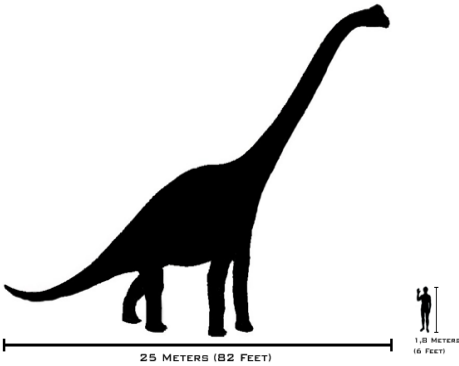


How Big?

WRITTEN BY LYDDY GRAY



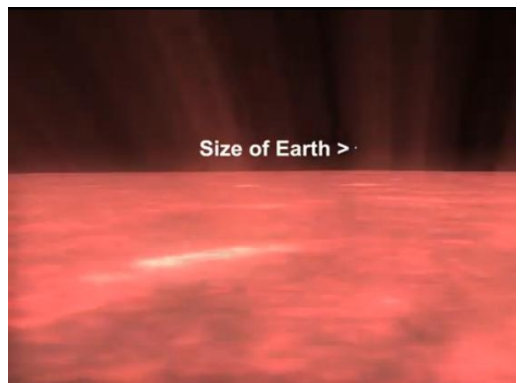
At Girls' Brigade, the Junior section is doing a badge about humility, and an activity called 'How Big is Big?' stood out as worth sharing. When we think of things that are big, we might start of thinking of an elephant, a cruise ship or even a blue whale, before moving up to cities (the biggest being New York's Metropolitan area), countries (the biggest being Russia) and then even the whole world.

It's a lot harder to really understand the scale of things much bigger, but the activity had a good guide:

- The sun is big enough to fit 1.3 million Earths inside it.
- A star called Antares is big enough to fit 64 million suns inside it.
- One of the stars in a constellation called Hercules is big enough for 100 million Antares to fit inside.
- One of the largest known stars, Epsilon, could fit several million Hercules' stars, or 27 billion suns.

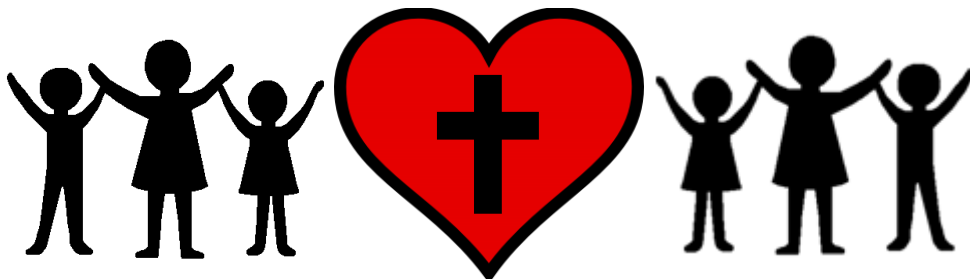
[Another good guide can be seen online, in the Star Size Comparison video.]

We can hardly begin to visualise how big those stars are, but there's more. The universe is the biggest thing that exists, because everything else is part of the universe. We have no idea how many stars there are, but it's without doubt a number so large we don't have a name for it yet, and even with all these countless stars, millions of times bigger than the sun, the universe is mostly empty space.



Earth compared to VY Canis Major 1, another one of the largest known stars.

It's a sobering thought, and made not just the Juniors but the Girls' Brigade leaders feel very small. However, this tininess, what makes us seem insignificant, is actually a reason to celebrate. Even bigger than the universe is God; logic would say the Earth is miniscule and unimportant to someone so big and powerful, let alone one of the 7 billion people on it, but God is infinite in love, too, and every single one of us can count on the love of God despite being so small.



GIRLS' BRIGADE SUMMER CAMP



Our Girls' Brigade company, 1st Leyton, are going on a joint Summer Camp with 2nd Leyton, who meet at Trinity Methodist Church. This annual tradition involves a week at the seaside; this year they are going to Clacton for five days.

Prayers for a fun, safe time and some good weather are much appreciated.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Schools, colleges and universities are on holiday over the summer, and, at least in Waltham Forest, the Summer Holiday is from Thursday 25th July to Friday 30th August. Over the holiday, the Pre School, Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade, Beavers, Scouts and Tae Kwon Do will not be meeting.

