



Associates of Godly Play UK

The Magazine

Issue 18

March 2026

At the threshold



Welcome to our Spring issue. Godly Play UK will be twenty years old this year and we give thanks for all that we have learnt and shared over that time. Starting with some visits from Jerome Berryman, and the setting up of a temporary, trial room in an old university building in Cambridge, we have grown to train people all over England and Wales. It has been a great adventure, with many highs, some lows, lots and lots of learning, and a great joy.

We hope that when you cross the threshold and scroll down through the pages of this magazine you'll enjoy reading about some of what has happened over the last six months and be excited by what is on offer for the rest of the year.

And, as always, if you have news to share for our next issue, we would love to hear from you.

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*A Christian movement centred on childhood spirituality
providing training to transform thinking and practice for the whole of life*

In this issue

Building the circle	2	Taking your wondering further ...	
Goings and comings	3	Books	12
Reflections on our training	4		
Feature articles		The Feast	
Bringing the Christmas stories home	5	A chance to meet	14
Virtual network meetings	9	Our Conference	15
IACS	11	Sending out	
		Courses	17
		Network Groups	18

Building the circle

As we begin our twenty-first year as a charity, this issue begins with an appreciation of two trustees who have given generously of their time and expertise to Godly Play UK from the earliest days, and are now retiring. We are now looking for new people to share the important work of overseeing and supporting what we do – might you have time and skills to offer? On page 14 we have ‘A Chance to Meet . . . George Watt’, who has recently joined us as a trustee.

We share the good news of training successfully delivered and more people learning to do Godly Play in 2025. We have five more courses planned for 2026, in locations around the UK, so please do share details with anyone you know may be interested.

Our main feature article comes from Adam, a child who has been nurtured in Christian tradition so that he can use this language very eloquently to share the gospel with others. We do not hear the voices of children as often as we might like, and are very grateful to Adam and his classmates who have shared their words and artwork with us.

Trainers Alison Summerskill and Richard Knott offer some practical advice on sharing Godly Play online using video conferencing, something you might consider for a local Godly Play group; and Mary Hawes tells us more about the International Association for Children’s Spirituality, a network of interest to us all.

We have reviews of two books, one for children, the other for adults, both reflecting on how we might speak of scientific knowledge in terms of Christian faith.

Last but certainly not least, we announce details of our Conference in Rugby on 6 June, with a rich selection of workshops and a keynote lecture from Stuart Lee who will help us engage with the inner lives of children. We hope to see many of you there!

Goings and Comings

In our last magazine we said goodbye to various team members and welcomed Chloe Sargent, our new Administrator. Chloe seems like an old hand now, and you have probably heard from her.

We are grateful to two of our long-serving trustees who are now stepping back.



Rosemary Privett has served Godly Play from the beginning, not as a trustee to start with, but as the ever-patient wife of our longest-serving trainer, Peter Privett! Those who do Godly Play know how easily a room can become full of materials and plans and Rosemary has known all that! She has also been a practitioner of Godly Play in schools where she was a head teacher and in her work as an RE Adviser. When she retired from these roles, she kindly took on the role of a trustee and her advice has been invaluable to us. Rosemary has for some time been a spiritual director and is now planning to devote more time to this. We are supremely grateful for her wisdom and support ever since Godly Play took root on these shores in the early years of the century!

Rob Rogers is the husband of Sheila who retired as our Administrator last summer. Rob has been a kind guide through a great deal of our compliance work, ensuring that our safeguarding procedures are up to speed and our insurance is adequate. None of these tasks are very glamorous and he has generously brought to bear his huge experience, from the many other roles he has, upon them. He has also sorted out a range of technical things in supporting Sheila in her role and making sure everything has run smoothly. We cannot thank him enough and we hope that Sheila and Rob will now have fun in the increased time available to them.



Godly Play UK as a charity

Godly Play is ecumenical, used by Christians of many traditions. Those who were pioneering its use in England and Wales could see that its development needed some kind of oversight to ensure that there was transparency and accountability in the training it offered. It was also necessary to ensure the responsible use of the funds required to do this. A charitable trust was identified as the way to keep its work transparent and accountable. Each year, Godly Play UK submits its accounts with a report to the Charities Commission.

