



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will schools really want to visit an exhibition about Jesus?**

Experience so far demonstrates that schools are very keen to visit the exhibition. It has been developed to complement the Key Stage 2 Non-Statutory RE Framework, and with the vast majority of venues we have visited, day time slots for school visits have been fully booked before the exhibition arrives.

### **If COUNTIES is an agency for evangelism, is this appropriate if schools are visiting the exhibition?**

COUNTIES is committed to supporting the work of evangelism in the UK. However, we understand that when working with schools, the truth of the gospel must be presented in ways that are appropriate to the educational context. We have worked hard in the development of the exhibition, to be faithful to the unchanging truth of who Jesus is and why he came, and to do so using methods and language that are acceptable to schools.

### **How many people will need to be involved in helping to staff the exhibition?**

During school visits, around 8-10 helpers will be needed depending how the different volunteer roles are assigned. During the evening, a slightly lower number will normally be required. In addition, approx 5-6 helpers will be needed to unload/load the lorry, and assist with setting up and dismantling the exhibition. A briefing session will be planned for approximately a month before the exhibition, to ensure all helpers are confident and familiar with how the exhibition will operate.

### **Are you sure we will be able to man to exhibition ourselves without continuous COUNTIES support?**

Experience of previous venues has proven that churches are very capable of running the exhibition without permanent on-site COUNTIES support. Telephone support is available whenever it might be required, and in the unlikely event of it being necessary, someone would travel to the location to resolve a particular problem.

### **Why does it cost £2,000 per week to host the exhibition?**

A significant investment has been necessary to develop and launch the LIFE Exhibition. Whilst this is now all paid for, it is still necessary to cover the ongoing operation costs, which include salaries, insurance, transport costs, printing, literature, maintenance and other general expenses. We ask hosting groups to prayerfully consider if they can cover these costs by means of a donation to COUNTIES.

### **What happens if we don't think we can raise £2,000**

We recognise that some smaller fellowships may struggle to raise this amount. In these cases particularly, we encourage churches to pray about (perhaps) working with other local churches, and to think creatively of other ways of raising the money, for example special gift days. We would want to work with churches to ensure that finance is never the sole reason for not hosting the exhibition.

### **How much space is required for the exhibition?**

Ideally 160 – 180 sq metres floor space is needed, although this doesn't have to be all in one room, as the exhibition is modular and therefore very flexible. The exhibition can operate from approx. 120 sq metres with some minor compromises.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (cont)**

### **If we invite school classes during the day, what happens at night?**

We want the exhibition to be used as effectively as possible, and the evening sessions particularly offer scope for churches to be creative. The exhibition co-ordinator will discuss ideas with local organisers, and share experiences from previous venues, to ensure maximum effectiveness.

### **Do we have to invite school classes?**

Whilst the exhibition has been designed with school visits in mind, we do not wish to be prescriptive in deciding how it should be used. We want to encourage flexibility and creativity, and will happily discuss with prospective hosts, new and different ways of using the exhibition.

### **Does the exhibition have to be set up in a church?**

No. A community based building can sometimes be seen as more accessible to non-churchgoers. However, the exhibition once set up will occupy the premises until dismantled, and often it can be difficult to secure community based premises for an extended period. COUNTIES encourages consideration of other locations, such as schools etc, where this suits the proposed use of the exhibition.