



Newsletter March 2021

**We really hope you have all been keeping safe and well.
We have really enjoyed being able to keep in touch with you all and have
been working hard to try and support our families as best we can
throughout the pandemic.**



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EXCITING NEWS!



The Place now has its Place in the Town centre!
We moved in during September 2020 and have been working hard to get it set up
and ready for you to enjoy once face to face groups resume.

Our new address is
The Place, The Corn Exchange
Gloucester Street, Faringdon,
Oxon, SN7 7JA
Tel: 01367 244825



STAFFING NEWS!

Lucy is expecting a baby which is due in May – we are so very happy for her, Ryan and their family – such wonderful news. We, therefore, have a maternity cover position to join our small team for 8 hours a week, Tuesday (5.5 hrs) and Wed (2.5hrs). Please find attached the job advertisement with a link that gives all the details. Please do get in touch with Carole if you would like to have a chat about this. Our other update is that we are so pleased to be welcoming Ashley back from her maternity leave in April.



Online Groups & Courses



As most of you know we have been been running various online groups and courses during the pandemic, a New Parent New Baby course, Baby Massage course, First Aid courses, Story Time and Singing groups and Baby groups via the Microsoft Teams App, which have been a real success. These will reduce once face to face groups resume.

For more information on these or to get the link to join please email us at
theplacefaringdon@sprugeons.org



Plans to resume face to face groups...



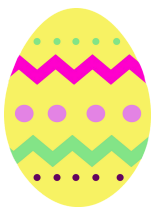
We are hoping to be able to start some groups back after the Easter holidays – We will be running morning and afternoon sessions for families with babies and also Play at The Place sessions for under 5's.

(Baby Place - Tues PM/Thurs AM and Play at The Place - Tues AM/Thurs PM).

To enable social distancing these groups will be limited to a maximum of 6/7 families and will need to be booked in advance. For families to be able to form relationships and to get the best out of the experience, we are offering a 4/5 week block of sessions for each family. We are aware of how different this is to how we previously run groups and also that it will mean that we may need to run a waiting list for our groups.

We are looking at various ways to enable us to connect with as many families as we possibly can within the guidelines of keeping everyone safe and also taking into account our staffing capacity. With this in mind we are planning to continue some of our online groups and courses for those of you on our waiting lists. We are also hoping to offer buggy walks and outdoor play sessions as soon as we are able too.

Please email theplacefaringdon@spurgeons.org if you would like to be added to the list for any of the above groups (face to face, online, outdoor, buggy walks).



FREE Easter Craft Packs



We are putting together some Easter Activity Packs for toddlers/preschool children and also one suitable for babies.

Please email us if you would a pack and we can arrange when these can be collected from The Place. We would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thanks to Cllr Bethia Thomas who asked for donations in lieu of birthday presents to go to The Place and these donations have partly been used for the Easter Packs. Thanks also to the for Museum of Natural History for providing resources and also a big shout out to Perry Bishop Estate Agents for kindly supporting The Place by providing all the photocopying needed for these packs. Can we also take this opportunity to thank Bethia's sons Thomas and William Sutton who raised money for The Place doing their own virtual sponsored walk from Faringdon to London during lockdown one.

Clothes Library



We would like to thank Joanna, one of our volunteers, for her hard work sorting out the donations to the Maternity and Baby Clothes Library. We have been delivering bundles to anyone in the local area. If you, or anyone you know, is expecting a baby and in need of maternity clothes, or your little ones have had a growth spurt and nothing fits, please do get in touch and we can arrange a delivery to you.



Volunteers



With our new home in the Corn Exchange and our groups hopefully soon to be able to start up again, we are always looking for volunteers – so if you know of any friends/family who have older children at school and who would be available to support sessions or with our clothes library please do ask them to get in touch. We are also looking for volunteers to join our fundraising committee, to help raise much needed funds to enable The Place to continue to support families in the town. Even if you just have an hour or so free now and then we would love to hear from you. On this note, we are also looking for a parent who attends The Place to become a member of The Steering Board which oversees the project.

Please do get in touch with us for more information or if you are interested in any of the above, contact Carole on 07973 678837
email: cgough@spurgeons.org.



Ongoing Support



Carole and Lucy are available via text, phone and email on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm, if you fancy a chat or have any questions we really would love to hear from you. For more information on how we can support you at home or if you would like to join any of our online groups or courses; please email us at: theplacefaringdon@spurgeons.org or call: Carole on 07973678837 or Lucy on 07973678827

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

We hope to see you all very soon.

Carole & Lucy