Almost all charities are run by a group of trustees, and Godly Play UK has been blessed by people who have been willing to undertake this unpaid role. They ensure that Godly Play UK, through the work of its representatives, acts responsibly, keeping good relations with the Godly Play Foundation who oversee Godly Play worldwide, and overseeing the use of funds, some of which come from the donations of our very generous Associate supporters.

So we wonder ... could you help with this?



We need some new trustees. You don't need to offer a huge amount of time: trustee meetings are online and just four times a year. You do need to think Godly Play is a really good thing! We would like to be more diverse – by age, gender, ethnicity, experience – and we would love to have a treasurer who could help us with financial planning.

It may be that you don't think this is for you, but that you know someone who could do it really well. Maybe you could ask them. To help with this, we have produced a recruitment pack with more information. You can find it here: [Trustee Recruitment Pack](#).

Reflections on our training



In 2025, 181 people undertook one of our courses. Nine of these were three-day core courses; six were online introductions over four sessions; one was a trial hybrid course. In addition to this our trainers provided a lot of school INSET sessions.

Here are some of our 'graduates'.

In partnership with the Catholic Education Service, we offered a core training and a number of supporting sessions to teachers introducing the new Religious Education Directory provisions into Roman Catholic primary schools. This was made possible with a grant from the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

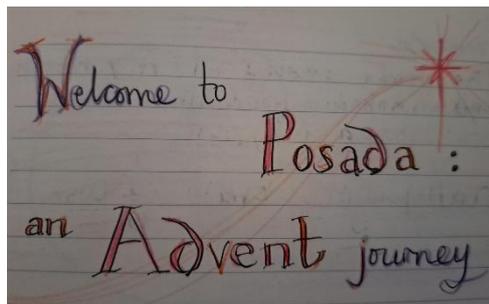


Feature articles

Bringing the Christmas stories home

By Adam

This article may seem a little unseasonal, but we are sharing Adam's lovely story in the hope that it may inspire you to plan early for Christmas 2026!



Posada is a Mexican Advent and Christmas tradition, where families host the Holy Family for a night through Advent, passing nativity figures from one house to another as Christmas approaches. It has been adopted by churches in the UK and creatively adapted to fit different situations.

St Luke's Church in Cambridge bought a set of Holy Family figures from the Bethlehem workshop which supplies the Godly Play UK community and gifted them to St Luke's C of E Primary School to try the posada tradition.

Rather than pass the figures from house to house, they were returned to school each day and the new hosts collected them. The Christ Child was not included in the travelling set, and at the final assembly of the term, the figures returned to school and the Christ Child was put in the manger. A new family took the posada figures home and hosted them over the Christmas holiday.

Included in the bag with the figures were a couple of picture books telling the nativity story and a beautiful exercise book to serve as a diary.¹ People were invited to write a bit each day about their experience of hosting the Holy Family. Adam is in Year 4 and looked after them over the Christmas holidays, which gave him some time to think, and he wrote their story in the diary in great detail. We share here, with his permission, Adam's writing.

In *The Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 1*, Jerome Berryman writes of 'offering people the language of God's people'. As we read Adam's story, we can spot the way in which he has absorbed 'the language of God's people'.² As a life-long churchgoer, he has heard each Christmas from the time of his birth, what is described in the Bidding Prayer at the opening of a traditional service of nine lessons and carols as 'the tale of the loving purposes of God' as the congregation is invited 'to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in a manger'.³

But we also note that Adam has made the story his own. He integrates it with books that have been read to him, and books he has read. And throughout his

¹ Hand drawn illustrations in this article are from the diary, the work of various children at St Luke's School.

² P.76

³ The Bidding Prayer was written 1918 by Eric Milner-White for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge and has been widely used every Christmas since, both in the Chapel and elsewhere.

story he includes his own confident assessment of the feelings and responses of the main characters.

We thank Adam for his generosity in allowing us to publish his story (below) and underline our confidence that the language of God's people has a place in the lives of today's children. As we share Godly Play with children in our circles, we seek to offer that language to enrich and inspire their lives.

