



light into dark corners

the newsletter of the Zephaniah Trust
registered charity 1036478
28th year Easter 2021



"They can't cancel Spring" - David Hockney

zephpeeps

- Yvonne and Julia



Yvonne writes,

I have continued to keep in touch with my schools, mainly via email but occasionally via Facebook (if I'm friends with someone!) Our new way of sending out a weekly assembly has been well received and some of my schools have appreciated and used them. There are also a couple of schools that I continue to do live (via Zoom) assemblies for. Next week I'll be involved in a special Easter assembly (along with a local vicar) in another of my schools.

I've been in school this afternoon, the first time in this particular school since lockdown began last March. I delivered an hour's worth of RE twice (2 form entry school) and will be doing so each Wednesday afternoon from today until the summer. I'll also be in a different school tomorrow afternoon; same deal, different lesson. I was in this particular school from September until Christmas and then, until last week I continued to provide them with RE lessons remotely. I was back in in person last week and I'm happy to keep going in until the end of the year. Usually I will only stay in a school for a term, as I have so many schools, but because most are still not wanting visitors in, I've said they can have me for the whole year if they want. I'd rather be in the same school all the time than not in at all. There was another school that I was delivering RE in between September and Christmas who have been in touch eager for me to go back in. That means I'll be in 3 different schools for 3 afternoons a week. Happy times!



Julia writes,

I've continued to work with Bradford Refugee Forum where there have been very positive developments, including starting a project to support emerging refugee community groups, having a good response from groups wanting copies of the Wellbeing Resource I have worked on, and a successful grant for the bulk of our funding for the next year.

I'm still doing food deliveries with Biasan. We have realised that we've been providing this for a year now it's March, and noted how far we've come and how many people we're able to help.

Just last week I ended up making an extra visit to a mother and son, who weren't getting a food delivery but needed help with something else. They hadn't been in Bradford for very long and didn't have much, so it was good to be able to chat to them and find out what they needed help with. We'd been given a load of daffodils to give out, and I had three little bunches for this family. When I gave them to the son, he thanked me and gave me one bunch back - I continue to be encouraged by the kindness of others.

Me and Hazel have given out another craft pack to the Rock Solid youth in Wilsden, and we hope to give something out for Easter as well.



zephpeeps

- personal



We know you like to pray for us, and that you have missed the daily schedule to guide your prayers. If this helps...

Jenny's parents are at the wrong end of country and she is hoping for relaxation in travel and staying over regulations so she can see them soon. She is almost in possession of a smart new kitchen - some of which she has built herself.



Be impressed!

Julie is still shielding . Home schooling two girls has been a joy (!) She is writing new stories and poetry and been our key video editor and publisher.

Yvonne is a key member of Shipley Baptist Church's online services team, leading the music often and sometimes fronting the video. She has been teaching her children Thea and Isaac to cook.



Thea has also been appearing as

Yvonne's apprentice children's worker in SBC and Zephaniah videos.



John is desperate to get out and connect with audiences again. Two possible gigs in Co Durham in the autumn have cheered him up considerably.

Meanwhile he is learning new tricks with online presentations and he too is writing new material.

He has been Pfizered once. And Hettie the cat has died.

Julia finds it hard to think of "interesting" things she's done, but she's tells us she's taking long walks exploring places she's not seen before, so she'll be physically fitter than ever and with a better sense of Geography (?)

We note with sadness the death of **Roben** who has died in this country a long way from his home and family in Zimbabwe. He only came here to take his sick daughter home... Julie met him and his story of how he came to Bradford is key in the Refugee Voices narrative. Known as "Michael's song," his story can be heard on Soundcloud and YouTube. The lyrics are on p 5.

In this moneytheistic world, we are called to reject the zeitgeist, trust God and each other, and seek the Kingdom of God.- John

zephassemblies

- taking light into dark corners



We have taken to sending out to our schools a YouTube link to a new assembly each Monday morning. Each of the team have schools that are special to them, sometimes just



because they're the only one of the team that goes there, but over the years stakeholder relationships are built.

