



Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Established 1985 Registered Charity Number 1007305

Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

Annual Report

September 2022

CaSS resources, trains and encourages Christians to serve schools

CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

(Registered charity 1007305)

Link Advisor's Report

September 2021 - September 2022

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11*

It is easy to look at the size of the storms or challenges faced by schools, by children or young people, and by CaSS and feel 'buffeted by the waves' (Matthew 14:24). But Jesus comes to us, walking on the water, and says:

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." (Matthew 14:27).



Christians and Sheffield Schools

- Annual Joined Up Conference
- School Chaplaincy & Schoolwork Training
- 30 Category Online 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

Here is a flavour of CaSS' year. There are many things to be thankful for.

Joined Up Conference 2022

“Loving God, You call us to join up – to join up our thoughts and ideas, to join up our giving and caring, to join up the gaps across generations and traditions and to stand hand-in-hand as the people of our joined-up, three-in-one God. Amen.”

Extract from opening prayer by Helen Reah, Chaplain at Joined Up.

This year's conference was held in-person on Saturday 5th March at STC (St Thomas, Crookes) and Wesley Hall (Crookes). Our keynote speakers were Sophie, Bishop of Doncaster, and Hannah Chukwu, Assistant Editor at Penguin Books. In addition, we had a wide range of interesting workshops, including:

Serving your School: Finding New Opportunities, Suicide and Young People

Working with Young People in Poverty, Mentoring to Support Growth, Not Change

An Introduction to Child Exploitation (Trauma informed working and engaging with young people), Working with Girls / Child Sexual Exploitation

Chaplaincy, Welcomed by the Family...and many more.

Around 150 folks gathered together, fewer people than usual, but given the understandable and continuing Covid nervousness it was an encouraging attendance.

We received excellent reviews, with many delegates rating the day at 10 and 95% rating it 8 and above. Here is a selection of comments from the completed evaluation forms:

“Keynote speakers = sensational.” **“Helpful, fun, substantial.”**

“Really uplifting.” “Love how the day flowed.”

“Excellent topics.” **“Great worship.”** “Cost is very reasonable.”

“The short stories were inspiring.” “Informative, educational & inspiring.”

“Great to meet people and network.” **“Amazing.”** “Brilliant.”

“All excellent.” “Informative, friendly and Godly.” **“Really useful.”**

“Fun & engaging.” **“Much food for thought.”**

“Loved both keynote presentations.” “Workshops tackled huge subjects.”

“Thought provoking.” **“Enjoyed all parts of the day.”**

“Interesting & informative.” “Lots to think about & put into practice.”



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

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



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

Rachel McCallam has left the Joined Up planning team for 2023. Victoria Loveday will be her replacement.

Planning for Joined Up 2023 on Saturday 4th March is underway and booking is now open. The keynote, workshops and venues are all in place.

School Chaplaincy & School Ministry Course 2022

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

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



Our 2022 school chaplaincy course held at The Message building in Woodseats.

It was successful. Feedback from this year's delegates includes:

"Well designed & structured course."

"High quality presentation".

“Speakers excellent.”

“Very informative and helpful.”

Facts and figures about our chaplaincy training programme so far:

62 delegates trained over 4 courses.

22 topics covered by a wide variety of speakers.

42+ people in our private chaplaincy Facebook group community.

Courses held in Parson Cross, Church House Rotherham, online and in Woodseats.



**School Chaplaincy and School Ministry
Training Course**

22nd-23rd and 29th-30th June 2022
10am to 3pm, venue to be confirmed

For more information or to apply, visit:
www.cass-su.org.uk/school-chaplaincy-course

Topics include:
Gender, identity, drugs, loss, bereavement
Chaplain to all faiths and none
Children and spirituality
Mental Health
Teenage brain
Generation Z
Mentoring
Listening

Questions? Contact
Fiona Walton:
fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk

 Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting • encouraging • resourcing

 THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD

 The Methodist Church
Yorkshire Plus

 The Methodist
Church in Sheffield

Rachel McCallam has stepped down from leading the School Chaplaincy Course and Vic Loveday (Sheffield Methodist District Children’s and Youth Coordinator) will join Fiona in organising any future course.

We have continued to work hard to form a school chaplaincy community of practice with a private Facebook group. We post ideas, links resources etc regularly on this page. The group now has 43 members.

The Queen – Platinum Jubilee & Death

For the Jubilee we added resources to our website and created a worksheet about the Queen’s Christian faith at: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/queen-elizabeth-2>. When the Queen sadly passed away, we added resources to help young people grieve and process her death.

