

OUR VALUES - JOY - BELONGING - INTERGENERATIONAL - HIGH QUALITY - SIMPLICITY

TRUTH BE TOLD

IMPACT REPORT 24/25

Our vision is Storytelling For Life.
Joyful life. Family life. Full life.
Here's how we delivered it for
everyone involved this year.

www.truthbetold.org.uk



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JOY - BELONGING - INTERGENERATIONAL - HIGH QUALITY - SIMPLICITY

WELCOME

Jesus told stories all the time. Between 30 and 50 depending on how you qualify them.

He knew His listeners were story people. That we're all hardwired for story. Which is why we're trying to walk in His footsteps at Truth Be Told.

So whilst I'm constantly astonished by the impact you're going to read about on the following pages, it's no surprise that a simple story can transform a life.

It happened to me - it may have happened to you? TBT is happening across the UK and excitingly, across the world now too. We are so grateful for the support of individuals, funders, churches and other organisations that have enabled this.

So to God be all the glory and may His story be told forevermore.

Gemma

GEMMA GILLARD FOUNDER & CEO





ALL ABOUT US



Truth Be Told is all about Storytelling For Life.

Joyful life, family life and full life.

We bring joy and hope to people of all ages, cultures and abilities through our storytelling sessions, making it really easy for everyone to belong together. Just as God intended.

We partner with individuals, churches and other organisations to **provide resources, training and support** so they can tell stories in their community. Whether in a care home with older adults and children, those with English as a second language, all age church services, schools, those with learning difficulties, whether in the UK or internationally, anywhere people need to find hope and find family.

If you are on the fringes and isolated for whatever reason, there is belonging available.

What we know, and this Impact Report proves, is that **the power of story to unite everyone is profound.**

We have **big ambitions for the future** because we believe the open-arms of the gospel story welcomes everyone home together.

THE NUMBERS 24/25

184

Sessions run in care homes and toddler groups

4480

Total reported attendances across all sessions



21

National and International ESOL (English as a second language) sessions run

JOY - BELONGONG - HIGH QUALITY - SIMPLICITY - INTERGENERATIONAL

21

Nationalities attended ESOL sessions



677

Reported attendances in ESOL groups

217

Storyteller Reflections completed providing our impact data

STORYTELLER PROFILE



PAUL AND JULIE - CARE HOME GROUP

After two and a half years with Truth Be Told, we've built deep connections with many residents, hearing their stories, meeting their families, and walking with them through moments of joy and loss. Some have grown frail and passed on. Others have shared their spiritual journey with us. One gentleman told me he keeps all his Truth Be Told stickers in his room and once brought me a Christian newspaper because he thought I'd enjoy it.

'P', who is non-verbal and physically very vulnerable, listens and responds clearly. As we sang and spoke blessings over her, she quietly said, "Yes, that's true." I couldn't believe my ears. Another woman, 'J', times her weekly visit with her mother to join our sessions. She gently repeats the stories in her mother's ear to ensure she understands.

The children are just as impacted. Pre-schoolers put their hands together to pray and say "amen" with confidence. One three-year-old, after seeing her sister hurt her foot on a day out, shouted, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus help us!" Many sing "Yes, Jesus loves me" both inside and outside the care home. We've watched shy children slowly grow in confidence—learning to share, take turns, and engage meaningfully with their older friends.

Personally, I've been humbled. Often on my knees beside the frail, I'm reminded of the scripture that talks about God choosing the weak and those who are considered nothing. I now find it much easier to approach and connect with older people in general. While visiting Ghana, I saw how oral storytelling remains central in communities where many don't read or write. Local Christian storytellers lead after-school clubs and Sunday schools under trees, teaching scripture through songs, repetition, and the power of the spoken word. It was a privilege to share Truth Be Told with them and to hear reports of them using the project in their community.

STORYTELLER PROFILE



KAREN - ESOL GROUP

Storytelling is something that we do every day, and storytelling with a purpose is something that Jesus did all the time. When I was asked if I would join a team that would use storytelling to bring people of all generations together, it was a no-brainer. We started with a community toddler group, and we saw some relationships built. This then moved into a care home setting, and then a further group was launched, aimed at the ESOL community based in Bournemouth.

I think the most important thing that storytelling brings to the guests in my ESOL group is peace and joy. They have said that it is a time in their day when they don't have to worry about everything else, they can just relax and know that they are accepted and loved. There are many times of joy and laughter as they join in with their children's laughter and have fun with the parachute and bubbles.

One of the most meaningful moments for me was when a Muslim guest asked whether I was a Christian or a Muslim. They were curious because I often speak about Jesus, yet I also greet them with the traditional Arabic greeting, *Peace be upon you*. It gave me a beautiful opportunity to share that I am a Christian, and that I truly do wish them peace upon them. It left them thinking, it opened a gentle and respectful door for deeper reflection.

The storytelling sessions have been a powerful way to build relationships and a sense of community between people from different nations and language backgrounds. One of the most beautiful things to witness is the children, speaking different languages, from different cultures, playing and laughing together with ease. The adults now greet one another, and me, with genuine warmth rather than just politeness. They support each other with their children, share smiles, and even walk to the shops together between lessons. It's a glimpse of the kind of community we long to see more of.

