



in association with  
**Scripture**  
union

Christians and Sheffield Schools  
connecting • encouraging • resourcing

# Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

## Annual Report

## September 2021

CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

(Registered charity 1007305)

### CaSS aims to connect

- Christians with Sheffield schools so that they can work together to serve their communities;
- Christians working in schools with one another;
- Christian activity happening in Sheffield schools by building up an overview of it.

### CaSS aims to encourage

- Christians to pray for and serve their local schools;
- Churches to support members of their congregations who work or study in schools.

### CaSS aims to resource

- Christians working in or serving Sheffield schools in a wide variety of ways.

# Link Advisor's Report

September 2020 - September 2021

**“How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?”**

**(Psalm 137:4)**

***“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”***

***Deuteronomy 31:8***

**“Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.”**

Schools found themselves in ‘a strange land’ 2020 - 2021. It was a challenging year for all in education. Teachers and pupils were challenged, as never before. Working online, sudden quarantining, masks, support bubbles, social distancing and sanitiser became normalised. The pandemic and lockdown had a real effect on mental health, education and there was “the loss of a collective line of sight” to vulnerable children and young people.

Schools needed the support, prayer, comfort and hope God's people could offer more than ever. Though, with most schools not allowing visitors through the pandemic, serving schools required more creativity and ingenuity than usual. People of faith were needed to make a difference by encouraging, serving, educating, supporting and resourcing our schools, teachers, churches, schools' workers and youth workers.

Here is a flavour of our year:

## **Joined Up Conference – Saturday 6 March 2021**

CaSS and partners (Sheffield Diocese, Methodist Church, URC Church) held a free, online Joined Up Conference. We had three wonderful keynote speakers – Mark Russell (Children's Society), Krish Kandiah (Home for Good) and Susie Mapledoram (Manchester Diocesan Youth Officer).

**FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE**  
FOR YOUTH / CHILDREN'S WORKERS AT CHURCH & SCHOOL

15+ STREAMED WORKSHOPS  
INCLUDING...



*joined up*  
CONFERENCE 2021

AND...  
**MARK RUSSELL**  
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

**SUSIE MAPLEDORAM**  
YOUTH OFFICER, MANCHESTER DIOCESE

**KRISH KANDIAH**  
HOME FOR GOOD

9.30 – 3.30  
**SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2021**  
www.joinedupconference.com

schools children families youth chaplaincy

Brought to you by: 

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There were 23 exciting workshops that tackled relevant, contemporary issues of the day. Workshops subjects included: The Environment, Listening, Building Trust, Grief and Mourning, Connecting Digitally with Schools, Children in Poverty, Child Exploitation, and Deep Talk as well as many others.

There were 4 short stories (CaSS did one on Open the Book - watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE8dMkIRQSQ&feature=youtu.be>) and a virtual marketplace (CaSS had a short film about the Chaplaincy Course – see below) and a green room. There were many more delegates than usual (400+ signed up) and we were kindly given great reviews. For example:

“Exceptional day.” “Thank you for gifting us your experience, skills & knowledge.”

“Inspiring day” “Yet another amazing day” “All been amazing. Learnt a lot.”

“Super experience & sessions.” “Fantastic event” “Amazing conference.”

“Very encouraging.” “Thank you all. I’m so grateful.” “It’s been excellent.”

“A real blessing.” “Wonderfully inspiring.” “Well organised” “Great day”

“Wonderful, informative day” “Very enjoyable day” “Encouraging & uplifting”

“Wonderfully inspiring” “Excellent conference” “Learnt a lot” “Bravo everyone”

“So much more relevant than other training I’ve undertaken.”

For those that missed it, the keynotes, workshops and short stories were recorded and can all be accessed at: [www.joinedupconference.com](http://www.joinedupconference.com).

CaSS started a Joined Up Conference Facebook page, Twitter account and Instagram account so we can now post regular updates on social media about the conference.