The Queen's Christian Faith

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate [at Christmas], is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none." (2014)

"His [Jesus'] life thus began in humble surroundings, in fact in a stable, but he was to have a profound influence on the course of history, and on the lives of generations of his followers. You don't have to be rich or powerful in order to change things for the better, and each of us in our own way can make a contribution." (1986)



"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God." (2002)

"Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself – in other words treat others as you would like them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose." (2000)



"For many, [the last few years have] been a time of anxiety, of grief, and of weariness. Yet the Gospel has brought hope, as it has done throughout the ages." (2021)

"As dark as death can be - particularly for those suffering with grief - light and life are greater...May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future." (2020)

"Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love." (2011)

"[Christmas] is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only Son 'to serve, not to be served.' He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer [on] Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others." (2012)

If you were giving a message to our country what would you say?

We received positive comments about the worksheet:

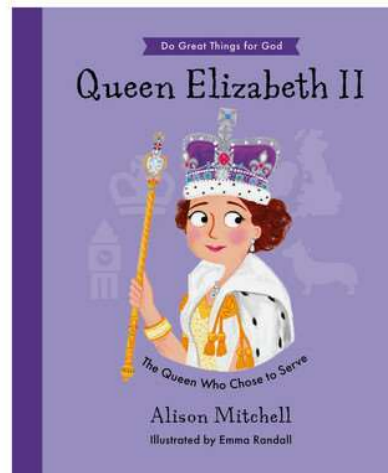
"This is excellent and so helpful."

"WOW! I LOVE THIS. What a wonderful idea. Well done, CaSS."

"I have downloaded it and sent it to the Head of RE at my school."

We also ran a giveaway on our Facebook page and gave away a Keystage 1 book with pages about the Queen's faith: *Queen Elizabeth II: The Queen Who Chose to Serve*, by Alison Mitchell.

The winner of the giveaway said: *"I just wanted to say a big thank you for the book – we used it this morning for an assembly with Wisewood primary and will use it tomorrow with Marlcliffe and gift it to them. We have also ordered some copies as prizes for a competition at their jubilee fair this week."*



Prayer

We wrote a prayer for the new school year:

Listening God,

I place the pupils and teachers of my local school (name it) into your hands.

Please provide the school community with peace, patience, positivity, energy and creativity.

Help it to be a place of learning, hope, compassion, understanding, generosity and sympathy.

Amen.

CaSS workers and trustees have met together to pray once a month for over a decade. We pray for Sheffield school staff, students, governors, for issues affecting schools, children and young people and of course for the work of CaSS.

We have developed a set of downloadable prayer cards to encourage churches to pray for 35 aspects of school life. Sets can also be purchased for £4.00.



Trustees

There have been a number of changes this year.



We welcomed Philippa Dand, Children's Co-ordinator for the Sheffield Methodist Circuit, joined CaSS as a trustee in October 2021. She has completed our School Chaplaincy Training and Resourcing course.



Rachel McCallam is stepping down as a CaSS trustee as her role as Learning & Development Coordinator for the Yorkshire Plus Methodist Church Region grows. We are so grateful for Rachel's support, wise advice and hard work, and for her friendship over the last 11 years.



Sadly, we had to say goodbye to our wonderful Chair of Trustees, Phil Winn. We are very grateful for Phil's wisdom, ideas, faithfulness, prayerfulness, and encouragement while he has been in post. We pray you and Pauline enjoy your next adventure together.

We are still looking for a new Chair of Trustees.

CaSS Workspace

This has been the first academic year with no CaSS office. Jacqueline (6 hours a week) and Fiona (20 hours a week) have worked from home. This has been a new way of working which has been very successful.

CaSS has a new postal address at Bents Green Methodist Church (see final page) and a storage area at Wesley Hall, Methodist Church.

Connections

We have continued to serve e.g. on SACRE (Sheffield Council's 'Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education'), The Diocesan Board of Education, Open the Book, Prayer Spaces in Schools and by providing a tree for Millhouses' Methodist Church's Christmas Tree Festival, which several schools visit.



Resources

We have continued to develop our Resources Hub which can be found here: www.cass-su.org.uk/resource-hub. In the past year we have added a lot of new 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

We lent out items to people working with children and young people.

We lent out our boxes of crosses. The receiver said: *"Thank you for loaning us the crosses. They are so beautiful, really stimulating for the children."*



We have also lent out our Bereavement Box. One parent who borrowed a grief box said: *"The books from the grief box were absolutely spot on"*.

Newsletter

The termly newsletter has been given a facelift. It now contains statistics, a prayer, links to resources, dates for the diary etc. One such group of statistics is as follows, and gives some food for thought:

95% of children/young people are not in church.

But children/young people spend around 6 hours a day in school.

They spend around 190 days per year in school.

Many spend 14 years in school.

This adds up to 15,000+ hours in school!

It means we need to serve and do life with them where they are – in schools.

Thank you for your continued support.