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

VALUE IN ACTION - BELONGING

As a childminder, I'm always looking for new opportunities for the children, and that's how I discovered Truth Be Told. Sophie responded quickly to my enquiry, providing all the details for our first session. She was so welcoming and made us feel comfortable right away. It's wonderful to be part of something that brings joy to everyone in the room. The sessions are uplifting, fun, and full of encouragement from Sophie. Being involved has not only connected us with the local community but also added to the variety of experiences I can offer the children each week.

Guest Childminder

"I have watched the transformation of Addi going from a little girl who was very shy to coming and blowing bubbles with me."

Guest Mum

"The Children themselves make it really enjoyable to be a part of, they seem to have such a good time. It takes me back to when I was their age, and it's wonderful to take part in some of the activities"

Guest Resident George

VALUE IN ACTION - HIGH QUALITY

I love seeing the residents and children interact during the sessions, it's heartwarming to watch them sing and play together. Familiar songs like *Incy Wincy Spider* and *The Buzzy Bee* songs are always a hit. The residents wave scarves to the music, which helps them feel included and adds to the joy.

The songs often bring back memories and encourage reminiscing, which is so good for the residents. Each session has a clear theme, showing how thoughtfully they're planned.

I also enjoy the Bible stories being shared. They've helped me learn more about the Bible, like the fact that there are 66 books! These stories have deepened my understanding in a positive way, without changing my beliefs.

What I love most is the sense of connection. Residents, children, and carers all come together, creating a real feeling of community and belonging. It's uplifting to be part of something that brings so much joy and togetherness.

Care home Companionship Co-ordinator

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

"Such a lovely message, with wonderful stories that brings a real sense of family and community."

Guest Mum

VALUE IN ACTION - INTERGENERATIONAL

It's always heart warming to see the interactions between the residents and the children as they grow more comfortable with each other. A particularly lovely moment was when the children handed out stickers along with the message, "You are precious." One little boy took on his role wonderfully, handing out the stickers and saying the special message clearly. It was so lovely to see the smiles and appreciation from the residents, who truly love being around the children.

Storyteller Sophie

VALUE IN ACTION - SIMPLICITY

"Seeing the children smiling and laughing fills me with happiness. It's just gorgeous. I look forward to Fridays when they come to cuddle me, and afterwards I feel rested and calm."

Guest Resident Viv

VALUE IN ACTION - JOY

"I just love coming. It brings me joy, lifts my spirits, and makes me feel happy every time. Even on days I don't feel well, I still make the effort, because it's the light of my life."

Guest Resident Lynn

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY....

"Thank you for this mornings session it was really great, I loved the story and how easy it was to follow and how you explained the end. The games were really good."

Guest mum

"Will we be doing this when we go to big school?" asked a regular little visitor during one of the TBT sessions.

Guest child



LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...



"Best day ever!" From a resident guest who had heard about TBT and shared with staff that he needed to join us every time.

Guest resident

"I love being greeted by the children. They come and hug me and make my day"

Guest resident



TIMELINE FOR TBT YEAR



GROWTH IN 2024-2025



As we began the 2024 academic year, we knew we wanted to widen our net and reach more isolated communities, in particular those with English as a second language.

We wanted to make it easy for anyone to share a parable-style, gospel-based story wherever they are, without cost being a barrier.

As a result of this research we rebranded and relaunched our website in January 2025 with more options of how to partner with us including the launch of TBT Stories, where for just £5 per month an individual can partner with us and have access to some training and 16 of our stories. The outcome has been incredible with our partnerships more than doubling from 12 to 30.

We've also seen an increase in the settings and locations we're seeing these missional stories being shared, both in the UK and overseas.

We're excited to have been able to create our first Diocese Partnership in Hereford as well as a partnership with a church plant in Asia and a missional community in Ghana.



WHAT'S NEXT?

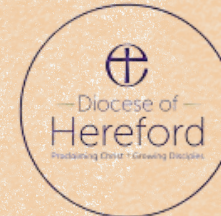
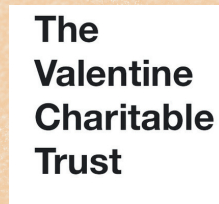
Two-thirds of the world are oral learners, and as we're connecting with more people internationally, we are seeing the need firsthand. Our services are expanding as a result, so get in touch if any of these questions are your questions:

1. How can we tell any Bible stories with anyone?
2. How can we connect the disconnected through missional storytelling?
3. How can we write parables that point to Jesus?

We have the determination and passion to progress but it takes time, energy, people, resources and money and so if you have felt in any way inspired to get involved in any capacity, please do get in touch, we would absolutely love to hear from you: gemma@truthbetold.org.uk

THANK YOU!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNER CHURCHES



BE A PART OF THE STORYLINE...

DONATE 

We only exist thanks to the generous support of our donors and funders. If you would like to support the work of Truth Be Told our bank details are below or visit our website for other opportunities to support us.

HSBC

Account Name: Truth Be Told

Sort code: 40-13-07

Account number: 92808609



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