Inspire
Prayer Space

Report to the Elizabeth Walter Charity
April 2023

Helen Smith



With thanks...

We would like to express our thanks to the Trustees of the Elizabeth Walter Charity for their generosity in providing the grant funding, which has enabled us to develop a prayer space resource for the Ipswich Deanery.

To date, the prayer space has been used by around 780 pupils, in three primary schools, as well as by two church communities at St Peter's and Bridge Church and by families attending the November 2022 Messtival at St Matthew's. The prayer space was in operation at the Ipswich Deanery conference in October 2022, which was attended by over 100 people. Unfortunately, a booking by St Francis with St Clare for September 2022 had to be cancelled, due to the Queen's mourning period, and has not yet been rescheduled.

We are grateful to Tim Abbott, the National Director of Prayer Spaces in Schools, for his support and for leading three workshops on how to run a prayer space, which were free and open to all.

It is also worth mentioning that Helen has been working with several organisations including CYM, the Lightwave team and Just42 (Woodbridge) to discuss how we might support, or collaborate, to provide prayer spaces for schools and communities within and beyond Ipswich.

Our learning...

Feedback shared to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

Feedback from pupils:

The headphone activities are a real hit across age groups. Older primary school pupils enjoy the Calm Space which provides them with an opportunity to pause and reflect. St Helen's pupils expressed their thankfulness for the visit to the church. A selection of feedback forms will be shared with trustees.

Feedback from staff:

School staff, who participated in the space, found it both helpful and enjoyable. Two School Chaplains commented on the amount of work involved to set up the prayer space and would seek more support another time.

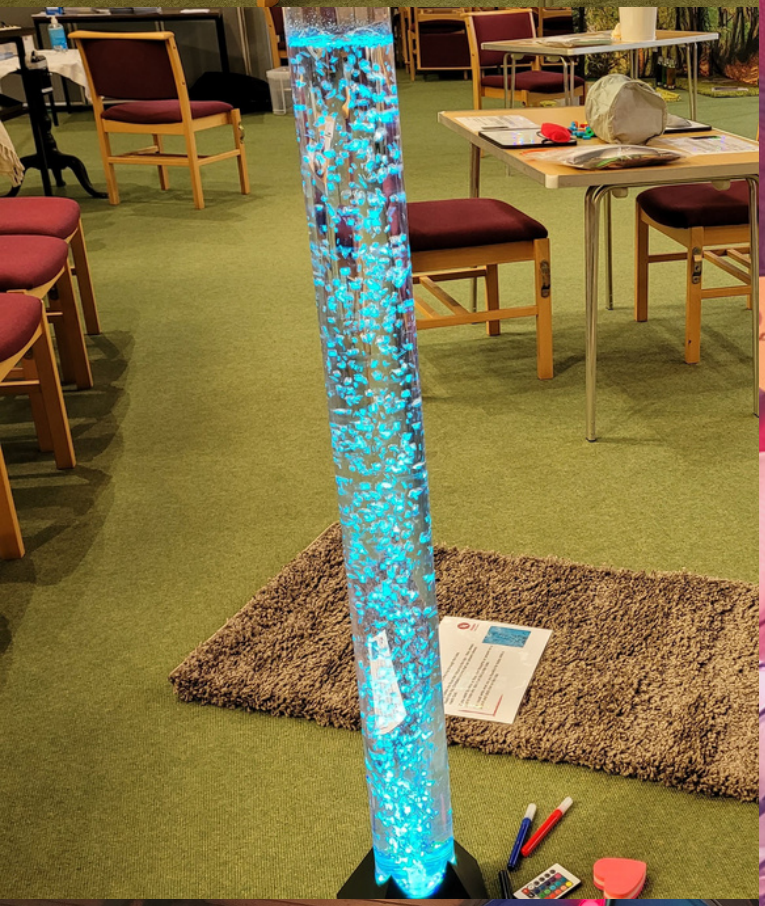
Multi-cultural appeal:

Pupils from all faiths and none have visited the space. Teachers had made a concerted effort to speak to Muslim parents, as well as with those whose children are generally withdrawn from RE. Having had this contact, all pupils had been allowed to participate in the prayer space.

General thoughts on the resource:

Uptake has been much slower than hoped; some effort has been required to promote and encourage its use. Any help from trustees in this would be appreciated. However, we hope that interest will continue to increase.
We are grateful to All Saints for providing easily accessible storage space with nearby parking. This location is very convenient for Helen, allowing her to check, replenish and refresh the materials.
Looking to the longer term, consideration into managing and maintaining the prayer space after the Inspiring Ipswich project will be needed.









With thanks to St Helen's Primary School.

Photos included with permission.