Wednesday 24 December 2025



Mary, Joseph, the shepherd, the donkey, the ox and the manger are all positioned under our advent calendars. They have enjoyed the stay so far and we are excited because Mary is going to have a baby! I will now tell the story of how the son of God came into this world.

Mary looked up from the newly swept floor of her small house. There was more light in the room than normal and there were no shadows in the thousands of nooks and crannies in the wooden house. As she

looked up, she saw the brightest light she had ever seen in her life. It was an angel!

'Do not be afraid,' the angel said. 'My name is Gabriel. I have been sent by God to tell you that you will give birth to a son in 9 months' time. You are to call him Jesus.'

Mary stood gaping at Gabriel. She knew that this could not happen. She was betrothed to Joseph the village carpenter and if he knew that she was pregnant, he would not marry her.

'How is this possible?' Mary asked doubtfully. 'God will give you a child,' the archangel replied. 'You are holy, Mary. The son you will bear is the son of God.'

By then, Mary was utterly convinced that it was possible that she would have a baby and marry Joseph. She then said, with a confident voice, 'I will do what God bids me to do.'

As suddenly as it had arrived, the angel disappeared. Mary carried on cleaning the house and thinking about the most effective way to conceal her pregnancy.



Despite her best efforts, rumours were spreading round Nazareth (Mary's home town) that Mary was pregnant. Joseph planned to dismiss her quietly because he was a good man and not willing to expose Mary to public disgrace. He thought of this while he was carving an ornate table for his grandmother. As soon as he had finished, Joseph went to sleep, for he was tired. He had a dream. He dreamed that an angel came to him. The angel said, 'Do not be afraid to marry Mary. The child she will bear has come from the holy spirit, not another man. Name him Jesus.'

As soon as the angel disappeared, Joseph woke up and regretted his decision. Soon he and Mary were married.



Caesar Augustus (the Emperor of Rome at the time) wanted to know how many people were in the vast Roman Empire so they could be taxed. He ordered everyone in his rule to return to their home town. Joseph was born in Bethlehem so he and Mary travelled there. Mary's baby was due in a few days and she rode a donkey. The journey was hard and took six days. As the couple arrived in Bethlehem, Joseph was desperate to find a place to stay. He knocked on the door of the nearest inn.

'Can we come in? My wife is going to have a baby very soon.'

'Sorry we've got no room,' the innkeeper said stubbornly.

Joseph hurried over to the next inn that caught his eye.

'Sorry to intrude, but my wife's baby is due very soon. Do you have a spare room?' asked Joseph after knocking on the door.

'No!' said the innkeeper bluntly, and slammed the door.

Joseph scoured the town looking for a place to stay but found nothing. He was on the point of giving up when at last a tiny inn came into view. Third time lucky thought Joseph as he feebly tapped on the door.

'Can we please come in?' he asked quietly.

'Everything's full apart from the stable at the back. You can sleep there if you like.'

'Thank you,' said Joseph gratefully.

He led Mary into the stable and went to sleep. In the middle of the night, he woke up. Mary was having her baby! She wrapped him up in swaddling clothes and laid him carefully in a manger.



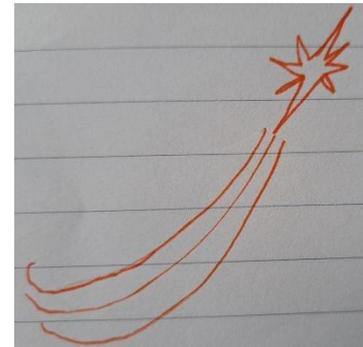


That night, on a hillside above Bethlehem, some shepherds were tending their sheep. Suddenly a light that made the brightest beacon that they had ever seen look dim appeared. They were absolutely terrified.

‘Do not be afraid. I am the angel Gabriel, God’s messenger,’ the angel said. ‘Go to Bethlehem and into a small inn. Go to the stable. You will find a baby in the manger.’

Then the shepherds ran down the cold hill and left their sheep. They found Jesus as the angel had described, lying in a manger. They worshipped him and paid him homage. Then they rejoiced and went back to their sheep.

Far away in the east, three astronomers noticed that a huge star was in the sky. They recognised that it would show them the way to where a new king would be born. They all agreed to follow it to where it stopped. They took gifts for the new king. The three men were called Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior and they travelled on camels. Balthazar took gold, Caspar frankincense and Melchior myrrh. The star led them to Jerusalem and when they reached King Herod’s palace, they thought, the new king must be born here.



