

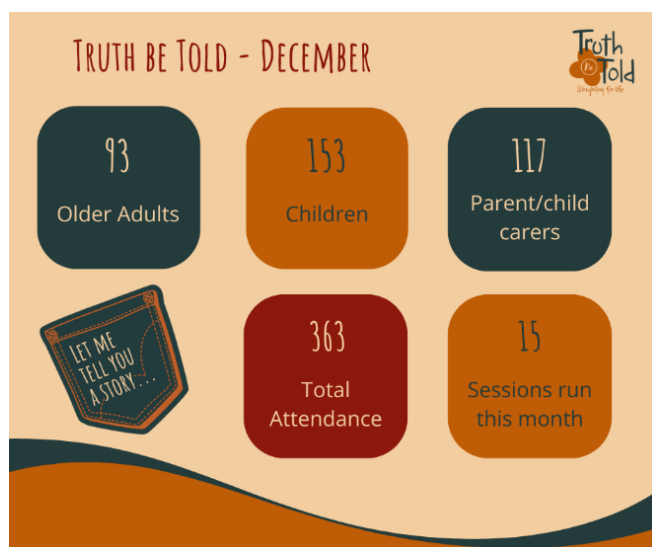


As we start the new year, we can look back on all that has been achieved by our storytellers this year and feel incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work in bringing back belonging. It's been wonderful to see the number of storytellers increase, which in turn means we have seen greater impact across local communities.

This month, we shared a short survey on social media to gather insights into individual charitable giving. We hope to use the information collected to help shape and guide Truth Be Told's individual giving campaign moving forward.

This month also saw Gemma complete The 66 Project, which has been a massive labour of love over the last three years. She has written a story for every book of the Bible while travelling through different countries around the world. Over the coming months, we'll be refining these stories before releasing them, and we can't wait for you to see them.

STORIES FROM OUR GROUPS



Storyteller Vicky from Bournemouth shares how the children were really engaged with the story, standing up tall like Christmas trees and excitedly sharing how they decorate their own trees at home.

Paul and Julie in Poole have shared how wonderful it has been to decorate the snowman with all the children and older friends after their Christmas story.

In Bournemouth, storyteller Abi shared how a lady called Sue had approached her at the end of the session and thanked her, saying how much fun she had had and how delightful it was to watch the little ones participating throughout the morning.

One of Abi's favourite moments was seeing the joy on the residents' and children's faces as the parachute lifted up and down and the bubbles blew over them all.

During the story of *The Lost Sheep*, a little girl pulled a toy sheep along with a piece of wool and all the residents laughed making *baa* noises as she walked past.

Some of storyteller Jill's favourite moments this month were being able to share her Christian faith at the end of the story and singing *Oh come all ye faithful*. One older friend who was unable to speak in understandable sentences, sang this carol word- perfect.



Another lady who comes with the preschool and is usually very quiet, became tearful when she was given a Truth sticker and was told she was adored. She told Jill how much she enjoyed each week and looked forward to coming.





IMPACT REPORT

In Sherborne this month, Yvonne shares how excited the nursery children were to see her arrive to deliver a TBT session, and how one of her favourite moments was finishing the Christmas story with the truth, *You are Adored*. Another precious moment was seeing how joyful little Addi was when she saw older friend Roy from the care home.



Storyteller Verity from Chipping Campden shared the Christmas story with her Storybox Sunday group and tells us how well the children engaged with the activities touching ice cubes and decorating the Christmas trees. Everyone in the room responded with amazement to the drama of the tree sinking into the ice during the story and then heard the truth *I am Safe*, confirming the idea of standing on safe ground with Jesus.



“Wonderful” This was Cynthia’s reply when storyteller Paul asked everyone how they felt about Jesus coming to us at Christmas. One of Paul’s favourite moments was sitting with four older friends at the end of the session and singing some carols together.

Paul and Julie share a precious moment when everyone held hands and danced in a circle while the children sang *Jingle Bells*. They then had an impromptu game of “Find the Sheep”. The children left the room while two sheep were hidden, then returned to search for them. Everyone enjoyed the game, and the older friends were happy to have the children gently poking around as they looked.

At a preschool in Wimborne, Paul and Julie noticed that the children loved being involved when giving out truth stickers at the end. Each child was invited to give a sticker to someone else first, before coming back to receive one for themselves.



TBT ESOL STORIES

HIGHLIGHTS

This month, four TBT ESOL sessions were held in two locations within Bournemouth. Overall, we have had 40 adults attending these sessions, 2 of which were older adults, and 13 children. At least six nations have been represented over this month including Chinese, Iranian, Iraqi, Kurdish, Bangladeshi, Albanian and Turkish.

One of storyteller Karen’s favourite moments was hearing the laughter from the guests as one lady held a felt tree covered by a blue duvet cover and acting out the moment in the story when the tree crashes through the ice.

During the Christmas meal, Karen explained to the ladies who sat around the Christmas table, what a cracker was and showed them how to pull them. These ladies were from Afghanistan and Iran.



IMPACT REPORT



New ESOL storyteller Irwin from Bournemouth shares how enthusiastic his home group of Iranian students were during the story and activity. One of his favourite moments was hearing everyone say the truth together, *We are Welcome*. Irwin read the story in Farsi as well as in English so that the truth of being invited to God's table was fully understood.

Another favourite moment was when one student said he had heard the story before of the wise and foolish men building houses, and this led on well to talk about Jesus being the 'solid ground' in our lives.

