



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

March 2020

Issue 126



**A plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship**

*Preparation: Have some cards with an article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/gb/reports/humanitarian/uncrc19-summary2.pdf>) written at the top of each card, pens, pencils, crayons, scraps of tissue paper, glue sticks and any other bits of suitable materials. The book by Marcia Williams – *Children who Changed the World*, available from Amnesty International (<https://bit.ly/390HErw>).*

Begin by welcoming everyone to this all age worship. Start with a few moments of quiet

## **Read the following passage:**

A young girl was walking along a beach where thousands of starfish had been washed up during a storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up and throw it back into the ocean. She had been doing this for some time when a man approached and said, "Why are you doing this? Look at all the starfish on the beach! You can't begin to make a difference!" The girl listened, paused and after a few moments bent down, picked up another starfish and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean, saying: "I made a difference to that one!"

Adapted from Loren C. Eiseley (1907-1977)



## **Go on to share:**

Some times when we think about things going on the world – the big things like climate change, but also wars or the politics of today we feel overwhelmed and daunted by it all. We say to ourselves it all feels hopeless and difficult to even think about changing things.

But then we look at someone like Greta Thunberg who from very small beginnings and single-handedly began to bring about enormous change. Through her determination to demonstrate outside the Swedish Parliament she started inspiring thousands of young people all over the world to make their voices heard. Her message? Listen to what the scientists are telling us about climate change.

Children and young people are an inspiration to us all. Because children have rights and understand that. They take risks to help and improve the lives of other children.

Greta is now well known for her work, but there are other children who have used their knowledge of human rights to help other children and make a difference. We will hear two of these stories now. The change they effected gives us all hope. Think about what they did and how it might inspire you to do something, particularly about climate change

**Choose and read two stories from the book, *Children Who Changed The World* (see sidebar on page 3 of main issue).** As well as reading the text, talk about what is going on in the pictures and what people are saying.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes 30 rights of the child to help keep children around the world safe and to help give children the confidence to stand up for that they believe in. Print off cards with some of the rights which can then be illustrated. People might have some words you want to add to a card or they might want to share with others – this is ministry.

Give people time to do the activity and bring the cards to place in the centre on the floor or on the table

*Some example postcards are below from All Age Worship at Edinburgh Central Meeting on Sunday 3rd November 2019*

