



Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Established 1985 Registered Charity Number 1007305

Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

Annual Report

September 2023

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 2022 - September 2023

"We will tell the next generation"
Psalm 78 v 4b

CaSS is on a mission to encourage you to consider how you can connect with, serve, encourage, bless and build positive, professional and productive relationships with local children and young people and with all who work and learn in school.

Connections with Arise Sheffield

I wrote an article entitled, 'A Comfy Kingdom?' for the Autumn edition of the Arise Sheffield magazine. You can read it on the Autumn 2022 magazine page of their website:

<https://www.arisesheffield.org/arise-magazine-1/autumn-2022>.



I have been asked to have regular input/a regular column in the magazine which is exciting!

I acted as guest editor for the Spring edition of the magazine. I wrote articles on School Chaplaincy, the Joined Up Conference, Generation Alpha and Open the Book.



I also commissioned articles by Billie Thaw (The Oakes), Christa Carns (No Knives Tour – The Message), John Leach (The Brilliant Club), Andy Lawley (Hope

UK), Heather Waller (Porter Brook School Messy Church), Emma Cobbold (School Pastors), Tim Abbott (Prayer Spaces in Schools) and Helen Ward (Acts of Kindness to Schools).

You can read these school related articles on the Spring 2023 magazine page of the Arise website:

<https://www.arisesheffield.org/arise-magazine-1/spring-2023>



I also wrote an article for the Summer edition on what we can learn about Generations Z and Alpha from The Parable of the Prodigal Son. The article can be read here: <https://www.arisesheffield.org/arise-magazine-1/summer-2023>.

New Trustees for CaSS

Cherry Mair

Cherry is the Youth & Children's Minister for Bents Green Church. She has been there since 2007, starting as a student and then going on to become a full time Youth & Children's minister. As part of her role she is able to spend time in local primary and secondary schools mentoring and leading Christian Unions.



Linda Chambers

Welcome (back) to Linda Chambers – our newest trustee. We are delighted to have Linda, former CaSS worker, with all her wisdom, experience and expertise on board. Linda was initially a secondary teacher in the city before being appointed as the first Scripture Union Schools Worker for Sheffield in 1985. When the work developed into CaSS, she continued as the Schools Links Advisor until her retirement in 2011. She is actively involved in different aspects of church life and ministry.



To read about our other trustees go to our website: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/meet-the-team>

Diana Durie

We are very sad to announce the death of Diana Durie. Di was a CaSS founding member and a brilliant and committed CaSS trustee until fairly recently. She brought a wide range of educational experience and great wisdom to the role. She was able to simultaneously challenge and encourage us! Everything was done with a smile and with a twinkle in her eyes. She was a generous friend to all of us at CaSS and a good and faithful servant of her Lord. She spread the good news of the gospel with her life, as well as her words, encouraging and supporting everyone she met. As it was put at her funeral: she had a sharp mind, a big heart and a firm faith. She will be greatly missed by us all. We send our sympathy to her four younger sisters and their families.



CaSS Quiz Night

We held our first fundraising event in November (needs must) – a quiz. We are grateful to our quiz masters Graham Sandersfield and John Marsh, and to St Columba's for the venue. About 30 people attended and we raised £230.

A collage of images related to the CaSS Quiz Night event. On the left is a colorful poster for the event. On the right are several quiz cards with various questions and answers.

You're invited to a
QUIZ NIGHT
To raise funds for Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)
Saturday 26th November 7:30pm
St Columba's Church
503 Manchester Road S10 5PL
£5 per ticket: pay on the door
Bring your own drinks
Cakes available to buy
Quiz Master: John Marsh
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EXAMPLES
Neptune Jupiter Saturn
Mars
Telex Snakers Bounty
Castle Stronghold Citadel
Fift Six
Farboy SI m
Prad gy
Chem col Bros
Trufax Cotan Torvic

ABC DEF
4 5 6
GHI JKL MNO
7 8 9
PQRS TUV WXYZ
Dickens Novels
a) 25325146873
b) 4273184637
(1pt for each/2pts)

