



Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Established 1985 Registered Charity Number 1007305

Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

Annual Report

September 2024

CaSS resources, trains and encourages Christians to serve schools

CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

(Registered charity 1007305)



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Link Advisor's Report

September 2023 - September 2024

'She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his cloak.'

Luke 8.44

I read that 50% of Jesus' miracles happened when he was interrupted by people. He never regarded these moments as intrusions. For example, when a man was lowered through a roof, when a woman stopped him when he was on his way to Jairus' home, or when blind Bartimaeus called out to him from the roadside. He had time in his day to listen to them all.

How do we react when our agenda is interrupted? When a child or young person interrupts us, are we slightly irritated? Do we sometimes miss a divine encounter, like Martha did when she put bustling busyness before a sacred opportunity? Do the young people we serve recognise that we are often 'too tied up' and so they feel they cannot approach us with their worries, concerns and anxieties?

When my daughter was very young, I remember her saying to me, "Give me your eyes". She wanted my full attention. Listening to young people just may be the very best thing we do to serve them. Taking our time to give them our warm and unwavering attention may be what they crave and remember most.

At CaSS we try to include 'listening' workshops at The Joined Up Conference, we try to listen to the statistics around Gen Z and Gen Alpha, we meet for regular prayer. We try to encourage and resource school chaplains and schools' workers on the frontline in schools.

We hope there has been a good mix of listening, discerning need, resourcing, resourcing, praying, connecting, training, encouraging, informing, meeting with others keeping, keeping schools on wider church, agenda and serving this past year.

Workers

CaSS continues to employ 2 workers. Fiona (20 hours per week term time) and Jacqueline (admin and tech support - 6 hours per week) .

Here is a flavour of our activities:

The Joined Up Conference

The 9th Joined Up conference was held on Saturday 2nd March at Victoria Hall in Sheffield. We partnered again with Sheffield Diocese, Sheffield Methodists and Sheffield URC. Our keynote speaker was Gareth Hillier (Faith in the Family Networker at Care for the Family). He talked about the 'why' of our ministry. There were 15 practical workshops to choose from (including chaplaincy, vaping, anxiety, wellbeing, ADHD, listening and more) as well as a bustling marketplace of organisations. Photos and recorded workshop replays can be found on the Joined Up website:

<https://joinedupconferencecom.wordpress.com/>.

There were 15 practical workshops to choose from:

- Adventures with Jesus – Equipping children to encounter the Godhead
- Listening to the voices of young people seeking justice
- Looking after our young peoples' wellbeing
- How to include children and young people with ADHD
- Chaplaincy in schools
- Let them take over – developing leadership in young people
- Running a toddler group
- Whole family discipleship, joining the dots between church and home
- Trustworthy leadership
- Vaping and young people
- Developing young leaders (Our Story)
- Sex and relationships
- Making sense of our senses
- The power of listening
- Anxiety: How to help young people





Delegates kindly gave the conference lots of positive comments on the feedback forms:

"Very informative and engaging"

"Great value"

"Excellent. Highly recommended"

"Interesting & inspiring"

"Keynote speaker was amazing"

"Marketplace was amazing"

"The structure of the day was perfect"

"Good range of short stories"

"Always encouraging to meet other people"

"Well organised"

"Great central location"

"Informative, practical, personal"

"Engaging and relevant"

"Worship was very good"
"The signing was amazing"
"It was brilliant. Thankyou"

Planning for the 10th Joined Up Conference on 1st March 2025 is well underway, with bookings now open.

SATURDAY 1 MARCH 2025
9:45am - 4pm
Doors open at 9am

OUR 10TH
joined up
CONFERENCE 2025

With Nick and Becky Drake!!

Victoria Hall
Norfolk Street, Sheffield. S1 2JB

Tickets £15
Includes a Subway lunch

For more details, visit:
www.joinedupconference.com
Booking open in October

Brought to you by:

- Sheffield Methodist District
- The Methodist Church in Sheffield
- THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD
- Christians and Sheffield Schools
- The United Reformed Church Yorkshire

DID YOU KNOW?

The Joined Up Conference started in 2016. It grew out of The CaSS Conference (2013, 2014).

Prayer

We hosted a Prayer Space in November 2023 for those with a concern for schools.