They asked King Herod, ‘Where is the new king?’ ‘New king?’ thought Herod, ‘I must get rid of him.’ He summoned all his prophets and asked where the king of the Jews could be born. They all replied that he was to be born in Bethlehem. Then he called the three kings to a secret meeting and said, ‘Go and find the king and come back to me. Tell me where to find him. I want to pay him homage too.’ Actually he wanted to kill him.

‘Okay,’ the wise men agreed.



They journeyed to Bethlehem and the star stopped over a stable. Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior found the baby, worshipped him and gave him their gifts. They went to sleep in the inn (for it had cleared out by now) and an angel came to them. It told them not to visit Herod again because he wanted to kill the baby. It told them to go home another way. The angel then came to Joseph. He said, ‘Go home immediately. Herod wants Jesus dead.’

Joseph woke Mary up and they, with Jesus, went home. When the wise men did not return, Herod ordered the death of every male baby in Bethlehem but by then Jesus was long gone.

Back in Nazareth, Jesus was growing up. He spent most of his life in Nazareth, and had lots of adventures, performed miracles, and, most importantly, died on the cross.

But that’s another story.

Virtual Network Meetings

Online Godly Play: Benefits and Adaptations

By Alison Summerskill and Richard Knott, Godly Play UK Trainers



As you read this, you may be looking ahead to lighter evenings, clocks springing forward on 29 March rather than thinking about online meeting with other Godly Players.

However, if the idea of cutting travel time to and from meetings, widening your circle to include new people living far from a network, or those whose mobility is restricted, is something that matters, read on.

There is a surprisingly large number of apps to facilitate meeting online. Below are four of the best-known ones, and their limitations.

The Nottingham network is organized by Godly Play Advocate Darryl Root and Trainer Richard Knott. It meets every 8 weeks in person and online using Zoom. Their experience has been that virtual meetings attract more participants than in-person ones.

Zoom	Free for 40 minutes.	App and web browser	Only the meeting host needs to have a Zoom account.
Microsoft Teams	Free for 60 minutes	App and web browser	Needs a (free) Microsoft account to host meetings, but not to join in.
Google Meet	Free for 60 minutes for groups of 3+	App and web browser	Needs a (free) Google account to host meetings, but not to join in.
WhatsApp	Free with no time limits	App and web browser	Needs a mobile phone number to set up but can then be used on a computer. All participants need to be WhatsApp users.

Richard offers some tips. Key ingredients are addressing technical challenges before the meeting starts – ensuring when you are hosting that you have time to be ready. Check that lighting is adequate – that you can be seen and heard. Many apps now include adjustable background noise reduction, but if background noise is a problem, Bluetooth earphones or headphones, wired or wireless, may help. Richard recommends tidying up the space behind you to remove distractions. If a story is to be part of the meeting, consider using a separate device (phone or tablet) to get close to the materials. If using two devices, feedback can be a problem. The solution is to make sure one of the devices is not allowed to join audio.



Having a doorperson to let people into the meeting and provide a warm, friendly presence is crucial. Newcomers need to feel the circle can expand to include them. Online meetings can demand more concentration than in-person, so keeping them to an hour allows time for introductions, sharing stories and addressing questions from participants. The doorperson can also manage the technical aspects – spotlighting the storyteller for example. It can help people to feel more connected if everyone leaves their camera on during the session. The maximum size for a circle is probably 12-16. Beyond that, people may relate to one another better in smaller breakout rooms, where it is easier to chat and ensure everyone's voice is heard.

Following up the session with a friendly email letting people know when the next meeting will be helps to keep people engaged.



If you would like to give meeting online a trial, these are two dates we know:

The next Nottingham meeting is 16 March – email Darryl (darrylsinclair@btinternet.com)

The next Birmingham meeting is 22 April at 8.15pm – email Claire (clairew@cofebirmingham.com)



International Association for Children's Spirituality

Mary Hawes writes about an organisation that has much in common with Godly Play UK.

Godly Play's vision is that childhood spirituality should be taken seriously – and the International Association of Children's Spirituality (IACS) exists to do just that.

