

Blazing a trail

Blaze is an important part of how the Presbyterian Church in Ireland wants to encourage a lively and growing interest in being involved in global mission from the youngest to the oldest member.

You can help capture the breadth of that emphasis visually, by taking a photograph of Blaze with children or families in your congregation and sending it to rbromley@presbyterianireland.org

Your photo will become part of a growing gallery of publicity used to further promote Blaze and what God is doing to stimulate our appreciation of the greatness of his work in the world.



GLOBAL DISCIPLES



Learning together
to be a global disciple



Presbyterian
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Introducing Blaze

Blaze the bee is a new way of helping children and families in congregations right across PCI explore how God is at work in the world and what it means for them to be a global disciple, doing what they can to play their part in God's global mission.

This includes learning about, and praying for, global mission workers, God's church around the world and a Christian approach to big issues like creation care.

The Blaze character has been provided to your congregation for use in children's addresses and other activities such as Sunday school or uniformed organisations.

You will know best where Blaze fits and will have most impact in the particular shape of your congregation's children's ministry.



Materials following soon

Materials to be used in conjunction with the Blaze character will be made available at several times throughout the year, offering simple and readily usable outlines to give a child-friendly window on a variety of aspects of global mission.

The first set of materials to be released soon on the PCI website will offer simple outline content for use in an all-age service, a children's day service or an open Sunday school.

A children's address will follow in time for harvest services. By that stage, Blaze will also have travelled to visit one of our PCI global mission workers and will help us to understand something of the work that they do to reach others, both practically and spiritually, in a very different part of the world to ours.

Blaze will then feature in material released three times throughout the year from 2023.

Congregations will be made aware of new material becoming available on an ongoing basis and it will be available for download at www.presbyterianireland.org/blaze

Creating a buzz

So, you'll be hearing and seeing a lot more about Blaze in future. You may want to wait until the first set of accompanying materials appear to introduce Blaze to the congregation, or you may want to get started straight away.

Below are three simple ideas for helping everyone in your congregation become familiar with Blaze as a character readily associated with global mission:

1. In a church service, Sunday school or children's organisation, use Blaze to help you look at a map of the world together. Choose a country to learn about, perhaps one in which you already have a link with an overseas mission worker or project. Follow up by learning more about what God is doing in that country and praying for God's church there.
2. Buy a travel journal for Blaze. Have a child or family take Blaze home for a week, choose a country to learn about what God is doing in mission or the church, and add what they have found out to the travel journal. Children or families could briefly report back to the whole church or group and you could pray specifically for that country.
3. Take a photograph of Blaze in a setting local to your church which pictures an aspect of creation care e.g. a recycling centre, a wind farm, a bird or animal sanctuary. Use the photo of Blaze on location to help children grasp that caring for God's creation is part of what it means to be a global disciple.

A good child-friendly map can be found at operationworld.org