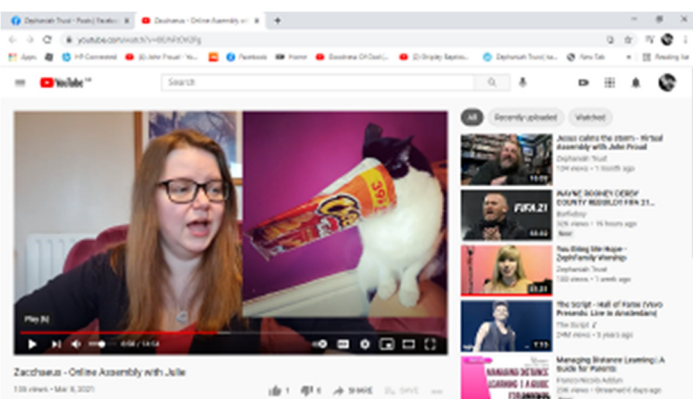
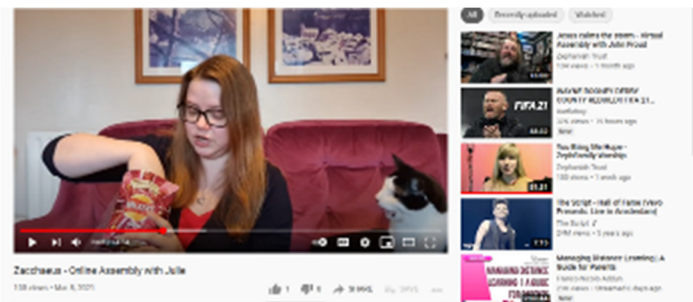
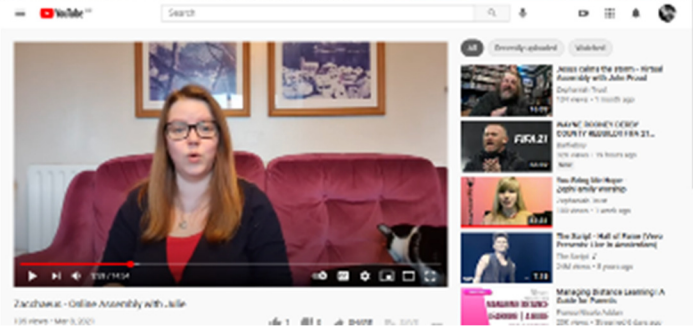
We learn who to communicate with to avoid that "into the abyss" feeling that your message is not reaching its destination. You know what I mean. This way we're fairly sure it's gone to the right place. It also means that the schools get to meet (virtually) members of the team they wouldn't otherwise see. And once a week is much more frequent than once or term or at best once a month.

Recent themes have included :

Peter the Rock (JF), The two builders (Yvonne), Feeding the 5000 (Julia) [appropriate - Ed] and **Zacchaeus (Julie)** [again, appropriate - Ed]

As these freeze frames (left) indicate, recordings are not always as straightforward or "alone" as anticipated, so Julie decided to employ the hungry cat as her willing assistant.

Yvonne (see p 2) also has some live zoom assemblies and is back in person taking RE. John has a date for an assembly after Easter that will be "Teamsed" (like Zoom only more professional) from the school's hall and live streamed into the classrooms.



It was a particular joy to talk with my neighbour Mrs Begum who told me how much she had enjoyed watching our assemblies during the lockdown. We have reached audiences we could not have imagined and not just on our own patch, but all across the country, from the North of Scotland to Cornwall and "all round the world."

zephyrics

- Michael's song



I took the story of Roben (we called him Michael because of his vulnerable status) from Julie's interview with him when she was researching Refugee Voices.

He sat on the front row of the audience once when I sang the song. I was absolutely terrified that I might have misrepresented him, but to my relief he was happy with it. Other refugees since have identified with his situation.

I tried to use his actual words wherever possible so phrases which sound un-JF, like, "Go down home," are his. Some of his advice "If you're going to be interrogated, make sure you eat first," didn't make it into the song. You have to imagine how hungry you would be if there was no break in the questioning.

We can only imagine...