IACS began over 26 years ago. In June 2000, 132 educators, researchers, and religious leaders from around the world gathered in Winchester for a conference focused on children's spirituality. From this gathering, the International Association of Children's Spirituality was formed.

Since then, IACS has worked to promote and support research and practice related to children's spirituality within education and the wider contexts of children's care and wellbeing. Its aim is to deepen, challenge, and celebrate understanding in this important area of life. Academic research plays a central role, helping to inform and shape practice wherever children are present.

The Association holds a broad and inclusive understanding of spirituality, embracing both religious and non-religious perspectives. It brings together practitioners and academics of all faiths and none, encouraging holistic approaches to children's spirituality and personal development across a wide range of disciplines, professions, organisations, and communities.



Meetings and encounters

Through in-person conferences, online symposiums, and webinars, IACS has explored children's spirituality through many lenses, including neurodiversity, the environment, loose-parts play, death, ritual, prayer, and eco-anxiety. A regular newsletter keeps members informed about upcoming events, publications, and current research.

Membership

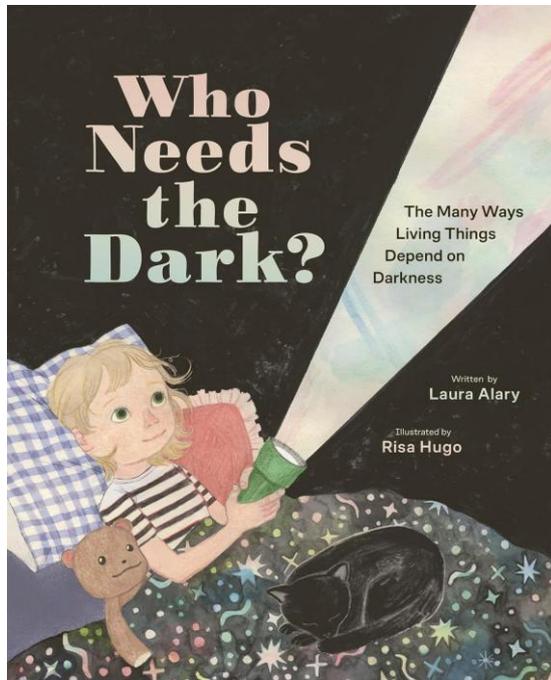
Membership of IACS is free and connects you with a global community of people committed to taking children's spirituality seriously. More information can be found here: [Children's Spirituality – Membership](#)

From 16 – 19 July 2026, IACS will be holding its next conference at Canterbury Christ Church University, exploring children's spirituality in diverse contexts around the world. We would be delighted for you to join us as we learn, reflect, and explore together.

Mary Hawes is a Trustee of Godly Play UK.

Taking your wondering further...

Book reviews



Who Needs the Dark? The Many Ways Living Things Depend on Darkness by Laura Alary and Risa Hugo, 2025, Owlkids

*Reviewed by Fiona Prentice
Fiona is a Godly Play Advocate in Norfolk.*

This is a lovely ‘read aloud and wonder’ bedtime story book with its gentle, lyrical prose but also is full of STEM information, stimulating curiosity. Acknowledging that dark can be scary and hides the unknown, we are encouraged to explore some of the features that make it awesome, and an essential part of God’s plan for Creation to thrive.

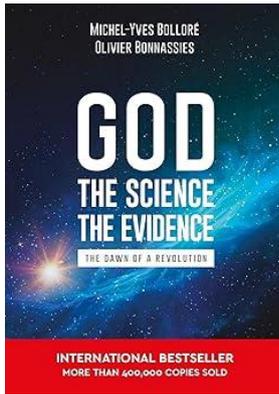
The book’s structure follows a pattern of repetition and extension. A number of characteristics or experiences of the dark, that are important for a child, are described and then related to nature with the repetitive phrase, ‘You are not the only one...’ For example, the relative unbusyness of night enables a time for restoring and healing, allowing the brain to freewheel as it problem solves and builds connections in dreams and imagining. Biological circadian rhythms are important not just for our health and well-being, but essential in the lives of plants and animals too.

