

Christmas 2025 Newsletter



Volunteer, Chris Pickering, plays the shepherd in the new set

The Christmas Ex-TRA-perience

We are so amazed at how God is growing the Christmas Experience. This year, we've seen a record **2278 children** from **38 schools** visit, and we've increased from three venues last year to **five church venues** in 2025. Plus, we were pleased to lend our equipment and script to a church in Hemel Hempstead to run it in their local school for another 200 children.

In order to expand, we required a second set of scenery, props and costumes so that it could run at two locations at the same time. We used this opportunity to create a set that is easier to assemble and dismantle, transport and store but without wanting to lose the immersive feel of the original set which uses 8'x4' timber stage flats to create temporary walls that divide the church into multiple rooms for each scene of the nativity.

Our solution was to use gazebos that were customised 'in-house' to create the scenes. For example, one had printed fabric that looked like wooden planks, another was painted to have the appearance of a stone wall. It was unanimously agreed that this concept worked and not only made the setup easier, but felt more immersive than the original because of the roofs on the gazebos.

To afford this second set of equipment, we have been so thankful that our 'Sponsor a class appeal' raised a massive **£8679.82** (with Gift Aid). It also meant that for the first time we could produce a custom souvenir booklet with photos from the experience and a poem about the nativity for the children to take home so that they could share the experience with their families.

The feedback from schools has been so positive saying it 'really exceeded our expectations with how professional it is' and 'we look forward to this trip every year.' So many children commented that it was 'the best trip' they had been on. One school even arranged to bring a

second class to visit with less than 24-hours' notice after one group from the same school visited the day before and didn't want the other class to miss out! Other teachers and children came along to our open evenings to the public because they wanted to see it again and share it with their own family. And did you hear that it featured on Premier Radio's 'Inspirational Breakfast' programme on Monday 8th December? There is so much to give thanks to God for, not least the 50 plus volunteers who helped make it happen! Our prayer is that this experience will stay with children and they will want to find out more about Jesus!

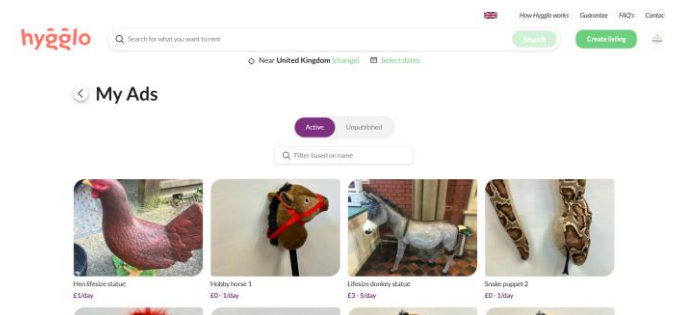


Our Finance and Administration Manager, Alison, steps into the role of an innkeeper in our new set at Muswell Hill.

Borrow equipment through Hygglo

Pathway has been blessed with so many wonderful props and costumes, and it's been a pleasure to be able to lend items like our nativity animals and costumes out to six churches since our Christmas Experience finished in mid-December.

Last year we shared our vision to create a 'Resource Centre' where churches can more easily borrow equipment to use in their Sunday school or holiday club, for example.



Some of the items available to borrow

We have made a start on creating an online catalogue using the platform 'Hygglo.' This enables churches to see what we have available, and to more easily check equipment in and out. However, because this webpage is visible to the general public, to enable us to prioritise lending to churches, it states a rental cost that we would waive for our partner churches. Do get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

You can take a look at
<https://hygglo.com/uk/users/pathway>

Assemblies

The first assembly of the 'Who is this man?' series, where our detectives investigate the 'I am' sayings of Jesus from John's Gospel, spoke about Jesus as the Bread of Life as we retold the feeding of the 5000 and linked this with Harvest.

Our Christmas assembly is about the light of the star that led the wise men to Jesus, linking in with when Jesus said that he is the Light of the World in John 8:12. We explain how in the Bible, seeing the light means coming to know or understand something, and darkness means not knowing. So we contrast Herod's inability to see that Jesus is worthy of worship with the Wise Men's worship of Jesus.



Rachel and Ashley as detectives in the 'Who is this man?' assembly

News from the clubs

Our teaching series before half term went through Genesis and laid some good foundations about creation, and the fall, which is so important in helping the children understanding a biblical worldview.