PRAY FOR SHEFFIELD SCHOOLS



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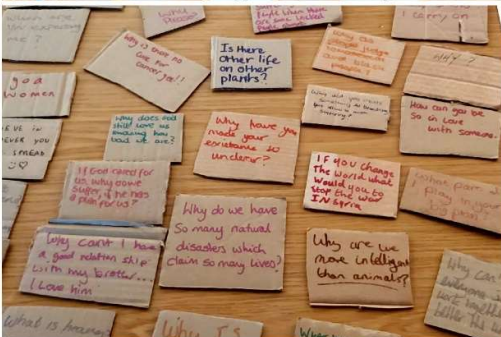
Friday 24th November

Drop in anytime between 2-4pm
Bents Green Methodist Church, Ringinglow Rd,
Sheffield, S11 7PU (please use side entrance)

Prayer activities will be provided to help you pray



Prayers lay in the road where **your young people** will plant their feet...





We wrote about the event and our ideas for Prayer Spaces In Schools Saturday story on social media.

We produced an Advent Prayer calendar to help people pray for schools. We wrote about this on the Prayer Spaces In Schools website:

<https://prayerspacesinschools.com/2023/11/30/prayer-advent-calendar-by-cass/>.

We also wrote about Advent Prayer Spaces on the Prayer Spaces In Schools website: <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/2023/11/02/advent/>. We also

spoke at national online Advent prayer space training for Prayer Spaces in Schools (November 2023): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BlcCi9qmzI>.



We invited Tim Abbott, national lead for Prayer Spaces in Schools to run a one day training event at Wesley Hall in January 2024.





CaSS meets every month to pray for local schools and for the work of CaSS.

CaSS Prayer for Schools

Lord, we pray that schools will develop an eternal perspective as well as an earthly one.

Thank you for all the creativity and enthusiasm that can be found in our schools.

Help the pupils as they face all the challenges that face them as a generation as well as individuals.

Help head teachers and staff as they cope with financial difficulties and recruitment problems.

We lift before you all volunteers and school chaplains who serve schools and seek to introduce a spiritual viewpoint into school life.

We ask for your blessing on and your strength to face every aspect of school life.

Amen

Resource Hub and CaSS Website

We have continued to add a variety of new resources and useful links to the website: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/resource-hub>. For example, collective worship sessions on teamwork and Eric Liddell.

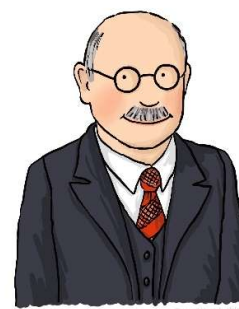
Chaplaincy in Schools	Christian Union Ideas	Code of Practice	Collective Worship	Exams
Festivals	Godly Play	Grief & Bereavement	Guardians of Ancora	Lifepath
Local Organisations	Mental Health	Mentoring	National Organisations	Open the Book
Prayer Spaces	Praying for Schools	RE	Residential	SACRE
Safety on 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

We have built up a good list of statistics to inform those seeking to serve Gen Z and Gen Alpha: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/statistics>.

Funding

CaSS is funded by donations. Inevitably some time is spent writing funding bids to trusts etc.

We are thankful for funding from **The Laing Family Trust** to tell the story of and produce resources around Christian businessman, Sir John Laing's life. In a letter from John Laing discovered in a book we purchased he uses the phrase, 'Together in Brick and Concrete'. This will probably be the title of our resources on the life and



leadership of builder Sir John Laing. We are grateful to Nice Things by Helena for her picture of Sir John Laing.

Burgesses and Sheffield Evangelical Trust

We are also grateful for funding from Sheffield Church Burgesses and SET.

Churches

We are very grateful to the churches who support us.

We will still depend on getting further grants or substantial donations to prevent a shortfall for 2025.

Open the Book

We have held Open the Book (OtB) core training sessions for Sheffield Diocese (October 2023), Handsworth (November 2023), St Peter's Gleadless (July 2024), and St Timothy's Crookes (September 2024).

Open the Book Core Training



St. Timothy's Church,
138 Slinn Street, Crookes, Sheffield,
S10 1NZ

Friday 20th September, 6–9pm

**Open the Book is an exciting
storytelling project where
Bible stories are shared with
children in a way that is fun,
interactive and memorable.**

Training suitable for new or
existing OtB storytellers.

Booking at

[https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/
get-involved/open-the-book/training/](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/training/)





The St Peter's OtB group is going into Charnock starting October 2024. Other groups are already in a variety of schools or making contact with local schools.

