

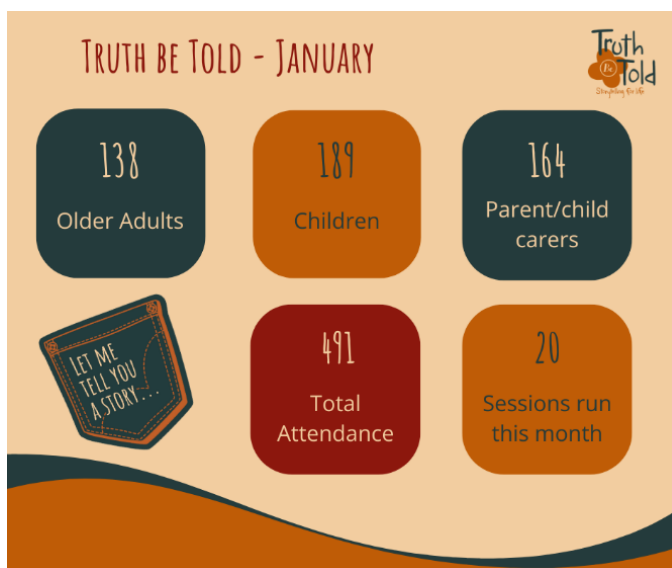
IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 2026

This month, we're thrilled to welcome three new church partnerships to Truth Be Told: North End Baptist Church in Portsmouth, St Clements Church in Boscombe and Encounter Project in Stoke on Trent. These partnerships are an exciting step forward as we continue to share the gospel nationally.



Gemma has had the opportunity to introduce a new storytelling skill at the Diocese of Winchester conference. This technique equips storytellers to creatively and memorably share any Bible story using a five-finger pattern. In addition, she spoke to the inspirational Anna Chaplaincy for Older People (BRF) in the Diocese of Portsmouth about *"The Power of Storytelling"* and attended her first Candlemas Service at the cathedral. She will be returning in the summer to deliver further workshops.



STORIES FROM OUR GROUPS

Storyteller Sophie from Christchurch shared how lovely it was to be back together after the Christmas break. She showed a large picture of the Prodigal Son by Charlie Mackesy and read the words that reminded everyone just how special we are to God. During the session, everyone happily waved scarves during the *Runaway Train* song, and little Ezra was giving hugs to everyone as he left.

Ruth from Thame shared how enthusiastic the children were, shouting out answers and fully participating in the story. There were also beautiful moments of quiet and listening, particularly when Ruth shared the truth from the story: *I am Welcome*.

She also mentioned a new volunteer helper, a grandmother whose grandson is now at nursery, who came early and, though not a believer, felt free to join in prayer, which was very precious. Ruth's favourite moments included seeing the older children engage, which helped everyone participate more fully in the story.



In Dorchester, Jill shared that one resident commented that TBT's visits were the highlight of the week. A special moment came when both children and residents shared what they were thankful for, creating a warm sense of community.

Storytellers Sarah and Jill recalled touching moments when a resident said, *"This reminds me of Sunday school, it's beautiful,"* becoming emotional, and another visitor said, *"This is a memory I will always remember of my mum!"*

Similarly, a little boy excitedly exclaimed, *"I have been found!"* while an elderly lady reflected on her own childhood Sunday school memories.



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Sophie also shared a heartwarming moment in Christchurch when resident Elvia expressed how much she enjoyed seeing the team each week. Children Lacie, Jake, and little Evie each had their own joyful highlights with the story, bubbles, and parachute.

Paul and Julie from Poole shared a moment of belonging as everyone danced and sang *"I'm a Dingle Dangle Scarecrow,"* stretching out their hands and being delightfully silly together. Helen, a night carer who had heard about TBT, joined in on her day off, enthusiastically leading actions and helping others participate. A highlight was when four people raised their hands to respond to the question about being found by Jesus.



A very special moment occurred when a visitor, Julia, who loved the hugs, asked if the team could visit her mother, Pat, who was too unwell to attend. At the end of the session, the group, including three adults and three children, went to Pat's bedside, sang *"Yes Jesus Loves Me,"* and left a sticker on her pillow after a blessing in Jesus' name.



Storyteller Verity from Chipping Campden shared how one visiting mother mentioned that her 4-year-old continued talking about the previous Christmas story at home and could retell it in full, showing how much the story had stuck. The hush of anticipation just before the story began, even from the under-threes with their biscuits, showed how much the regulars were looking forward to the sessions.

Several parents commented on how God spoke to them through the stories, including reminders about letting go of things and giving them to Jesus. Volunteers also found the stories powerful and moving.



Kat Dawson from Stockton on Tees highlighted moments of belonging, noting how people lingered after refreshments, chatting and connecting rather than rushing away. She also observed how engaged the room was during the story, with quiet focus, lively reactions, and a sense of real connection. The use of props and nursery rhymes brought the story alive for all ages, making it a truly beautiful and memorable session



TBT ESOL

HIGHLIGHTS

This month, TBT held four ESOL sessions in Bournemouth and two in Cardiff. A total of 49 adults attended, including three older adults, along with 29 children. The sessions welcomed people many different nations this month, including Pakistani, Kurdish, Afghani, Iraqi, Chinese, American, English, and Jamaican.

One of Karen's favourite moments of togetherness was learning how to say *Happy New Year* in each other's languages. Some children, returning after starting pre-school, quickly felt comfortable and joined in with the group. One little Afghani girl snuggled up to a Jamaican team member, happy to watch the session while her sister joined in actively.

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In Cardiff, storyteller Catherine shared a memorable moment of belonging during the discussion at the end of the story. Several of the ladies began sharing personal experiences, such as forgetting their passports or other important items before appointments. These simple “me too” moments sparked connection and helped everyone feel included.

In Bournemouth, Irwin’s highlight came from hearing four children exclaim “Wow!” as they read and listened to the story of the Prodigal Son in Farsi for the first time.