



WHAT IS TRUTH BE TOLD?

Truth Be Told (TBT) is an intergenerational project that helps churches to connect with local families and care homes through creative, storytelling activities full of gospel life, joy and truth. TBT equips churches with the resources, a full curriculum, training and support, making it really easy for them to encourage parents, children, residents and carers to join as family, enjoying, appreciating and learning together. Just as God intended.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

We believe the church is God's beautiful display of family, of intergenerational love and devotion and TBT exists to show *everyone* that they're invited to belong.

WHAT IS THE VISION?

Storytelling for life:

1. Joyful life. Psalm 118:24 (ESV)
2. Family life. Psalm 139:16 (NIV)
3. Full life. Psalm 95:8 (ESV)



WHAT ARE THE VALUES?

1. We're interested in everyone - it's always **intergenerational**.
2. We create a place for **belonging**.
3. We provide a **high quality**, creative experience.
4. There is **joy** in this place! Then freedom will follow.
5. Our **simplicity** gives imagination free reign.

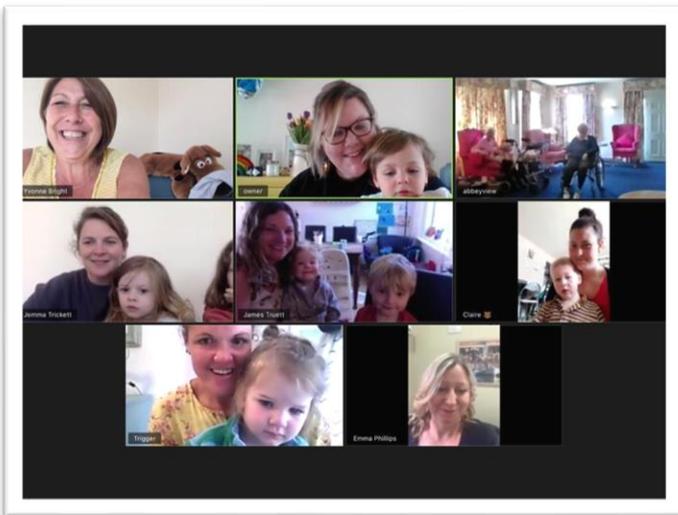
HOW HAS COVID-19 CHANGED THE WAY TBT WORKS?

We want to actually *be* with one another, in the same room, enjoying a storytelling group, but this isn't always going to be possible and we can't let physical restrictions stop the joy and life of being family together. And so now there are a number of different activities available to facilitate our purpose such

as pen-pal style craft, Zoom sessions, car park groups and adapted face-to-face sessions. Which activity to select will vary from week to week depending on how practicable it is to be in close physical proximity with care home residents but there will always be high quality, creative resources available to enable each project to thrive.

HOW CAN TBT BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CHURCH?

- TBT is an innovative, creative and positive project, ideally placed to help churches serve their communities during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
- TBT is like a drawbridge. It provides the local church with the structure to take their community by the hand and include those most vulnerable and isolated.
- TBT is not just social action but gospel outreach.
- TBT is contemporary and profile-raising, which helps to draw community families into the church in a fresh way.
- TBT is easy, requiring very few volunteers, no facilities and just a modest budget.
- TBT provides members of the church with the opportunity to earn money.
- TBT provides training, induction, website, ongoing support and new resources making it easy to launch, maintain and grow the project.
- TBT displays for all to see that the family of God is living and active.



HOW DOES A CHURCH GET GOING?

Winners of the coveted Cinnamon Network Project Lab 2019, the TBT project is now available for replication throughout the church network. If your church has an existing relationship with a care home and runs a toddler group – brilliant! You will just need to approach both with the idea of trying some fun and meaningful activities to bring the generations together. If your church has just one or neither of these ministries already, no problem, TBT can help with ways to initiate relationships with families and/or care homes.

WHAT DOES A CHURCH NEED TO BECOME A TBT PARTNER CHURCH?

1. **A Project Leader/Storyteller.**
 - **Who?** They should be a committed Christian who is enthusiastic and confident communicating with people aged between 1 and 101, making everyone feel comfortable, bringing energy to activities, songs, stories and socialising. They don't need to be of professional standard! Just willing to learn as training is provided.
 - **Commitment?** In advance of starting the project, the Project Leader/Storyteller will need to set aside time for finding families and securing a host care home. Then reading training material (2hrs) and face-to-face online training (3hrs). Depending on the activity for the week, they will also need preparation time (1hr), communication time (30mins) and delivery time (between 30mins and 1.5hrs).
 - **Benefits?** Some TBT sessions run as a social enterprise. This means that as everyone contributes to and everyone benefits from their success, families and the host care home pay so that the Storyteller receives payment for leading the sessions.