We have increased our stock of Open the Book costumes and props further this year. All of which are available to loan out to local OtB groups and are used for OtB core training.



As part of our close links with OtB, Fiona wrote 90 Bible Studies that link to the 90 OtB stories. These are available to OtB members.

Fiona now has a Level 1 Makaton certificate - but more use/practice is definitely required!



Open the Book
Sharing the Bible
with children
through the power
of storytelling.



SACRE

CaSS serves on Sheffield's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. They meet about 4 times p.a.

We were pleased to attend the launch of the new Sheffield RE syllabus at Sheffield Cathedral in October 2023.

Diocesan Board of Education

CaSS continues to serve on The Diocesan Board of Education that is chaired by Bishop Sophie & Huw Thomas.

ARISE

Writing for the ARISE magazine each term both advertises our work and is part of our strategy to keep schools work and serving schools on the wider church agenda.

Our most recent article is on the case for collective worship (Summer Issue 2024).



CaSS Termly Newsletter

CaSS sends out a newsletter at the start of each term. This contains some CaSS news, but also aims to encourage, inform and resource its readers.



School Chaplaincy

We run an annual chaplaincy stream at The Joined Up Conference and a Sheffield school chaplaincy Facebook group. We add links to resources for chaplains on our resource hub.

We contributed to Growing Faith's national report into School Chaplaincy.



growing
faith

BRENDAN
RESEARCH

Launch of the 2024 collaborative research project into Educational Chaplaincy

an opportunity to celebrate school and college chaplaincy together - with afternoon tea!

24th July 2024, 2:00-5:00,
The Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street,
Manchester, M2 5NS

Complete the form to secure your free place

We will run another CaSS School Chaplaincy Course in January 2025. This will be 3 days in length.

School Chaplaincy and School Ministry Training Course 2025

Thursdays 16th, 23rd, 30th January

Please save the dates and register your interest at:

admin@cass-su.org.uk

More information:

www.cass-su.org.uk/school-chaplaincy-course

Proposed topics include:

Gender, identity, drugs, bereavement

Chaplain to all faiths and none

Children and spirituality

Mental Health

Generation Z

Mentoring

Listening



Questions? Contact

Fiona Walton:

fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk



Social Media

CaSS runs several social media pages.

Facebook - CaSS, Joined Up Conference and a closed Sheffield School Chaplaincy group. CaSS and the Joined Up Conference also have X, Instagram and Threads accounts. CaSS also has Pinterest.

CaSS Management Group

The CaSS Management group meets four times a year to discuss and be accountable for the work of CaSS.

2025 Plans

School Chaplaincy Course January 2025 (3 days)

10th Joined Up Conference – 1st March 2025

Create Prayer Space for Joined Up Conference

40th Anniversary of CaSS (1985 - 2025) - Celebration July 2025

Sir John Laing materials published
Produce some materials on James Montgomery
Find a new Chair of CaSS trustees and replace some retiring trustees

Fiona Walton, Schools Links Advisor

fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk



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Management Group Report

September 2023 - September 2024

We are very pleased that the last year has generally proceeded very well for Christians and Sheffield Schools. Our Schools Links Advisor, Fiona Walton, continues to do an excellent job, and I recommend that you read the termly CaSS Newsletters that outline the many and varied activities that Fiona leads and facilitates. Fiona continues to train people in leading Open the Book primary school assemblies, and we are very pleased that a new group has started in Gleadless, with another one in the pipeline. She is also planning to lead the next Chaplaincy and School Support training event in the New Year. She writes regularly in the city-wide Arise magazine, and she was interviewed for the recently published Church of England report into School Chaplaincy. Fiona attends Local Authority SACRE meetings and Diocesan Board of Education meetings when possible. The 2024 Joined Up Conference was another very successful event, with people attending from all over the North of England and the Midlands. Plans are well in place for the 2025 Conference which will be held at Victoria Hall on 1st March.

Much of Fiona's work is behind the scenes, meeting individual people about work in schools, putting people in touch with each other, preparing resources for the website and for schools to use, attending prayer groups, and supporting Christian Unions, parent groups and partner groups including Prayer Spaces and national days of prayer for schools. Fiona retired from her teaching job this summer, so has a little more flexibility in her time. Part of the Trustees' duty of care for an employee is that we do not expect her to do more than previously.

Our website is excellent, with a wide range of information, resources and encouragement. We also use social media as appropriate. We are very grateful for the excellent input by our Administrator, Jacqueline Ryan, both to our website and to other communications, including the termly Newsletter and the preparation of this Annual Report. We employ Jacqueline for one day a week, thanks to a generous earmarked donation.

