



Christians and Sheffield Schools

connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

ESTABLISHED 1985

Ministry Partner of 
Scripture
union

“Are you tired? Worn out? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

The busy Summer Term has arrived for schools with its public examinations, sports days, trips, report writing and perhaps some sunshine! With headlines continuing to remind us of the pressure many teachers and pupils feel, do continue to pray for them. We hope our termly prayer diary helps you to do so.

CaSS has been working hard since our last mailing. Here are a few highlights.....I read two Christmas stories for Radio Sheffield, with one broadcast on Christmas Day. We have just distributed almost 3000 free Scripture Union Easter story comics, as a follow up to the 5000 (we had requests for 5600!) given out to schools and churches at Christmas.



I spoke at an Aurora Children’s Ministry Course (facilitated by Sheffield Diocese & YMCA. Accredited by Cliff College) in January and offered practical ideas churches might use to connect with and serve schools. I shared some concerning facts & figures regarding UK schools and the work of CaSS at St. Thomas’,

Crookes in March. I will be speaking at St. Andrew's URC in April and at a Deanery meeting in July.

I learnt more about the excellent mentoring work of TLG, went on the very useful and informative two day 'Unique' training course.

The Joined Up conference with partners, The Diocese, The Methodists and the YMCA was the focus of much of our attention during the Easter Term. The conference was a great success, with almost 200 people gathering together at St. Mary's, Bramall Lane. There were 2 keynote speakers, 18 different workshops, 4 short stories and 18 stalls in the marketplace. We were encouraged to receive lots of really positive reviews from delegates about all aspects of the day! For pictures and videos of the day, including both keynote presentations. www.joinedupconference.com Next year's event will be held on Saturday 11 March 2017.



As mentioned in the last mailing there are now 12 sets of RE lesson ideas on our website www.cass-su.org.uk and we have some RE resource boxes (e.g. crosses from El Salvador, Mother Teresa) to lend to schools. We are working on publicity to send out to schools and on further lesson ideas. The boxes of crosses were used in 5 schools in the last week of the Easter Term. If you are passionate about great RE teaching about Christianity, we need donations in order to purchase more resources to lend to schools.

A Code of Practice for those working in schools can now be found on our website and a helpful tick list for schools visiting a church building.

We have developed a flyer to advertise 'Gabi's Grief Boxes' - bereavement books and materials available for loan to schools. The boxes are named in memory of Sheffield schoolgirl Gabi Smith who died aged 12 in 2013. The boxes were developed with the kind financial support of The Keswick Hall Trust. If you would like to make a donation to allow us to purchase more books, perhaps in memory of a loved one, do contact us.

In June the country will celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday. Scripture Union have produced a 12-page schools' version of 'The Servant Queen & the King She Serves' book, sold in packs of 10 for £1 (plus P&P) which includes lesson and assembly outlines themed on the Queen and aimed at children aged 10+. Available through CPO at www.cpo.org.



CaSS will also be refreshing the Transition Box of materials for churches to use with schools on transition days, perhaps alongside the SU 'Let's Move' (£3.50) booklets available from CLC, Sheffield.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Emily or I, if we can help with your ministry to schools. We are both in the office each Thursday.

Fiona Walton. CaSS Office 291 Abbeydale Road Sheffield S7 1FJ Tel: 0114 249 5343 Registered Charity: 1007305