## Joined Up Conference- Saturday 5 March 2022

Planning for Joined Up 2022 is well underway. We will be holding the conference in person at Wesley Hall and STC (St Thomas, Crookes). Our keynote speakers will be Sophie, Bishop of Doncaster and Hannah Chukwu, Assistant Editor at Penguin Books.

schools youth families children chaplaincy

**joined up**  
CONFERENCE 2022

**Saturday 5 March 2022**  
9:30am - 4pm  
Doors open at 9am

Tickets £15 per person  
Including Subway lunch

St Thomas Crookes  
Nairn St, S10 1UL

Book online at: [www.joinedupconference.com](http://www.joinedupconference.com)

Training and resourcing through workshops and keynote presentations in children's, youth, families, schools and chaplaincy ministry.

20+ workshops on offer.

**Bishop Sophie**  
Bishop of Doncaster

**Hannah Chukwu**  
Assistant Editor for Penguin Books

Brought to you by:



In addition, we have a wide range of interesting workshops lined up. Details and booking at: [www.joinedupconference.com](http://www.joinedupconference.com).

## School Chaplaincy Training Course 2021

The aims/vision of the school chaplaincy project are:

- to start/encourage conversation around school chaplaincy
- to explore the challenges/opportunities school chaplaincy presents
- to start to equip/resource those wishing to become school chaplains
- to provide opportunities to talk with school chaplains
- to build a supportive community of school chaplains
- to offer further training to established school chaplains

### School Chaplaincy Training and Resourcing Course 2021

29 April, 12 May, 13 May, 26 May, 9 June & 23 June: 9:30am - 12noon — online  
1 July: 10am - 3pm — in person (Venue TBC)

**Topics include:**

- The difference chaplaincy can make in the school community
- Generation Z
- Teenage brain
- Listening
- Issues children/young people face - drugs, identity, loss and bereavement
- Chaplain to all faiths and none
- Mentoring
- Children and spirituality
- Being professional in the school setting
- Support and resilience for school chaplains and those they serve
- Understanding the school staff
- Mental health
- Models and values of school chaplaincy
- School chaplaincy scenarios

**A practical course** facilitated by Fiona Walton (CaSS School Links Advisor) and Rachel McCallam (Methodist Connexional team) with input from a number of practitioners expert in their field. **Cost: £50**

**For more information and application forms visit:**  
[www.cass-su.org.uk/school-chaplaincy-course](http://www.cass-su.org.uk/school-chaplaincy-course)

**Questions? Email:** [fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk](mailto:fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk)

**Feedback from previous trainees:**

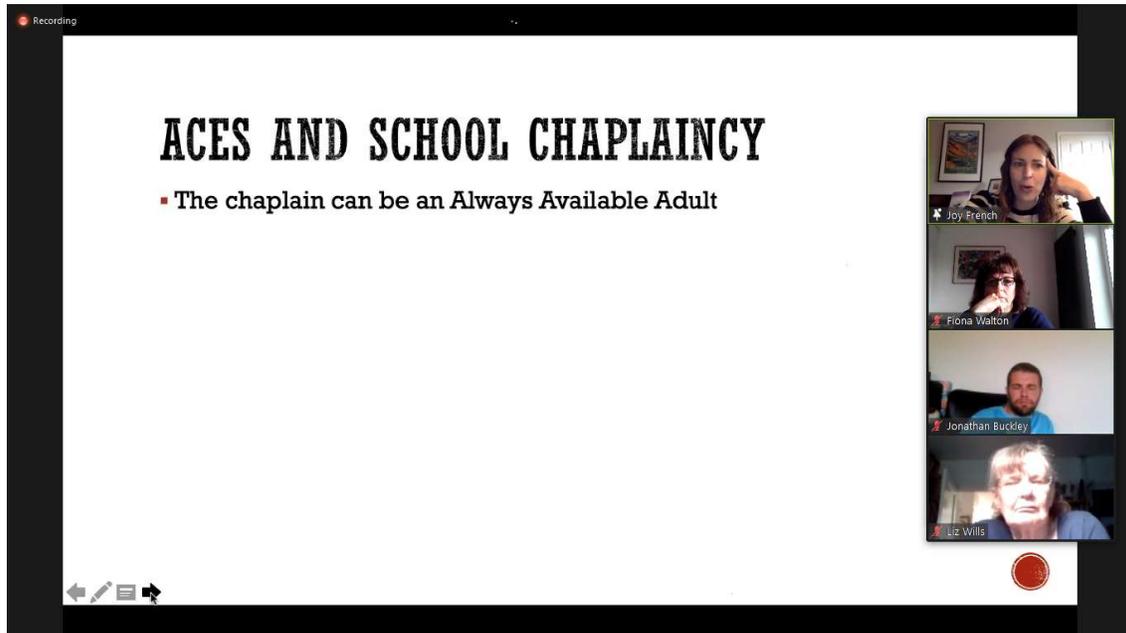
- “This training was invaluable.”
- “This was the best training I’ve ever done.”
- “A hugely informative, real and helpful course.”
- “Such breadth and quality of input.”
- “Well thought through and high quality.”
- “I am so grateful for your shared wisdom.”



