



Christians and Sheffield Schools

connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

ESTABLISHED 1985

Ministry Partner of
Scripture
union

Easter Term 2017

**‘He will be called Amazing Counsellor, Strong God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace/Wholeness.’**

Isaiah 9:6

At CaSS we recognise the need many school staff, children and young people have for a Wonderful Counsellor, a Mighty God, an Everlasting Father and a Prince of Peace (or Wholeness - The Message). The work we are doing at CaSS, and seek to undertake in the future, reflects this recognition. Here is a flavour of our activities this term

A proportion of this term’s time has been spent researching school chaplaincy and meeting some school chaplains from across the city. This has been undertaken with the aim of running training courses, support groups and resourcing those interested in becoming school chaplains. We believe a chaplaincy volunteer working in a school, for example six hours a week, can make a huge difference to a school’s ethos and to pupil or staff well-being.

CaSS has continued to work on the resources we offer. Several RE lesson ideas have been added to our website at www.cass-su.org.uk , as well as other links and advice within our 26 categories. We put together a Pray Day sheet of suggestions for those holding prayer meetings for a school. Find it [here](#).

Gabi’s Grief Box of resources has been out on loan to a local special school, who often have to deal with loss within their community. I enjoyed speaking about CaSS at Beauchief Baptist 80th Birthday celebrations. We have reviewed Y6 transition sessions used in Springfield & Parson Cross schools in July by Kinder Kalsi and Phil Goodacre and we hope to produce multiple boxes of the materials and increase the teams using them.

Additional resources for Open the Book groups are available for loan and I have narrated for an Open the Book group and ferried props across the city to various OTB groups.



Emily and I have started to identify and write to 16 churches for whom we would like to produce individualised school-church visit packs. CaSS was delighted to hear, with many others, about the launch/preparations for The Higher Tour/Shine planned to reach South Yorkshire schools and young people in 2019. A CaSS Christmas tree formed part of the Millhouses Methodist Christmas Tree Festival and I helped with two of the several school visits to the church, where the children heard the Christmas story. We have distributed more than 4,300 Scripture Union Christmas Story Comics, through our contacts.

The CaSS trustees and I meet monthly to pray for Sheffield schools. Our Prayer Diary is attached to this mailing to help you pray for the work of CaSS and for schools around the city over the Easter Term. In addition trustees and others meet regularly as a management group and we held our AGM this term. Our annual report for September 2015 – September 2016 is now on the [CaSS website](#).

May I draw your attention to the following statement from Martyn Edwards (Chair of Trustees),

'The current situation is that CaSS has sufficient reserves to meet its liabilities until April 2017. The trustees are applying for funding from a number of local and national trusts to secure the ongoing work of CaSS beyond that date. We will continue to assess the situation over the coming months and will keep supporters informed of developments'.

Planning for the next 'Joined Up Conference' on Saturday 11 March is well underway and booking is open. We are again working alongside others – The

Diocese, YMCA, The Methodists and Pais. Our prayer is that the conference will be an opportunity for those serving (or with a concern for) schools, families, children and young people to be inspired, resourced and to connect with each other.

Phil Togwell of Prayer Spaces in Schools and Alastair Sharp, Methodist Superintendent are our keynote speakers. There are 24 workshops on an impressive range of topics such as mental health, social media, autism, challenging behaviour, messy church, Godly Play, schools work, gaming and many more, led by national and local leaders, for example, The Children's Society, Think Twice, Youthscape, The Diocese etc. There will also be the usual 'Sheffield Short Stories' or testimonies, while 30 organisations have been invited to exhibit in the marketplace. All this for £10, including lunch! Do consider coming and finding out how to support, reach and pray for the next generation. More information and booking details can be found at www.joinedupconference.com Please spread the word for us.



The CaSS boxes of crosses are available for loan to Sheffield schools and may be of particular interest this Easter Term. We have a class set of small holding crosses, a box of crosses from El Salvador and a variety of other crosses. They offer a creative, tactile way to introduce Easter. Do borrow them or mention them to schools or teachers you are in contact with.



May we also draw your attention to a wonderful training opportunity for Christians working in their local schools as visitors. It is led by Lat Blaylock (RE adviser, Editor of RE Today, writer of Sheffield RE curriculum) and hosted by Crossteach. Topics such as engaging learners, ways of using the Bible to teach, Christian schoolwork & SMSCD and the place of the Christian schools worker. It's taking place in London* on Thursday 12th Jan 2016. For details email to admin@crossteach.com

* Crossteach plan to run this day again in Nottingham 27th April

Our prayer for all those who work and learn in Sheffield schools during 2017 continues to be that, **“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows - light! Sunbursts of light!”** **Isaiah 9:2** (The Message) We hope you will partner in prayer with us.

Emily and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Fiona Walton

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