From Zimbabwe I came, I came to London
to fetch my sick daughter, to take her home
my daughter she died, now she has the right to stay here
but it's not safe for me to go down home

I'm looking for a place, a place of sanctuary
where I can think, I can know I can be free
where I can hold my head up, where I can be me
It may not ever feel like home, 'cos I am a refugee

From London I came, I came to Liverpool
to ask if I can stay, to ask for asylum
but I was sent here falsely, I must travel on
but it's not safe for me to go down home

From Liverpool I came, I came to London
where maps are free, but dreams they're costly
where the streets and the weather
and the welcome are frosty
but it's not safe for me to go down home

From London I came, I came to Croydon
Croydon is the place of England's Freedom Tree
Three hours without a break they interrogate me
but it's not safe for me to go down home

From Croydon I came, I came to Margate
detention while they check what they're not believing
though some have their torture stories
written on their skin
and it's not safe for me to go down home

From Margate I came, I came to Bradford
living in limbo—it's a strange kind of dance
always moving, wondering if you've got a chance
but it's not safe for me to go down home

From Zimbabwe I came, but I can't go home

John Froud
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One of the very best and most attractive qualities of Zephaniah is our uniqueness in how we operate / view our team. I'm not sure why it's so unique, why more charities don't seem to go about stuff as we do but I think it is something we absolutely must hold fast to. - Yvonne

zephed

- Easter resources



Normally, we'd spend the run up to Easter working with schools and churches, running events to help children explore and connect with the Easter story.

The pandemic continues to make that tricky - so we've produced a resource pack that can be used in schools, churches or families to find new ways to learn about and dig in to the Easter story.

Our Team have each contributed different activities and workshops, adapted from activities we have been running for years. Every idea has been tried and tested in real school settings and adapted for use by teachers, churches, volunteers and parents.

This newsletter carries some of what we sent to schools - the website also has Julia's craft workshop which will give you templates for those who find drawing difficult, and loads of links to craft and stories and... loads!

See p 11 for **Julie's drama workshops** and p 8 for **John's poetry workshop**.



We sent it to schools but we don't think age should be a restriction...

Easter Activity Pack

Workshops - Craft, Poetry, Drama - and Activities for children to explore the Easter story

Head for <https://zephaniah.org.uk/resources/>

And then look for **"Easter"** - surprisingly!



We'd also love to see photos, poems, stories - anything you create as a result of these activities.

Yvonne's Easter prayer space

These are two of the four prayer/reflections...

1. On **Palm Sunday**, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. A huge crowd of people had gathered and everyone was really pleased and excited to see Jesus. They stood on both sides of the street, as if it was a victory parade, waved palm branches in celebration and shouted, **"Hosanna! Praise God! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!"** Draw yourself a palm leaf then either write or draw something that makes you really happy. Perhaps, as you're doing that, you might like to say thank you to God for that thing that makes you so happy?

4. **Easter Day** The Bible tells us how 3 days after he was killed, Jesus rose again. For Christians, this is the most important part of the story as we believe it is this that gives us the chance of a new life, a new start with God. This is how God shows that we have been forgiven and will always be forgiven for the wrong things we have done and will do in the future.

Eggs are a sign of new life. Easter eggs are (as well as being delicious!) a symbol and a reminder for Christians of the new life we believe we have with God because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

This is why Easter is so important to Christians. Draw an egg, colour it in and as you do, have a think about which part of your life you maybe need to turn around. Perhaps you might like to thank God for Easter, an event that shows how much He loves you?

Tomorrow is a new day, a new start. A new you?

zephadmin

- from the Director's desk



Jenny has reverted to working from home almost entirely, only going into the office when it has been necessary to do printing or banking, magically working phones and PC remotely. She'll have missed this rainbow over her "normal" place of work,

just as she misses the daily contact with people, not just Zephaniah staff, who pass through the building every day.

Finance

This week we received £500 from a Scottish charity who warn that this is the last time they will be sending money out of Scotland(?). The recent flood of grant applications from Jenny have supplemented our pre-Christmas fundraising by another £4000. This means an anticipated (small) surplus at the end of the financial year on March 31.

