

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a packed Autumn newsletter! Please see page 2 for Open the Book news and information about Godly Play. As we head towards Christmas don't forget to book your dates for "What's the Story?" and if you are looking for some inspiration there are loads of ideas for Advent and Christmas on page 4.

As we approach 2025 we are asking our friends and supporters to help us with a new fundraising initiative; please see page 3 for details and consider what you can give.

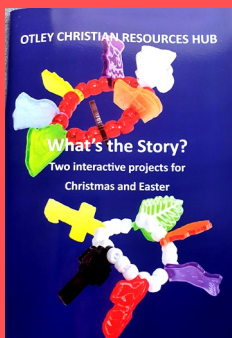
We hope to see you soon at our Wednesday drop ins. Thank you for all your support
The staff and trustees at OCRH

What's the Story about Christmas?

Its time to start thinking about Christmas and that means "What's the Story?". Its a great project for your local school, community group or as a drop In family day. All the resources you need to run the project can be hired from the Hub (FREE to subscribers!) and we are now taking bookings. If you would like to book "Whats the Story?" or want to know more about the project please contact

mandy@ocrh.org.uk

You can also purchase the Project Book and Story chains



What's the Story Book £10



Storychains £1.50 each

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th November

Godly Play Network

On ZOOM

Wednesday 4th December

10 :30

Open the Book Christmas

Get Together

The Hub will close for

Christmas on Wednesday

18th December at 4pm and
reopen on Wednesday 8th

January at 10am.

Opening Hours

The Hub is staffed between 10 and 4 on a Wednesday. You can call in anytime **before 1pm** without an appointment - if you want to call in the afternoon please make an appointment or ring before you come, in case staff are unavailable.

If you need to call on a different day we can offer twilight appointments between 4pm and 6pm on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please note these slots are by prior arrangement only as the Hub is not usually staffed at these times.

Open the Book

Thank you so much for bearing with us as we swap things from the old programme to the new. We hope you are enjoying the new stories—if you have any feedback about new props or costumes please do send to Mandy as it is always useful. We are hosting a Christmas get together on December 4th at 10:30. It's a chance to indulge in Christmas treats as well as getting together with other teams to hear about their experiences.

New access arrangements

Please remember that access to the Chestnuts is now via the front door (using the key from the key safe). Please sign in and out on the list by the door.

If you are not on the list to receive the safe code and you think you should be please let Mandy know.

Codes will be changed periodically and sent out directly by Otley Parish Church Office.

Parking

You may have noticed the works happening on the piece of land next to the Chestnuts. At the present time there are lorries going in and out frequently and this is affecting parking. It is absolutely fine to pull in and park to drop off and pick up props but please don't park for longer periods.

Thank you

Don't Forget! Coffee and Christmas treats —Wednesday 4th December at 10 :30

RSVP mandy@ocrh.org.uk



Sad News It is with sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Jane Austick at the age of 61. Jane worked at the Hub for several years helping Judith and Anne with the launch of Open the Book, and also attended events in later years. Our thoughts are with her sister and friends.

Godly Play

Looking for inspiration for your work with children and families? Godly Play is a good place to start. We have an excellent range of Godly Play resources and can also offer introductory sessions for your team.

Get in touch if you would like to know more or come along to a network meeting (see below).



Leeds and Bradford Network Group

This group is for anyone interested in Godly Play. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 26th November on Zoom. Please email mandy@ocrh.org.uk for the link.

All Welcome

Funding appeal 10 for 10

As you know the last few years have been financially challenging for the Hub. Whilst we really appreciate the relationship we have with our churches and the financial support they give us, this has decreased over the last two years as churches themselves feel the pinch. We have already reduced costs through cutting staff hours and we secured some funding from the Bramall Trust which has helped with the cost of implementing the new Open the Book programme. These steps have put us on a better financial footing but to help us continue to be financially sound we need to raise some more regular income. We are asking our friends and supporters to consider making a regular gift of £10 a month. If we can find ten people willing to do this it will make a big difference to our finances.

Could you be one of our **ten for ten** givers?

Your regular gift will help us continue to provide:

Open the Book

Resources, training and support for 11 Open the Book teams going into 21 schools across Leeds and Bradford. Between them they reach between 1500 and 3000 children with a Bible story every month.

What's the Story?

Every year over 1000 primary school children visit their local churches to explore the stories of Easter and Christmas using our unique project.

Creative Ministry Resources

Every month we loan out beautiful resources to engage children and families with the Bible, prayer and church life.

Godly Play

We support a network of Godly Play practitioners across Leeds and Bradford loaning resources, books and offering training.

Training, Inspiration and Encouragement

We provide a drop in morning every week for people to pop in, look at the resources and find new ideas and inspiration. We also provide training on a number of different topics for ministry teams.

If you would like to be a ten for ten funder you can set up a regular payment to us:

Sort Code: 05-06-61

Account number: 32410216

Name: Otley Christian Resources Hub

Mark payment reference with your name.

Or, if you would like further information please contact mandy@ocrh.org.uk

Fundraising Events

You may not be able to give regularly but could you run a fundraiser for us? A bake sale at the back of church?

A sponsored run?

Do you belong to an organisation that gives to charity from time to time? Would you consider nominating us?

Every little helps!

Thank you for your support .



Advent and Christmas

For Advent: Big Story , Godly Play , Jesse tree, candle prayers



For Small groups:
Story bags, baskets
and boxes



For larger groups : All age worship, assemblies,
toddler groups crib Services, and community events.



Nativity
costumes and
props.

Song Rolls
Perfect for Carol Services.



Participation Stories

"What's the Story?"