Progressively we get a greater appreciation, even compassion, for the dark. The story also addresses the idea of light is good/dark is bad, giving the examples where light dazzles or distracts and darkness can give clarity to the wonders of starlight or bioluminescence.

As Godly Players we know ‘In the beginning there was nothing much except perhaps a great big smile!’ So darkness isn’t the absence of God, God was already there and gave us the gift of light – the gift of light that all light comes from. Perhaps God gave us all darkness that is darkness.

The artwork, by Risa Hugo, blends detailed scientific observation with the realm of dreams, wonder and imagination. The colours are soft and yet appear vibrant against the black base.

The book concludes questioning ‘How do you feel about the darkness now?’ and goes on to give some STEM exploration ideas of how to further your curiosity about the need for dark!



God, the science, the evidence by Michel-Yves Bollore and Olivier Bonnassies, 2025, Palomar
Reviewed by Tom Ambrose

To complement the review of Who Needs the Dark? we offer a recently available book for adults that reflects on the interrelationship between science and religion. Before he became a priest, Tom was a geologist researching the formation of the Cantabrian Mountain chain in the north of Spain.

Since at least the beginning of the 20th century critics have considered it justifiable to debunk Christianity (and religion more widely) by arguing that scientific knowledge has made belief in God unnecessary or improbable. For older children and teenagers, in particular, this position can be seductive, particularly as the adults they know often don't feel confident in presenting an opposing position.

Today, a book first published in French in 2021 presents evidence of all kinds which form 'a solid demonstration of the existence of a creator God'. *God, the science, the evidence* provides clear information to substantiate its claims. Though not hard to read, the book is long, so we offer here a summary of some of the evidence it offers.

The Bible opens with the words, '*In the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth.' Research shows that space and time did begin: 13.8 billion years ago. Creation opened with a 'Big Bang' and the universe has expanded since then. The expansion appears to be carefully balanced: if it had been a smaller bang, the universe would have collapsed, whilst if the expansion had been faster, everything would have flown apart. But, like Goldilocks' porridge, the speed of expansion was 'just right' for the existence of our universe.

Heavy elements like iron were only produced from the collapse of the first generation of stars around 10 billion years ago. These elements included a huge quantity of carbon, the element essential to all life, which was most unlikely. Our sun, with its planets, formed with the third generation of stars, between five and four billion years ago.

Life appeared in the seas 3.8 billion years ago, with the fully formed DNA that is common to all living things and needed for growth and reproduction. Around ½ billion years ago animal life populated the seas. The first plants on land followed this. Life continued to evolve, but there were several mass extinctions of most life in the sea and on land. After each mass extinction, more advanced life forms appeared to populate the earth. Monkeys evolved 45 million years ago, and from them human beings appeared just 300,000 years ago.

The universe appears to be 'fine-tuned' for the development of intelligent life – people who could appreciate it. This is known as the 'anthropic principle'. It appears impossible that this could have happened by chance. Finally, the authors argue, miracles happen, providing detailed evidence of a particular sequence of events that demonstrate that God is still at work in Creation. Even if you cannot read the whole book, it is well worth having a copy with all the evidence to hand.

The Feast

A chance to meet ...

George Watt

George is the Moderator of the North Thames Synod of the United Reformed Church and a Trustee of Godly Play UK.



Godly Play begins with children. Can you tell us something about your childhood?

I was brought up in the Highlands of Scotland. I had a carefree childhood enjoying the freedom of living in the countryside including cycling, playing in the woods and fishing in the nearby burn (stream).

The local Church of Scotland and Sunday School was a central part of growing up. I was blessed with faith-filled and kindly teachers. I was part of a youth fellowship at church, and we were able to contribute to Sunday worship, which was innovative at the time. The Saturday evening Scripture Union Club and summer camps also shaped my faith.

How did you first encounter Godly Play and what were your initial impressions?

A Godly Play practitioner led a ministers' day and I was enthralled by it. It took a couple more times of observing it before I began to think I would like try it out myself. It took a few more years before I undertook the full training.

Would you like to tell us about a memorable place or group where you have used Godly Play?

I have used Godly Play in a number of contexts including in a school assembly, a housegroup and a nursing home. I used Godly Play principles to prepare children for communion when the Church first agreed that they could be included.