We made a short film to advertise the course. You can watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyUhsVFQ8I>.

We believe school chaplains can make a huge difference to a school community, that the pandemic has made chaplaincy even more vital and that chaplaincy offers an incredible opportunity to ‘do life’ with young people and teachers where they are.

We ran our very practical School Chaplaincy Training and Resourcing Course for the third time - this time online. It was almost full (18 people attended). There were 24 sessions and a wide range of speakers such as Huw Thomas - Sheffield Diocesan Director of Education, Linda Gascoyne - South Yorkshire Chaplaincy and Listening Services, Fiona Sheikh - Hope Attachment, Meg Prowting - Youth and Young Adult Development Officer, Tim Jansen - Pontes Training (Mental Health), Andy Lawley - Hope UK, Kathryn Lord - Out of the Box and many more. CaSS also ran a few sessions. We have trained 51 school chaplains now.



Some reviews:

“The course has been amazing, I’ve learnt so much and we’ve covered so much variety of topics & listened to personal stories and experiences, going to miss it but looking forward to putting it into practice. Thank you.”

“Thank you so much for bringing together all the great speakers and resources over the past 7 weeks. It has been very informative and enjoyable. This is the beginning of a journey, and I hope to draw upon this knowledge in the coming months.”

“Thanks to both you and Rachel it has been brilliant.”

“Just brilliant”

“Phenomenal!”

## **School Chaplaincy Community**

We have worked hard to form a school chaplaincy community of practice with a private Facebook group, blog posts, opportunities to share and further learning hubs etc.

## **CaSS Trustees**

### **Martyn Edwards**



Martyn Edwards has been the chair of CaSS trustees for almost 10 years. For much of his time with CaSS he also worked as a Senior Lecturer in the Sheffield Institute of Education at Sheffield Hallam University. He has now decided to 'retire' from CaSS.

Martyn has done a wonderful job and we will miss him greatly. It is very largely thanks to his imagination that Sheffield had the CaSS annual conference, which has now developed into the Joined Up Conference, a leading Christian youth conference in the North of England. He has worked tirelessly to raise funding from a variety of trusts, resulting amongst other things in the Grief Box and the School Chaplaincy community work and group on Facebook. He contributed significantly to the important development of our EDI policy. We will miss his input and the person that he is: his faith and commitment have been clear to us all. Thank you, Martyn. We are so grateful for all that you have given to the work of CaSS.

The post of Chair to the CaSS trustees was unfilled for a few months.

### **Revd. Phil Winn**



We are delighted to announce that Revd. Phil Winn is the new CaSS head of trustees. Phil is grateful for the influence of the Christian Union when he was a pupil at Ecclesfield School many years ago. He has worked as a Physics teacher, a Scripture Union schools worker and a Baptist church minister. In recent years he has been a hospital chaplain and recently moved back to Sheffield on retirement.