BECOMING A TRUTH BE TOLD PARTNER CHURCH

2. Support from church leadership.

This is a church-led project and so there needs to be commitment and enthusiasm for TBT's purpose from the top down.

3. Cheerleaders from within the church. Whilst TBT isn't labour intensive needing lots of hands on deck, it does need ideally two or more people who are willing to support and encourage the Project Leader, helping along the way.

4. At least 6 families with pre-school aged children from the church and/or community. They will need to be enthusiastic about building community with care home residents and the other families whilst joining in with craft, online and face-to-face sessions.



5. A host care home. They will need to be enthusiastic about encouraging intergenerational connections and committed to helping those residents who would like to, engage in activities. They can also view the TBT project as a valuable addition to their spiritual, social and cognitive provision.

6. A modest budget available.

Resources? Some activities will need no materials at all whilst others will need a prop or two, some stickers or bubbles etc. but you will receive a full breakdown of what is needed in advance. Before you begin full face-to-face sessions, you'll need to buy a set of resources provided by TBT.

License fee? TBT is a social action project that works as a community franchise model meaning there is a small license fee of approximately £75 a month to pay in order to access all of the resources, training, support, sessions, music and more.

BECOMING A TRUTH BE TOLD PARTNER CHURCH

WHAT WILL TBT PROVIDE TO A PARTNER CHURCH?

TBT is totally committed to building strong and long-lasting relationships with Partner Churches and helping their project to thrive. We operate an 'open-door' approach to communication, feedback and support wanting to nurture local projects and those who lead them. Here's a summary of some of the things you can expect as a Partner Church of TBT:

1. Face-to-face/online training session for Project Leaders/Storytellers and the wider church team
2. Induction programme and materials
3. List of all props and any other materials needed for each session
4. Use of all template documents, policies and promotional files
5. Access to the members section of the TBT website which gives you (see next page):
 - a. Activity and session plans, stories and curriculum
 - b. The ability to download music playlists for each session
 - c. Extra online training when available
6. For full face-to-face sessions:
 - a. Bespoke TBT bag
 - b. Stickers, balloons, bubbles
 - c. Rug, tablecloth, play parachute
7. Opportunities to build share and learn from other Partner Churches both formally and informally
8. Ongoing support and development



If you would like to find out more, please contact Gemma Gillard, who will happily come and visit in person or online to talk to you and your church about the TBT project:

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BECOMING A TRUTH BE TOLD PARTNER CHURCH

ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR PARTNER CHURCHES!

14 SESSIONS

1. FOOD

2. WATER

3. BODY

INCLUDES ALL SUPPORTING STUFF SUCH AS RISK ASSESSMENTS, SAFEGUARDING POLICY, BOOKING FORMS AND MORE!

EACH SESSION HAS A SET OF DOWNLOADABLE, BEAUTIFUL SONGS, PROP LIST, SESSION PLAN, SET OF STORYTELLING ACTIVITIES AND OF COURSE, A BESPOKE PARABLE-BASED STORY!

- ### TRACKS
- This Little Light of Mine
 - Jesus Loves Me
 - Ring a Ring O' Roses
 - Peace Like a River
 - Mary Mary Quite Contrary
 - Drunken Sailor
 - You Are My Sunshine
 - If You're Happy and You Know It
 - The Wise Man

STORY

THEME: Seaside
 TRUTH: I am Heard
 PASSAGE: Ask, seek, knock (Luke 11: 9-13)
 TITLE: The Big Ice Cream (Adapted by Gemma Gillard)
 PROPS: Four laminated 'Ice Cream Sold Here' signs

Text in square brackets [...] is an instruction to the Storyteller or a recommendation for children to copy

It was a glorious day at (name a favourite seaside, this can vary each time you tell the story). Pippa and her family had just settled themselves on the beach. They were looking forward to a really fun day of play.

SONG & PROP LIST

Seaside
 I am Heard

Encourage children and residents to bring shells/sunhats/sunglasses!

Fast: Running away from a wave
 Slow: Tip-toeing into freezing water
 Loud: Crashing waves
 Quiet: Trying to catch a fish near your feet with a net

	PROP	NOTES
of mine	None	
the contrary	Shells/shells	
to use the	Snacks	(E.g. water/beach wood/toys)

9. SEASIDE

I AM HEARD

IDEAS BANK...

- Can you find a shell and put your ear to it? What can you hear? You might have to listen carefully and quietly... shhhhh...
- Can you play a game of Chinese Whispers? What funny words can you come up with at the end!! Or how about sharing some 'Knock-Knock' jokes?!
- We'd love to see a picture of a beautiful beach-themed collage or scene laid out on a tray!
- Can you design the ice cream of your dreams? You could make it on your bedroom floor...