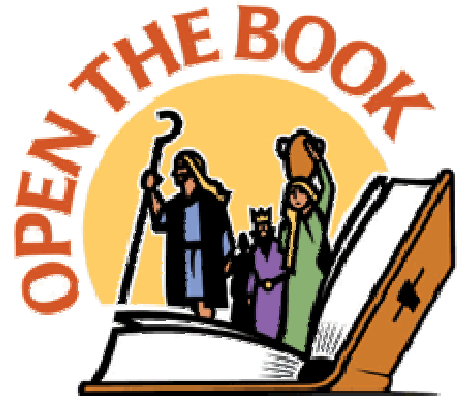


Open the Book



- Interested in a highly-successful project designed to pass on Bible stories to the next generation.
- Want to support your local primary school in a practical, useful way
- Enjoy working in a team, reading stories out loud or maybe creating costumes and props

‘Open the Book’ could be for YOU!

Join us for our next training day.

Date: Saturday 28th February 2009 10am – 4pm
Venue: All Saints’ Church, Newmarket, CB8 8AX

Come and investigate on your own, pay £10.
Bring a team of 3 or more and pay just £20 for all of you!

Course tutors: Helen Matter (Diocesan Schools’ Adviser) and Barbara Gallagher (OTB Suffolk)

‘Open the Book’ Training Day Booking Form

I would like to reserve place(s) on 28th February in Newmarket.

Names of Attendees

Main contact address

Main contact phone

Church Connection

I enclose a cheque for £ payable to DBF (Diocesan Board of Finance).

Please return completed form with cheque to:

Mrs Diane Matthews, St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich, IP1 1UQ

Directions and further course details on booking. Any queries to Helen Matter or Diane Matthews on
on 01473 298570 or email: helenm@stedmundsbury.anglican.org /
diane@stedmundsbury.anglican.org

The 'Open the Book' Project aims to:

- present the Bible in an accessible, enjoyable way
- enable every child to hear the story of the Bible during their primary years
- encourage links between schools and churches in a local context
- equip, encourage and enable adults to work with children in schools in an appropriate way



"Open the Book" began as a series of 30 Bible stories presented weekly in school assemblies. It was an initiative developed first in 1999 with the support of Churches Together in Bedford and offered free of charge to the local primary schools. Thousands of children across the country now hear Bible stories from 'Open the Book' teams. Teams drawn from local churches in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds have already begun work on the project.

The storyteller team for each school is made up of volunteers from local churches which are encouraged to work together. The storytellers have a "how-to-do-it" booklet written by an experienced teacher to reflect the nature of school assemblies and also a simple code of conduct which states that they agree to:

- **present the story simply i.e. to offer a Bible story, not a sermon**
- **liaise closely with their local school, for example, over timing.**
- **prepare the stories to the best of their ability.**
- **show respect & sensitivity to those of other faiths, and of none.**

The stories are based on the Lion Storyteller Bible by Bob Hartman, a Bible story book recommended for use in RE in primary schools across Suffolk and Norfolk. The stories last about 8-10 minutes and give a 'snapshot' of the Bible from Genesis to Acts. There is now material for a 3 year programme.

Many stories use high impact visual aids and simple drama. Props and costumes are made locally, often by older church members, and in some areas stored centrally and shared by several teams.

You can find out more by visiting the Gloucester Diocese website or typing 'Open the Book' into an internet search-engine.

