Guardians of Ancora app you can find it in the Google Play

## Secondary Schools Team Update



“ At lunchtime on Thursday 12th March some of our ICE team were in St Peter's with the Christian Union. We were helping prepare them for an outreach event they wanted to hold before Easter, when one of our students asked, “what if school gets closed?” I chuckled.

Firstly, because I thought it was a funny idea that we would still come and do the event with the school closed, but secondly, the idea that the school would be closed seemed ridiculous to me. And yet, 7 days later, CU had only its year 7 members as the school was closed to all others, to be closed to all non-key workers children after that. This sadly meant that Karen, Karin and Danielle, three of our incredible team who have served so amazingly this year, had to go back to Brazil, Germany and Barnstaple respectively earlier than planned. However, through the wonders of modern technology, we have still been able to meet and work as a team.

The effort of ICE's secondary team to adapt our work to this

unprecedented challenge has been incredible and I feel very lucky to be part of such a team. Since Easter, every week we have sent out two videos to reach the young people with whom we were sadly unable to meet. On Tuesdays, we have a Thought For the Week, which aims to provoke young people to think about their lives and how the teachings of Christianity might both comfort them and challenge them to start asking the big questions in life. On Thursdays, we Think Big, asking those hard questions of faith. Why has God allowed all this suffering to happen? How can I love my neighbour when I have to keep at least 2 metres apart from them? and other such questions. You can watch all of these videos on our ICE YouTube channel.



e: office@icetrust.co.uk  
w: www.icetrust.co.uk

Whilst we haven't been able to get much feedback yet from our young people directly, we have had great feedback from our schools. One of the head of years told me: "We are really grateful for the time all of you are spending recording the videos." These videos have also been appreciated and shared in Cranbook, a school we have only had limited contact with in recent years, and may well be a great stepping stone for us to do more in that school, being able to reach more young people with the good news of Jesus.

Our next goal is to make our videos more interactive and more appealing to young people. Unfortunately, we still don't know at this point whether we will be back in school in September. Therefore we need to continue to be creative and strive to reach young people, however we can.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all of you who have been covering our work in prayer over these past few months. It has been very challenging, but we are so thankful for all of your support, we could not do this without you.

## ICE AMBASSADORS



Over the next 12 months we would like to develop new ways to help supporters share the work of ICE, within their churches. We have some ideas but we would love to hear from you, our supporters, as well. If you would like to be involved in this process then can you please email [karen.silcox@icetrust.co.uk](mailto:karen.silcox@icetrust.co.uk)



## ICE AMBASSADORS

### Transforming Lives for Good Mentoring

Lockdown came at a frustrating moment for lots of reasons, one of which is that we hoped to have mentors starting in St James after the Easter holidays, which sadly could not happen. But there is good news! Whilst our mentoring program set-up has slowed down, it has not paused. We are still in conversations with both St James and West Exe schools and doing some of the background set up that we need to do like DBS checks for our mentoring team. The schools are still keen, and are aware that young people will have found this time very difficult and will be potentially in more need of the support we can provide.

We don't know yet when we will definitely be in school working with young people, but we are getting ready so that when that does happen we are ready to start transforming lives for good.

Nationally, TLG's mentoring project is continuing, though in a different capacity. Remote coaching has taken over from face-to-face coaching, which is, of course, impossible at the moment. This involves mentors writing letters, designing activities that can be done at home and, where possible, short video chats over a parents phone. Do check out the TLG website for more details on how they have been coping with this crisis and how you can support and pray for them.

We currently have 5 mentors trained and are ready to start work as soon as schools are ready. But we are still looking for more. TLG will be running training again in the autumn, either online or in person, so if you are over 18, love Jesus and have an hour a week to see a young person's life transformed for good, then do email me at [doug.owen@icetrust.co.uk](mailto:doug.owen@icetrust.co.uk).



### News from the Trustees

The trustees are delighted to announce that David Northcote-Passmore has agreed to become a patron of ICE. David, with his late wife Barbara, has always been loyal supporter of ICE, attending and helping at our functions over many years and of course David was a trustee for over twelve years.

Affectionately known as DN-P by us all, he could turn his hand to many aspects of the role, ranging from sorting out the challenging demise of our various second hand cars to presenting annual budgets and spread sheets as our treasurer. Anyone who knows David recognises that he has many gifts so in recent months, since he stood down as a trustee, we have had to fill in many gaps he left in our team. He has so much wisdom and experience to bring to our ICE family that we felt it important to keep him involved with our ministry; so though "retired" from trustee responsibilities he will now continue to be an advocate and friend to ICE in Exeter. Welcome back on board DN-P !

Although our Christian schools work in Exeter, as we used to know it, has ceased for the moment, the ICE team has been very busy creating new ways of connecting with our young people over the past three months.

If you have been tuning in to YouTube, Instagram and Facebook you should have been able to watch many, varied and often ingenious, clips in response to the current needs of our pupils as they live through the strangeness and challenges of Lockdown.

Sally has kept us all provided with prayer points each week and has been working remotely along with Anne-Marie from home to develop new material for primary schools.



Karen is keeping the management side of the charity in good order too, and she liaises regularly with the other staff and the trustees.

We are expecting a rise in requests to support youngsters with mental health issues as we come out of the pandemic so we are even more excited about rolling out our mentoring programme TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) in the autumn. Doug is busy progressing that work as well as liaising with schools and keeping secondary work going. Harry has been guiding them through the technology needed and is also responsible for putting this newsletter together.

Staff meet weekly online for a staff meeting, to pray together and plan for how they can “do ICE differently” and they certainly have delivered video footage that is very engaging (often relevant to adults as well). A trustee joins them once a month, or as and when required, to keep in touch and give them pastoral support and encouragement. Having said that they are also a huge encouragement to us! They also come to our trustees meeting once a month to bring their thoughts and aspirations to the table.

We are so blessed to have such a brilliant team!

On behalf of us all here at ICE we would like to reassure you that God’s work is still being done for Exeter schools despite COVID-19 and we are committed to respond to their needs.

We are always grateful to you all for your ongoing financial and prayerful support, which sustains our work. 2020 was to have been “party year “ as we should celebrate thirty years of serving our primary and secondary schools as well as Exeter College; sadly we must keep those celebrations on hold until we can all meet together face to face.

## How can I support ICE?

There are many ways to get involved with the work of ICE. Please have a look at the boxes below, mark any that are of interest to you, fill in your details and return the card to the team. We'll be in touch soon.

### Practical

#### Working in Schools

- I would like to volunteer with the Primary team.
- I would like to volunteer with the secondary team.

#### Supporting in Church

- I would like to become a Church Representative, and tell others about ICE.

### Spiritual

#### Praying for ICE

I would like to pray for ICE. Please send me:

- ICE Prayer email
- ICE Newsletter
- Information about the monthly prayer meeting.

### Financial

#### Making a Gift

- I would like to make a one-off gift to ICE.
- I would like to make a regular gift to ICE.
- I would like to know more about ways in which I can support ICE financially.

**My Address:** .....

**Phone:** ..... **Email:** .....