

# Contents

<b>Story</b>	<b>Main theme</b>	<b>Page</b>
Foreword by Canon Martin O'Connor .....		5
Introduction.....		6
David and Arthur's Story.....	Autism/Difference.....	7
Katherine's Story .....	Bullying .....	11
Joshua's Story.....	Second chances .....	15
Mr Ripple's Story.....	Taking risks .....	19
Evan's Story .....	Disability/Difference.....	23
Tom's Story.....	Mistakes.....	27
Mr Carmichael's Story.....	False accusations.....	31
Scarlett's Story.....	Bullying .....	35
Archie's Story.....	Safeguarding.....	39
Mrs Groves' Story .....	Death .....	42
Billy's Story.....	Embarrassment/Humour .....	46
Aaron's Story .....	Putting people on a pedestal.....	50
Marley's Story .....	Fitting in.....	54
Daniel's Story.....	Racism .....	57
Mr Jenkins' Story .....	Making time for Jesus.....	61
Cameron, James, Jasmine and Derek's Story .....	Phobias .....	65
Henry's Story .....	Family breakdown.....	69
Mr Peters' Story .....	Getting things out of proportion.....	73
Conrad's Story .....	Labelling.....	77
Eddie's Story.....	Alcohol abuse/Desperation.....	81
Mr Johnson's Story.....	Child protection .....	85
Matthew's Story .....	Disability .....	89
Karnel's Story .....	Slippery slope .....	93
Scott's Story .....	Disability/Children's mental health .....	96
Ethan's Story.....	Humour .....	100
Mrs Barley's Story.....	Pride .....	104
Nadia's Story.....	Vulnerability.....	108
Father Liam's Story .....	Disappointment .....	113
Serena's Story .....	Medical conditions.....	116
Mr Terry's Story.....	Valuing what you have .....	120
Mr Duncan's Story.....	Making time for God .....	124
Benny's Story .....	A way out of trouble .....	128
Danny's Story.....	Being overweight/Difference .....	131

## Contents

---

<b>Story</b>	<b>Main theme</b>	<b>Page</b>
Samaya's Story.....	Honesty is the best policy .....	135
Nicola's Story.....	Divorce .....	139
Harry's Story.....	Annoying habits .....	142
Darren's Story.....	Safeguarding.....	145
Comfort's Story.....	Girl power!/Equal opportunities .....	149
Lottie's Story.....	Adoption.....	152
Luke's Story .....	Dementia .....	156
Mr Reynolds' Story .....	Rejection.....	159
Gary's Story.....	Christmas/Humour.....	163
Dominic's Story .....	Getting out of bother.....	165
Mickey's Story.....	Making mistakes without thinking.....	169
Daniel's Story.....	Homesickness.....	173
Anna's Story.....	Overcoming tragedy.....	177
Archie's Story.....	Keep trying .....	180
Ashan's Story .....	Peer pressure.....	184
Damien's Story .....	Respecting others.....	188
Tommy and Jacob's Story .....	Falling in and out of friendship .....	192

# Foreword

Storytelling is the essence of human communication: through sharing our own story, and being drawn into others', we grow in understanding, self-knowledge and wisdom. Research suggests that we make sense of much of the world around us by organising our observations in story form; that is, we humanise or personalise information in order to grasp more fully its meaning for us.

Jesus of Nazareth was the story teller par excellence! His parables are as fresh and instructive today as when those gracious words first fell from his lips. His ancient stories continue to give deep meaning to modern lives.

In this collection of stories, Gary Nott deploys the very best techniques of storytelling. Using modern situations and idioms, which are familiar to children, he communicates the wisdom found in Jesus' parables.

Everyone has challenges and problems in the routine of daily life: sometimes we refer to them as Crosses we have to bear. These stories powerfully illustrate The Master's example and encourage those who are burdened to imitate him in his determination to do The Father's will. Perseverance – that is a lesson which Christ teaches us – to keep going despite the heavy burdens we may have to carry from time to time.

I regularly witness whole-school assemblies at St Bede School where both pupils and staff are captivated by the wondrous story-telling of this inspirational headteacher. I am very pleased to commend his collection of stories as a powerful resource for the transmission of Christian values.

Canon Martin O'Connor, Chadwell Heath, England

# Introduction

I have always found collections of assembly stories to be like recipe books. I would use one or two but the vast majority would not appeal. When I was first a Head, I bought lots of collections – only to use just a handful of tales. It was an expensive business. I wanted to write a book where you would want to use most, if not every story contained within. As a headteacher of 20 years' standing, I have led lots of assemblies, hundreds. Since 2012, I have been the headteacher of a faith school. This brings with it a new dimension. Assemblies are explicitly Christian in nature. That said, I now realise that my assemblies earlier in my career, when leading non-denominational schools, fell short of the requirement that they too should be broadly Christian in make-up. They weren't. They were largely secular. I didn't have the confidence to make a link to the Christian traditions. The stories in this collection all can be used to convey a Christian message. For some tales, the link is made in the teacher's notes and can be explored once the story is told. Other stories have the Christian message explicitly conveyed during the telling of the story through a Bible reference. I make reference to Collins' *The Rainbow Good News Bible* (2009) throughout.

However, the stories in this collection have a dimension that is even stronger than the Christian one. They are all modern stories. They deal with issues that children in the 21st Century can relate to: bullying, racism, embarrassment, peer pressure, disability, breakdown of family life, death – and the list goes on. Some will make your children laugh, whilst others will prompt them to reflect deeply. I hope that the stories are good stories rather than good stories for primary aged children. As such, your staff will enjoy them as much as the pupils.

Although the stories are primarily aimed at KS2, I have used them with KS1 and KS3 too.