## Diana Durie



Di has been a trustee of CaSS since the beginning, so over 35 years! She has decided to retire from the role. CaSS has greatly benefitted from her vision, commitment, expertise, faith and hospitality. She has asked us challenging questions, offered wise counsel and given us her unswerving support. Her contribution to the life of CaSS has been immeasurable and she was appointed our Honorary President in 2012. We will miss her contribution as a trustee, but we still see her at our monthly prayer meetings.

## Resources

We have continued to develop our Resources Hub which can be found here: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/resource-hub>. We have added links and resources to our website - especially Remembrance, Christmas, RE and Collective Worship ideas. We hope and pray that our resource hub will bless busy schools and school's workers.

Chaplaincy in Schools	Christian Union Ideas	Code of Practice	Collective Worship	Exams
Festivals	Godly Play	Grief & Bereavement	Guardians of Ancora	Lifepath
Local Organisations	Mental Health	Mentoring	National Organisations	Open the Book
Prayer Spaces	Praying for Schools	RE	Residential	SACRE
Safety on the Internet	School Governors	SMSCD in Schools	Statistics	Supporting Teachers
Support Local Schools	Transition Ideas	Visiting a Church	Working with Additional Needs	Y12, Y13 and Beyond

Jacqueline, our administrator, has carried out a lot of work on the website – updating it, adding resources, ensuring that resources and links are correct, and making it easier to navigate and use. Richard, one of our trustees, has also helped out with the website behind the scenes.

## Learning Hub

CaSS and The Methodist Church held this online Learning Hub on Trauma, the Body, Attachment and Identity. It was held over two separate sessions and was very informative and well attended.



**Learning Hub**

**Trauma, the body, attachment and identity**

with Ruth Stephens from Join the Dots

Part 1 - Thursday 30th September  
Part 2 - Thursday 4th November  
7:30pm - 9pm  
Online event

Part 1 covers: Being a trauma detective in your setting. Spotting the signs of developmental trauma and learning what impact this has on the young people you are working with.

Booking is essential. For more information contact Jonathan Buckley at [jonathan.buckley@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.buckley@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk), or Fiona Walton at [fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk](mailto:fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk).



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## Connecting

We have continued to serve on the Diocesan Board of Education and Sheffield City Council's SACRE. We have met regularly with Scripture Union.

## Training

We have attended a number of training courses for personal development e.g.

## New Publicity Card



Christians and Sheffield Schools  
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

- Joined Up Conference
- School Chaplaincy Training & Community
- 30 Category Resource Hub
- Learning & Training Opportunities
- Loan Boxes – e.g. bereavement, crosses
- Open the Book – training, costumes, props
- Prayer – e.g. Prayer Spaces in Schools Training

[www.cass-su.org.uk](http://www.cass-su.org.uk)

An armour bearer - chosen by kings/generals(**connect**) to bear their armour(**resource**) and to stand by them (**encourage**).

We have created this new card to publicise CaSS and the work we do.

## Prayer Cards

We developed some 35 prayer cards to prompt prayer for different aspects of school life. Thank you to Sheffield Evangelical Trust for enabling us to develop these. They are available to download on our website at: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/prayer-cards>. We hope to have printed packs available by Joined Up 2022 (or before!).



## CaSS Office Move



The CLC office, where CaSS has been based for around 20 years, has been sold. We moved out. We are now renting a storage area from Wesley Hall in Crookes. Bents Green Methodist Church have kindly agreed to let us use their address as a postal address. We (Fiona - 20 hours/week during term-time and Jacqueline - 6 hours/week) are now working from home.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Fiona Walton**

**Schools Links Advisor**

## Addendum

We are excited to announce that Philippa Dand, Children's Co-ordinator for the Sheffield Methodist Circuit, joined CaSS as a trustee in October 2021. Welcome Philippa.