Fiona Walton

Schools Links Advisor



Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

CaSS resources, trains and encourages
Christians to serve schools

Management Group Report

September 2021 - September 2022

As with many other activities and organisations, the past year for CaSS has seen a variety of ups and downs. Covid was rampant last autumn and winter, with few activities in schools, and meetings held by Zoom. However, our prayer group and our planning continued, and we were delighted that the annual Joined Up Conference took place in real life in March. Numbers were inevitably reduced from previous years, but it was still a very enjoyable and worthwhile event, held at St Thomas's, Crookes and Wesley Hall, Crookes. Our Schools Links Advisor, Fiona Walton, did a significant part of the organising on behalf of the planning group which included people from the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

Our annual School Chaplaincy training course was also able to be held in real life in June and July, with about a dozen people taking the course, bringing the total trained so far to over 60 people. Many of them work in schools, although they do not usually call themselves chaplains. Over 40 of them stay in touch with each other in a private Facebook group. As in previous years, the feedback was highly complimentary. Rachel McCallam again joined Fiona in leading this course, but this year's course will be Rachel's final one. Her work commitments prevent her from continuing, but we are very grateful for all her work with this course, the annual conference and as a trustee over many years.

As well as these two major activities, Fiona has continued working with Open the Book, Arise Sheffield, Together for Sheffield, and several other local and national Christian organisations. She has also supported churches and individual Christians across the city, and has provided a wide range of resources for our website (www.cass-su.org.uk/resource-hub), which is well worth visiting. Fiona has been very well assisted by our Administrator, Jacqueline Ryan. As well as the website, between them they provide an active presence for CaSS on social media

(see the end of this document for CaSS' social media details). We are very much blessed by the work they do.

We are very pleased to have gained two new trustees: Philippa Dand and Cherry Mair, who have provided very helpful new insights and suggestions, and who have lowered our average age considerably! We are very sorry to have had two resignations. Diana Durie has been involved in CaSS since its creation, and has been a tireless supporter of all our activities, both practically and spiritually. She has always had a city-wide perspective and has been a strong and wise encourager. She resigned due to ill-health, and our thoughts and prayers are with her in these difficult times. Philip Winn has been a very valuable trustee in the last couple of years, with a wealth of knowledge and experience from across the country. He became our Chair in 2021, but felt he had to resign this summer. We are now seeking actively seeking a new Chair of Trustees.

CaSS is very pleased to maintain good links with other Christian organisations, often through Fiona's activities. She is a member both of Sheffield City Council's SACRE, which addresses the teaching of RE in our local schools, and of the Diocesan Board of Education. She is a networker/ambassador for Prayer Spaces in Schools, and the Regional Trainer and Development Officer for Yorkshire for Open The Book, which prepares primary school assemblies using drama groups from local churches. She has also achieved a certificate for completing training for Understanding Christianity: Training for School Leaders. The trustees are also holding discussions about the nature of our relationship with Scripture Union.

You are warmly invited to attend our AGM, which will be held on Friday 18th November 2022 at 9.30am 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 by emailing dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk if you are coming so that we can prepare the refreshments. We expect to finish between 11 and 11.30am.

I am very grateful to all the trustees and other people mentioned above, and to our other two trustees, Richard Donkin and Alan Nickless (Treasurer). We are also all very grateful to our prayer and financial supporters.

Glenn Evans

Secretary and Trustee



Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

CaSS resources, trains and encourages
Christians to serve schools

Treasurer's Report

September 2021 - September 2022

A summary of accounts is shown in the table below:

	2021 - 2022	2020 - 2021
Income	£19,042	£22,268
Expenditure	£20,954	£19,628
Surplus	-£1,912	£2,640
Reserves	£4,143	£6,055

Income fell from £22,268 in 2020-21 to £19,042 in the current year. This was due to the loss of a number of regular donors who had supported us for many years. This year we had support from 19 individual donors, including some new ones, 6 churches and grants from 2 trusts. Expenditure rose a little but less than it might because of economies such as in printing, telephone and office costs. We are truly grateful to all those who support us with gifts large and small, but we do continue to be dependent on grants from trusts to keep CaSS running.

The charity had a deficit of £1,912 this year as against a surplus of £2,640 for 2020-21 and our reserves fell to £4,143. These reserves are held in account at Lloyds Bank. To a large extent these reserves represent grants from trusts which will be used up in the coming year to fund the costs of ongoing projects. We are currently applying to several trusts and would welcome new donors.

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, from the CaSS administrator at admin@cass-su.org.uk.

Alan Nickless

Treasurer



Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

CaSS resources, trains and encourages
Christians to serve schools

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

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 - @ChristiansSheff

Facebook - Christians & Sheffield Schools – CaSS

Instagram - @Christiansandsheffieldschools

Youtube - @ChristiansandSheffieldSchools

Pinterest - @Christiansandsheffieldschools

Further copies of the annual report may be obtained by emailing admin@cass-su.org.uk.

Registered Charity number - 100730