We sing Ishmael's song "**My God shall supply all my needs**" and we see it come to pass. It has been noted that although God provided the manna in the wilderness, the Children of Israel had to get out of bed and collect it, and we would like to acknowledge the financial support and the effort into collecting that goes to keep us going, "**Taking Light into Dark Corners.**"

Contact

We are currently looking at replacing our several databases with one many - columned creature with a view to making it function better for us rather than making life difficult - within the rules of GDPR of course, so at some point we'll be communicating with you asking for your permissions, etc.

If you're reading this, it obviously doesn't apply to you, but we are aware a lot our newsletter readers aren't! We'll try to make the emailed copy more user-friendly...

Feel free to give some feedback before the event ! Help us get it right.

...these three threads – relationship, creativity, compassion ... define us and everything that we do, they are the Zephaniah stamp of authenticity - Julie

zephed

- JF's Good Friday workshop

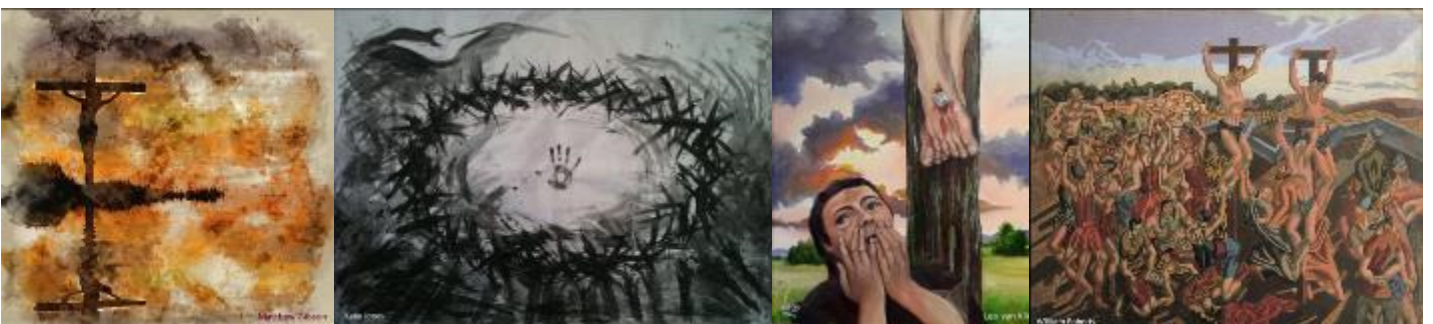


My aim is to help you write a poem about Good Friday. East Morton's year 5s worked through this a couple of years to good effect. You need a piece of paper and a pen/pencil. This will require some thought. Some might say meditation but that's perhaps a Sunday word. Thinking will do!

1. Now, the hardest part: fold your paper into three! Well done if you have three columns!
2. Down the left hand side, list people that would have been there when Jesus was crucified. No one kept a register, but some we know about (in the Bible); some we could guess at. The order doesn't matter at this stage. As many people as you like, but I wouldn't choose more than ten...
3. The middle column is for the adjective to describe each person so keep it fairly straight across (use a ruler if that helps). Adjective = describing word. So a physical description where appropriate, perhaps mental/emotional state, whatever.
4. In the far right column, write a verb. The action. What are they doing? "Stand," is a verb. "Worry," is a verb. "Be," is a verb
What would you be doing if you were the person in the first column?
5. Read it through out loud. Go somewhere no one can hear you. Are there words that could be better/stronger/carry more meaning? Maybe use a **THESAURUS** if you have one handy, or ask a friend or a friendly adult. They always have words...
Put your new word in and read it again.
6. The order does matter at this stage! Would your list sound better or make stronger sense in a different order? Perhaps finish with Jesus?
7. Sign your work and date it. Be proud of it.
8. Are you brave enough to show it/read it to someone else? Send to john-froud@zeph.org.uk if you like...

Optional extension work:

Do it again with non-people, objects. Anthropomorphize! Personify!



zephpeeps

- trustees



In a turbulent time for our Trustees, we have gained a trustee, **Adam Syrop**, lost one, **Pauline Grant** and mourned with another, **Mark Allison** as he lost both parents in a matter of weeks.

