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Storytelling & Interpretation

CTA National Convention

Virginia Simpson – Education Officer

November 2006



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Storytelling & Interpretation

- Human stories
- Building story
- How to choose?





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What makes a good story?

1. Well known locally / nationally; well documented; easily illustrated
2. Involves famous character
3. Building has links with story/ film
4. Audience relate/ take something from
5. Suspense, narrative, choices, a crime!





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How do you tell your story?

- Costumed professional actor
- Volunteer actor
- Volunteer story teller





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Practicalities of telling a story in church

1. Choose your space
2. Encourage participation
3. Use the whole building





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Who are your audience?

- 0 – 6's/ families;
general interest group e.g. rambling club
- School group: probably 7 – 11's;
Youth group e.g. Brownies
- Specialist group e.g. local history society



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Add visuals

1. Items of costume for actor
2. Items of costume for audience
3. 'Contemporary' props
4. Modern props





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Involving your communities

- Older volunteers
- Intergenerational work
- Younger volunteers
- Specialists





What skills might be needed?

- Able to speak clearly & make eye contact
- Able to establish rapport with audience
- Enjoy communicating!
- Feel passionately about building
- Have time to 'learn' story
- Be able to adapt story where necessary



Avoiding pitfalls!

- Storyteller not up to the job, not available
- Competing for your audience's attention
- Audience does not have the time
- Audience does not have the attention
- Audience does not want to participate
- Audience is mixed-age



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Training

1. Directory of Storytellers -provides up-to-date information on storytellers working in Britain.
0171 359 9103
2. Sharing our Story – A Practical Guide for Churches wishing to welcome visitors to their Church produced by The Christian Heritage of Northumbria. See Andrew Duff.
3. Past Imagined – Stewart Alexander
email: contactus@pasttimeimagined.co.uk



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