In the run up to Christmas, we had been looking at highlights from the genealogy of Jesus from Matthew 1

from Abraham through to David and seeing how these point forward to Jesus.

Please be praying for two new clubs we have started and are endeavouring to grow at the Gospel Centre and Christ Church Crouch End where we are hoping that we will get some new children sign up in the New Year.



Volunteer, Alison Hay, teaches how Judah points to the 'Lion of Judah' as part of our series on Jesus' family tree from Matthew 1.

Praying for Pathway – Prayermate app & weekly online prayer

Calling all prayer supporters – one way you can stay up to date with the latest prayer points is by using the PrayerMate app where we'll list what's happening at Pathway. Visit:



<https://prayermate.s3.amazonaws.com/1/f704709986a60ea2df5dcc701ee78ffb5b3cb.html>

We also want to extend an invitation to you to join our weekly short online prayer meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9am during term time. Please email ashley@pathwayonline.co.uk for the link.

Do you know someone who could do a gap year?

Sadly, the Christian organisation in Germany who for many years have sent gap year students to volunteer with Pathway ceases to operate in 2026, so we will no longer be receiving our interns from them.

If you know of young people at your church or further afield that could be interested in giving a year to explore ministry through a theological training course, gaining experience in evangelism in schools and churches alongside a passionate staff team and serving the gospel in North London, we'd love to hear from them. Please contact ashley@pathwayonline.co.uk

Help us to tell your church - Next steps appeal

In June 2023 we shared our vision to grow our ministry not only *wider* in terms of reaching more schools, but *deeper* in terms of the impact on the children's lives, like the life of 'Freddy' whose life had been touched by Jesus through the weekly club he attended. Clubs help us to build strong connections with churches, schools and children.

At the time we ran our 'Next steps' campaign in 2023, Pathway supported 5 clubs in schools and ran 3 Christmas Experiences, and 1 Easter Experience.

Thanks to your generosity and the amazing provision of grant funding, we were able to expand our staff team and now support **13 clubs**, with plans to add further clubs in the year ahead. Our Christmas and Easter Experiences ran at **8 venues** in 2025, reaching more than **3500 children**. And our assemblies reach more than **10,000** children every term.

But more than this, lives are being changed. I was so encouraged to hear about one family who have been impacted by Pathway's ministry this year. Their eldest daughter faithfully attended one of our lunch clubs for two or three years until she moved to secondary school and went on to join the Christian Union there and wants to be baptised. Now her younger sister has joined the same Pathway club. The sisters asked their parents if they could read the Bible together at home, and then, more recently, if they could go to church. Having continued to ask, the parents who had never been to church, didn't know where to begin and approached our Pathway club's worker to ask how they could start going to church. Our Pathway staff worker was able to invite

them along to the church they attend, and the family have been attending regularly ever since.

But this is just one story. Each of these figures represent another young life reached with the gospel.

The expansion on the work is very encouraging, however, in 2026, the grants we received from trusts to fund the Enfield Area Worker role for three years, will come to an end. To be able to sustain our current level of staffing and the amount of clubs and events we now run, we are looking to our supporters and partner churches to help us fund this role going forward.

So we will be launching a campaign in the new year, but would really value your help in presenting this to your church or to others you think would be interested in the work. **Could you speak to your church leadership to ask if Pathway could come and speak at a Sunday service or a prayer meeting? Or could we send you a video and supporting materials to share the appeal yourself?** Ashley would love to hear from you.

Date for your diary – Sponsored Walk 2026

Please join us (or sponsor us) for our sponsored walk on **Saturday 9th May 2026** to raise funds for the ministry of Pathway. More information will follow in the new year.

Would your church like Pathway's help hosting an outreach event in 2026?

Pathway exist to enable local churches to reach children in their community. We'd love to hear from you if you would like Pathway's support for your church to run a holiday club, a family fun day, a Light Party or to host the Easter Experience in 2026. Email ashley@pathwayonline.co.uk to start the conversation.

Giving to Pathway

Our old bank account will close from the end of December 2025 and any existing standing orders still going to that account will sadly not be received.

New Account number: 72311924

New Sort Code: 60 15 20

The Gift Aid form and details of other ways to give are on our website. Thank you!

Happy Christmas
from all the staff at Pathway