# Management Group Report

In a recent newspaper interview, comedian Jack Dee was asked what the most useful self-help advice was that he'd ever come across. He pointed to the Scripture lessons at the church school he attended: "As I've got older, I appreciate that there's a richness there that can inform your life enormously." \* The only opportunity that many young people have to hear the Bible's teaching is in school; CaSS aims to help young people to have that foundation for life.

This year CaSS has seen some changes. Martyn Edwards retired as a Trustee at the last AGM, after 10 years as Chair. In the summer Diana Durie retired, having been a Trustee since CaSS was founded. We are very grateful to them both for the expertise and wisdom they brought to the Trust over the years.

Another major change happened in July when the CaSS office on Abbeydale Road closed as CLC, who owned the building, moved out. Having adapted to working from home during lockdowns, Fiona and Jacqueline are now continuing to be home-based. Bents Green Methodist Church have kindly agreed to act as a forwarding address, whilst some equipment is stored in Wesley Hall.

Like almost everyone else we at CaSS have had to adapt to working online. Whilst conducting Trustee meetings and prayer meetings via Zoom was not difficult, a large amount of planning was required for Fiona and the rest of the team to run the Joined Up Conference and the Chaplaincy training course online. The online conferences ran very smoothly and were a huge success, as you will see from Fiona's report.

The pandemic has put great pressure on schools, teachers and young people. Although life in schools is more normal now, there are still extra pressures; pray for the schools and pupils you know.

Having joined the Trustees as Chair in June, I feel that I am still learning the ropes, but am pleased to be part of CaSS. It was when I was at school in Sheffield many years ago that I first committed my life to Jesus. As a teacher, a Scripture Union Schools worker and a minister I have been encouraged to see members' local churches helping school pupils learn about faith. Now I am excited to be involved in a new way.

**Phil Winn**

**Chair of Trustees**

\* The Guardian, October 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Treasurer's Report

A summary of accounts is shown in the table below:

	2020 - 2021	2019 - 2020
<b>Income</b>	£22,268	£19,289
<b>Expenditure</b>	£19,628	£19,994
<b>Surplus</b>	£2,640	-£705
<b>Reserves</b>	£6,055	£3,415

Income increased again from £19,289 in 2019-20 to £22,268 in the current year. This income has come from a combination of gifts from 19 individual supporters and 6 churches and grants from 2 trusts. We are extremely grateful to all those who support us with gifts large and small but we continue to be dependent on grants from trusts to keep CaSS running.

Expenditure rose a little but less than the rise in income.

The charity had a surplus of £2,640 this year as against a deficit of £705 for 2019-20 so our reserves rose to £6,055. These reserves are held on account at Lloyds Bank. To a large extent these reserves represent grants from trusts which will be used up in coming years to fund the costs of various ongoing projects.

We are thankful to Almighty God for His provision for the work of CaSS and continue to trust Him for the coming years.

A full copy of the audited accounts is available, on request, by emailing [admin@cass-su.org.uk](mailto:admin@cass-su.org.uk).

**Alan Nickless**

**Treasurer**

## Management Group

Richard Donkin (trustee)	All Saints Church Ecclesall
Phil Winn (chair and trustee)	St Philip's Church
Alan Nickless (trustee and treasurer)	St Thomas' Crookes
Glenn Evans (trustee)	Bents Green Methodist Church
Rachel McCallum (trustee)	Methodist Yorkshire-Plus Learning and Development Officer

## Contact CaSS

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[www.cass-su.org.uk](http://www.cass-su.org.uk)

07812 855 332

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**Twitter** - @ChristiansSheff

**Facebook** - Christians & Sheffield Schools – CaSS

**Instagram** - @Christiansandsheffieldschools

Further copies of the annual report may be obtained by emailing [admin@cass-su.org.uk](mailto:admin@cass-su.org.uk).



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