What is your 'day job' and what do you enjoy most about your role?

I have been a United Reformed Church Minister for over 30 years and I am currently Moderator of the Thames North Synod of the URC, overseeing 106 churches and supporting over 50 ministers. I enjoy the diversity of the Synod and leading worship in different churches each Sunday. I like to be creative when I am leading worship. I also enjoy the fact that we are exploring different opportunities for Pioneer Ministry.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I enjoy gardening, walking and cooking.

Our Conference

Saturday 6 June 2026 10am – 4pm
St Andrew's Church, Rugby, CV21 3PT



Our speaker

On Saturday, we're delighted to welcome our keynote speaker, Stuart Lee. A former Godly Play Trainer and now a practising psychotherapist, Stuart brings a wealth of experience and rich insight into the therapeutic and spiritual aspects of play.

Afternoon Workshops

You'll also have the chance to take part in workshops designed to deepen your understanding and practice of Godly Play.

- Supporting neurodiverse children in the Godly Play space. This is a long workshop, using the whole afternoon workshop time.
- In Children's Shoes ... continuing the conversation. An opportunity to further explore the themes and dynamics opened up in Stuart's lecture.
- A new story from Volume 8 - Peter's Journey from Galilee
- The Therapeutic Nature of Play
- Q & A on all things Godly Play
- Jerusalem - The Story of Holy Week

Early Bird Booking offer £50 until 5 April

About Stuart Lee



At this year's conference, Stuart Lee will help us to engage with the inner lives of the children we work with.

Through guided discussion and practical exercises, Stuart will invite us to explore how adults can truly listen and respond to the children in our circles. Together we will consider the skills and sensitivities that we might need in order to nurture their spiritual, psychological and emotional growth.

His session will focus on three essential dynamics: Containment, Reverie, and Symbolic Thinking, keys to supporting children in ways that honour their depth and individuality.

Stuart currently works mostly in private practice as a psychotherapist and supervisor in South-West London and teaches fledgling psychotherapists at the British Psychotherapy Foundation. He also runs an experiential reading group for Carl Jung's 'Red Book', which allows him to pursue his interest in the overlap between psychology and spirituality and the role of the imagination. In his spare time, he loves cooking and walking with his border terrier, Dexter.

Enrichment Day: Friday 5th June, 11am – 3pm

Introduction to Godly Play – experience a full Godly Play session followed by space to reflect together. This would be a great introduction for people new to Godly Play and also great revision if you would like to refresh your skills and knowledge.

Jesus and the Women – hear this powerful new story and create the materials used to tell it.

Sitting with Children in Wonder – explore *The Art of Godly Play* and what it means to be truly present with children.

Friday Evening Networking Meal

Join us for a relaxed evening meal on Friday 5th June at 7pm in St Andrew's Church. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, and share ideas.



The poster features a central image of children's feet in white sneakers arranged in a circle on grass. To the right, a blue box contains event details: SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2026, 10:00 - 16:00, and ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHURCH ST, RUGBY, CV21 3PT. Below this is the title 'GPUK Conference 2026: "In Children's Shoes"'. On the left, the text 'BOOK NOW' is written vertically. The main content is divided into three sections: SAT 6 JUNE SATURDAY CONFERENCE (£50* per person), FRIDAY 5 JUNE OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT DAY (£40 per person), and DAY 5 JUNE EVENING NETWORKING MEAL (£20 per person). A QR code is located at the bottom left, and contact information for Facebook, the website, and email is at the bottom right. The Godly Play UK logo is in the bottom right corner.

SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2026
10:00 - 16:00
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHURCH ST, RUGBY, CV21 3PT

GPUK Conference 2026: "In Children's Shoes"

BOOK NOW

SAT 6 JUNE SATURDAY CONFERENCE

Join us for our conference. Our speaker, Stuart Lee, invites us to explore how we can truly listen and respond to children. A variety of afternoon workshops focus on deepening our practice.

£50* per person

*EARLY BIRD RATE ends 5th April then will be normal rate of £60 per person

FRIDAY 5 JUNE OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT DAY

The enrichment day will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm where you will be able to choose to attend one of the following workshops:

- Introduction to Godly Play
- Hearing the new story "Jesus and the Women" and making materials used to tell it
- Sitting with Children in Wonder (The Art of Godly Play)

£40 per person

DAY 5 JUNE EVENING NETWORKING MEAL

Join us for an evening meal to socialise, connect and share ideas in a relaxed and informal setting.