We go way back with **Pauline** to when her daughter was a small person at an after school club run by John. Later she was Phil Travis' deputy head at Shipley and has been for the last few years the lead Trustee for Safeguarding. Thank you Pauline for your support.

Now enjoy that multiple grandparenting...



Adam has been a friend since his student days at Bradford Uni. He's been a volunteer at Re:winds and Holiday Clubs; he produced the animations for the video of Jhora's story. His Impact Gamers project does great things with the youth of Bradford. He and Helen and family are part of the St Stephen's family.

Joyce and John Allison will be much missed, not only by their family. They were so well known in Shipley through the church and Brownies and for being just lovely people. The youngest of the siblings, **Ruth** was one of the original band at Wycliffe that helped nurture the concept of the Zephaniah Trust.

Here are all three children in what James describes as "the mirror we all grew up in." We shall treasure Joyce's music books.



The way we run things at Zephaniah, with understanding, compassion and love, is an important part of Zephaniah holistically. It is part of our loving, God's-light-sharing identity. Julia

zephed

- Julie's drama workshops



Here are some drama games/activities you can use to explore the Easter story.

Choose the activities you think will work best - or have a go at all of them!

You'll need a clear space with enough room for everyone to stand up.

1. **Choose a part of the Easter story** - either Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Good Friday or Easter Sunday - and read it aloud, from a Bible, a Children's Bible or a good quality retelling.
2. Have a **quick discussion** about the story: Who did you notice in this story? Who did you like best? Was there anyone you didn't like? What was your favourite part? End with the question - what feelings/emotions would the people in this story have felt?
3. Play **"Turn Around As..."** Ask everyone to find a space, then stand with their backs to you. Explain the following: "I'm going to ask you to turn around as ... and then give you an emotion to show me. You have to turn around and freeze, showing me what that emotion looks like in your face and body." Start off with some easy emotions -

"Turn around as ... Happy! Sad! Angry! Excited!"

After a few turns, introduce some of the feelings/events from the story you've chosen -

"Turn around as ... if you're riding on a donkey and everyone is cheering!"

"Turn around as ... if your best friend has just told you you'll let them down."

"Turn around as ... if you've gone to visit your friend's grave - and you find it empty!"

4. In the **Hot Seat** split the group into pairs and number themselves 1 and 2.

Give each pair two characters from the story you've chosen - e.g. Jesus & Peter, Judas & Jesus, the Angel at the Tomb and one of the women, The Donkey Owner and the Disciple who took his donkey. Each pair sits or stands opposite one another. Their job is to act out a conversation between their characters, taking place after the story has ended.

The first person begins by asking a question, starting with the words, "Why did you...?"

The second person replies - and whatever the reply, they have to end with another question.

They continue to take it in turns, always ending with a question.

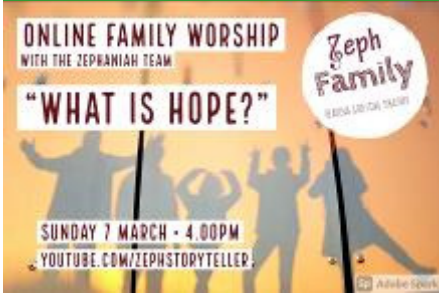
Before you start, encourage them to think about what the story would have been like from their character's perspective, what would they have seen, heard, felt, smelled, tasted? Invite pairs to perform their conversations for the group.

5. **Freeze Frame:** Everyone sits facing an empty space - this is 'the stage'. Ask for a volunteer to go and create a freeze-frame pose in the space. Then ask for someone else to join the picture, adding people in until you have an interesting scene. Pause in between adding people to verbally reflect on it. At the end, ask for ideas of what might be going on. Often one person's addition can change the whole scene! End by building a freeze frame scene from the story you chose - you might whisper roles to each person as they join to keep it on track. You can include objects as well as characters - e.g. the table at the Last Supper. Afterwards, have a discussion about how it felt to be in the scene.

