MAF plane lands in Chesham playground to launch Advent

PHOTO: ROB SHILLITO

A two-seater Cessna 150 aircraft 'landed' in the playground of Hawridge and Cholesbury CofE Primary School on Thursday 30 November to kick-start the festive season. The display aircraft was accompanied by James Gullett — a former pupil who will soon become the youngest British MAF pilot when he qualifies in 2024, aged 22.

James will be the first to complete MAF's Future Pilot Programme, which was launched in memory of co-founder and D-Day landings veteran Stuart King, one of MAF's founders, who James met in 2017. Stuart passed away in 2020 aged 98, leaving a legacy of encouraging younger generations to join MAF. James shared this vision at his former school by inspiring students to dream about making a difference through aviation and mission.

He said, 'It's a real joy to be back at my old primary school to showcase an amazing charity which has deeply impacted me. I hope it inspires these pupils to make a big difference in our world, just like Stuart did all those years ago.'

More than 200 excited pupils gathered for a school photograph in front of the plane — which featured in the local press — after hearing an inspiring assembly about MAF's life-saving work. The school is joining MAF's Advent Adventure — a free resource which takes primary-aged children on an interactive, digital journey across 24 of the low-income countries where MAF flies.

Headteacher Rosie Philips said, 'It's easy to become focused on the gifts we hope to receive at Christmas, but today our school community stopped and thought about some of the vulnerable and remote places where MAF is facilitating life-saving work. We were so excited to welcome the plane into our playground and to hear from James, which really brought it to life.

'During Advent, we would like to encourage every child to reflect that Christmas is about giving, not receiving. These are the values that will shape a successful future.'

Pause for prayer

MAF's Advent Adventure will be accessed by roughly 38,000 children and their families during the countdown to Christmas. Please pray that the young people and their parents will be blessed, inspired and informed as they learn about MAF's worldwide mission.

Order your special gifts

We are all feeling the pinch this year due to soaring prices and great uncertainty. So, as you consider your Christmas gift list, why not choose to shop with MAF? We have affordable gifts that will not only bless your loved ones but will change lives in the most isolated parts of the world. For festive ideas, visit **www.maf-uk.org/shop**

MAF podcast

If you are taking some time out, or maybe plan for some wintery walks this festive season, why not listen in to MAF's podcast *Flying For Life* as you stroll? With four episodes containing in-depth interviews, be transported to some of the remotest places from the comfort of your home. Visit **www.maf-uk.org/podcast** to listen for free.

MAF UK Castle House, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TQ
Scotland Office Challenge House, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 0AD
T 01303 852819 **E** supporter.relations@maf-uk.org
www.maf-uk.org
MAF UK @MAFUK MAFUK @flying4life MAFUKFILM
Registered charity in England and Wales (1064598) and in Scotland (SC039107)
® Registered trademark 3026860, 3026908, 3026915