£20 per person

Use the QR code to book now or visit:

f [GPUK Facebook Page](#)
globe www.godlyplay.uk

For any other queries please email: admin@godlyplay.uk

Godly Play UK
making childhood spirituality seriously

Sending out
Events and Training Opportunities
Three-day Core Training

**Leeds, St Paul's Church, LS16 6BS
9 – 11 July 2026**

Trainers: Richard Knott and Alison Summerskill

Booking: [Core Training – Leeds](#)

Cost: £315 for bookings made before 9 April and thereafter £335.

**Leamington Spa, St Mark's Church, CV32 6DL
14 – 16 September 2026**

Trainer: Peter Privett

Booking: [Core Training – Leamington Spa](#)

Cost: £315 for bookings made before 14 June and thereafter £335.

Please note: The course is non-residential and will take place on an upper floor, not on the ground floor. The following accessibility limitations apply: no lift access; no disabled access to the upper floor; participants will need to climb stairs to reach the training space.

**Newcastle-upon-Tyne, St Gabriel's Church, Heaton,
NE6 5QN**

22 – 24 October 2026

Trainers: Susie Steel and Mine Yildirim

Booking: [Core Training – Newcastle-upon-Tyne](#)

Cost: £315 for bookings made before 22 July 2026 and thereafter £335.

**Bristol, St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PD
28 – 30 October 2026**

Trainers: Sian Hancock and Brenton Prigge

Booking: [Core Training – Bristol](#)

Cost: £315 for bookings made before 28 July 2026 and thereafter £335.

**European Conference
20 – 23 August 2026
with a symposium on August 19**

Registration is now open for the European Godly Play Conference in Hungary. Godly Players from all over the world are welcome! Learn more and register: [European Conference Registration](#)



Godly Play Network Groups

Godly Play network groups support practitioners so that they develop their practice in community with others. Frequency of meeting will depend on the membership of the group and what works best for them. Contact details are on the [website](#).

Here are the groups that we know of:

- Birmingham – meets once a term in Northfield area
- Bradford and Leeds – meet regularly; sometimes run making evenings
- Bristol – meets bi-monthly
- Cambridge – often meets on Saturday mornings
- Guernsey – meets half-termly
- South London - new group meeting in Wandsworth
- Norfolk (north and west) – meets at Walsingham
- Norfolk (south, east and Norwich) – meets termly on Saturdays
- North-East England – meets mostly in the summer months
- Nottinghamshire – meets in the evening and online
- Oxfordshire – meeting times vary to accommodate different needs
- Sussex – can load resources; has a Facebook group
- York – meets half-termly at Lidgett Methodist Church; lends resources

Breaking news

We were contacted very recently by the new suppliers of Godly Play materials, Jennyruth Workshops, to say that because of illness and consequent changes in personnel, they are no longer able to continue to produce our materials. This is very sad and difficult news. In the fortnight since we received the news, we have set about finding new ways of resourcing Godly Players and we hope to be able to share some possibilities very soon on Facebook.

We know how difficult this makes things, and we were really not expecting this. We will try to keep you informed of new developments as they happen. Meanwhile, Jennyruth still has materials for sale on their website, drawing on their current stock. Materials can be ordered from the German manufacturer, [Lindenwerkstätten](#). We appreciate that ordering from Germany is more expensive and more trouble, but it is a source for now. If you, or anyone you know, has contacts that may be able to help us, please do get in touch with Chloe, our administrator, in the first instance: admin@godlyplay.uk



May the Good Shepherd,
who knows all of the sheep by name,
lead you to the good green grass
and stay with you in time of danger.
May you find your pearl of great price,
and know that your journey
with all the people of God
who are as many as there are stars in the sky
and grains of sand in the desert.

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It is generously funded by Godly Play UK Associates. To find out more about being an Associate of Godly Play, look at our website:

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/join/>

This issue was devised and edited by
Eona Bell, Gill Ambrose, Peter Privett and Mary Hawes.

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