These activities are a great way to bring the stories to life - an experiential way to engage with them. The aim is for participants to feel some of the emotions they would have felt if they were there as events unfolded. You could ask them to write down their thoughts/feelings on this..

zeph events

- some of what we've been up to



Founded in 1994, with the date 28 February on our foundation

Also for Easter, John has compiled a 25 minute meditation on the cross around some of his songs and a couple of "oldies" which has been pre-released to some church leaders and will be available for everyone on his YouTube from the Wednesday of Holy Week. The song "Jesus is risen !" has been included in Bradford Cathedral's children's Easter service which will arrive in the Church Schools before the end of term. We are delighted to be part of the Cathedral's reaching out across the city for Easter as we were at Christmas and will be for the Leavers' service for year 6s in July.

document, this was Zephaniah's 27th birthday. JF's mash up of 'My God Shall Supply' and 'You bring me hope' has been used by churches across the country and the quote to the right of the page was spoken in that context.

As we couldn't gather physically (obv) we had a week of little but fun videos leading up to a Zephfamily pre-recorded Birthday service. We were just launching the Zephfamily service as the first lockdown hit. We shall carry on with this lovely Zephfamily idea in whatever kind of format we are able.

When we would expect to be setting up Re:wind to Easter and visiting schools for special Easter assemblies, we have had to improvise. Our Resource pack for Easter (see pp 6,8, 10) for a taster has been well received.

You can just look at it to see what we've sent to schools, you can use it if you're home schooling, or see how it works with adults...You.

Head for <https://zephaniah.org.uk/resources/>

And then look for "Easter" - surprisingly!



This term we have also marked World Book Day and National Storytelling



Week. Who do you think led those ? Sometimes at Zephaniah we are quite predictable...



"I'm a big fan of what the Zephaniah Trust does and the gentle way they do it. There's immense strength in that. They just love God. They love his justice and peace and community." - Neil

zephfriends

- volunteering in lockdown

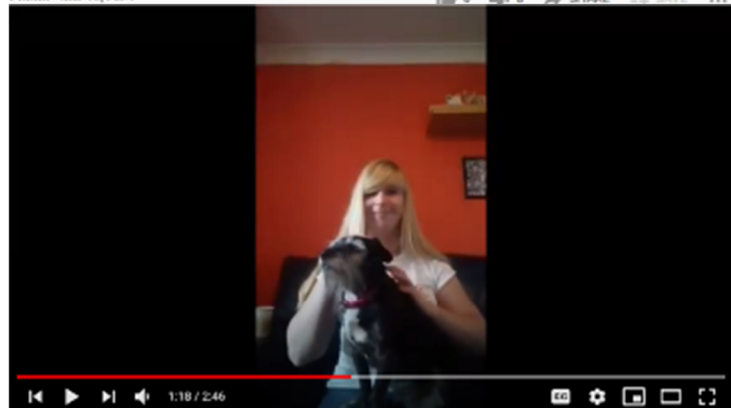


...some of volunteers on video...see Zephaniah's YouTube channel for more...



YOU BRING ME HOPE (with actions and words)

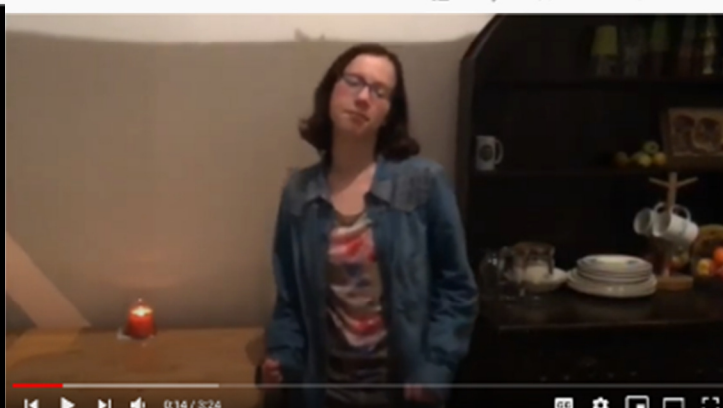
5 views - Mar 18, 2021



1:18 / 2:46

YOU BRING ME HOPE (with actions and words)

3 views - Mar 18, 2021



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