



# Monthly Reflection, November 2014

## *Choose your own ending*

Do you remember those 'Choose Your Own Ending' books? At the end of a chapter you could choose from a selection of next chapters depending on where you wanted the story to go. I confess I only read one and didn't really enjoy it. I think I like the security of a linear narrative – of knowing where I'm going next.

Reading with my middle son is a bit like a 'Choose Your Own Ending' story. He can read well for a six year old but he does like to create his own extras. He reads the text and then adds his own information: a few sound effects, how the characters are feeling, extra stories he sees in the pictures, even a few actions! Consequently reading can take a long time. But he isn't bound by a fixed narrative, he sees the possibility of different storylines and different endings and he wants to explore these.

For many children in today's society the possibility of a new story, a new path through life just isn't there. Trapped in poverty or neglect they struggle to see a brighter future or to see a way out. The Children's Society has helped change children's stories for over a century, and is beginning to change the story for the 23,159 children they worked with last year. Offering a chance of an alternative ending for those who runaway; a brighter future for families trapped by debt; a new path for neglected children.

Jesus knew a new narrative was possible for many. He knew the history of the woman caught in adultery and in a short conversation showed her the possibility of a new path. Jesus knew Zacchaeus' story; he ate at his house and showed him that there was an alternative. And over the years God has continued to show people the possibility of a different ending in others and in themselves.

So the question is do we believe in a better ending? A new narrative? For ourselves, for others and for so many children. And if we do what are we going to do about it?