We continue to operate without a Chair of Trustees, despite our best efforts to recruit one. However, the Trustees work together very well, and cover this role between us. We are pleased to welcome back Philippa Dand as a Trustee after her maternity leave, and wish her well with baby Anna. We continue to value the support and input of two observers at our Trustee meetings: Rosie Blackett, Children's Minister at All Saints Ecclesall, and Billie Thaw, co-leader of the Oakes, a young people's and children's Christian activity centre.

We are very grateful for the financial support we get from churches and individuals. In some cases this has continued for many years. We are equally grateful for an ongoing grant from the Church Burgesses, and for substantial funding from the Laing Family Trusts for a schools work pack about the life and witness of Sir John Laing which Fiona is preparing. We are looking for further funding from Trusts, churches and individuals in the new year.

Fiona has now confirmed that she will be retiring as our Links Advisor next summer, after a very successful 14 years in the role. She has taken us forward in new directions, and established a very strong base upon which to build in the future. After prayer and discussion, the Trustees have decided that we should seek a new Links Advisor from September 2025, ideally on a half-week part-time appointment, as currently. How we proceed with this will be a significant part of our AGM, especially as three of our older Trustees will also retire next summer.

You are warmly invited to attend our AGM, which will be held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 2.30pm at Bents Green Methodist Church (upstairs lounge) on the junction of Ringinglow Road and Knowle Lane (S11 7PU). Light refreshments will be provided. Please let me know if you are coming so that we can prepare the refreshments. We expect to finish by 4.30pm.

I am very grateful to all the Trustees and other people mentioned above, and to our other Trustees: Linda Chambers, Richard Donkin, Cherry Mair and Alan Nickless (Treasurer). We have open prayer meetings every month, and four formal meetings per year. We are all very grateful to our prayer and financial supporters. Our work for the Gospel in linking Christians and Churches with the school communities of Sheffield is entirely dependent on your support and generosity, and we look forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2025.

Glenn Evans, Secretary and Trustee

dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer's Report

September 2023 - September 2024

A summary of the audited accounts is shown in the table below:

	2023 - 2024	2022 - 2023
Income	£23,665	£21,122
Expenditure	£22,741	£20,590
Surplus	£923	£532
Reserves	£5,599	£4,676

Our income rose from £21,122 in 2022-23 to £23,655 in the current year (September 2023 – August 2024). The charity had a surplus of £923 this past year, up from £532 for 2022-23 and our reserves stood at £5,599. These reserves are held on account at Lloyds Bank and represent grants from trusts which will be used up in the coming year to fund the costs of ongoing projects. We raised the salaries of our two employees in line with national guidelines.

This year we had support from 19 individual donors, 6 churches and grants from 2 trusts. We are so grateful to all who give so faithfully, without which CaSS would not be able to continue, and to the charitable trusts for significant help once again. We need to seek further grants from trusts to enable us to continue our work, and always welcome new individual donors.

We are thankful to Almighty God for His provision for the work of CaSS over 39 years and continue to trust Him for its future.

A full copy of the audited accounts is available on request from the CaSS administrator.

Alan Nickless, Treasurer



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Management Group

Richard Donkin (trustee)	All Saints Church Ecclesall
Philippa Dand (trustee)	Holy Trinity, Millhouses
Alan Nickless (trustee and treasurer)	St Thomas' Crookes
Glenn Evans (trustee and secretary)	Bents Green Methodist Church
Cherry Mair (trustee)	Bents Green Methodist Church
Linda Chambers (trustee)	St Gabriel's Greystones

Contact CaSS / CaSS Online

Fiona Walton: fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk; 07812 855 332

Jacqueline Ryan: admin@cass-su.org.uk

www.cass-su.org.uk

Postal address only - Christians and Sheffield Schools, c/o Bents Green Methodist Church,
Ringinglow Road, Sheffield, S11 7PU

Twitter/X - @ChristiansSheff

Facebook - Christians & Sheffield Schools – CaSS

Instagram - @Christiansandsheffieldschools

Threads - @Christiansandsheffieldschools

YouTube - @ChristiansandSheffieldSchools

Pinterest - @Christiansandsheffieldschools

Further copies of the annual report or a full copy of the audited accounts may be obtained
by emailing admin@cass-su.org.uk.

Registered Charity number - 100730