Surnames
Born in the same year (possible opts)
Give 4 names and the year (1pt for >=1 year, 2pts for exact)

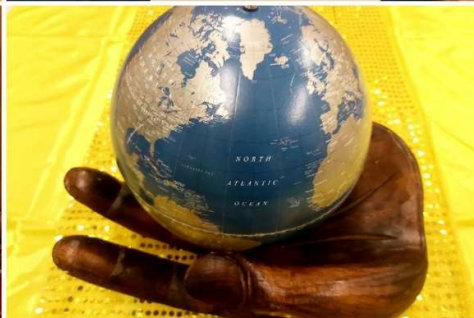
BRKNGBDNST
STNDRSCM
CTEWHKLLDRGRBBT
MSTRETHNVR

Advent Prayer Space in a Sheffield School

I set up a nine activity (Love, Gifts, Light, Hope, Doors, Joy, Waiting, Peace, Good News) Advent prayer space Sheffield's Emmaus school (Sheffield 2). 180 children (Y3 – Y6) visited the space. Their responses were often moving, honest and significant. Information about this advent prayer space and resources to

enable you to run one yourself can be found on our website:

<https://www.cass-su.org.uk/christmas>.



If you would like to know more about Prayer Spaces in Schools visit

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>.

Joined Up Conference March 2023

The 8th Joined Up conference was held at Victoria Hall and Central URC, with Lucy Moore (the founder of Messy Church and now head of Growing Faith for the Church of England) as our keynote speaker. There was also a vibrant marketplace of 26 stalls.



As usual there was a wide range of workshops available:

- Making friends with schools.
- Ideas for families to celebrate at home.
- A Mind of Their Own: Building Children's Emotional Wellbeing.
- Youth Ministry.
- How do we address poverty?
- Net Zero in my Neighbourhood.
- County Lines – What every youth & children's worker should know.
- Social Media and Faith.
- Baptism: Preparing for the journey.
- Building Well-being Opportunities Beyond the Walls and Outdoors.
- Child Exploitation in Under-Represented Communities.
- Prayer Spaces in Schools.
- Relationships, Consent and the Law.
- Home for Good – Creating places of welcome.
- 'Invited to Belong' – be inspired, challenged and equipped to support young people with additional needs.
- LGBTQI+ and mental health.

Two CaSS trustees and myself ran workshops:

- School Chaplaincy & Mentoring - by Cherry Mair
- Children's Ministry, All Age Worship - both by Phillippa Dand
- Open the Book - Fiona Walton



To listen to the keynote speech or watch some of the workshops visit the Joined Up website. There are also some photographs – you may be able to spot yourself or people you know.

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

Reviews of the day were very positive:

- Joined Up does an outstanding job of gathering, encouraging and resourcing people (Tim Abbott, Prayer Spaces in Schools).
- Thank you very much for such a great day. Everything was good, encouraging and positive.
- Great range of stalls in the marketplace.
- Great value, warm welcome, good speakers.
- Brilliant keynote.
- Worship was lovely.
- Inspiring short stories.
- Excellent organisation.
- Thank you. Joined Up is a lifeline!
- Really useful.
- Completely brilliant. So appreciative.
- Excellent deaf signing.
- Excellent!

Termly Newsletters

We have rethought our termly newsletters. We hope they are informative, useful and inspiring – full of resources, links and ideas. You can sign up to receive our newsletter and view our most recent newsletter as well as past newsletters on our website: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/newsletter>.

Connecting

- CaSS trustees and staff meet to pray monthly.
- CaSS continues to be a member of Sheffield Council's SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).
- CaSS is also a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Social Media

We continue to engage with various forms of Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, Threads, Pinterest, Youtube (you will find links to these at the end of this document). We have pages or groups for CaSS, Joined Up Conference and School Chaplaincy.

Speaking Engagements

I spoke at Sunday services about the need to connect with schools in various churches: All Saints Ecclesall, St Gabriel's Greystones, St Andrew's, Cemetery Road Baptist.

Resourcing

I ran a successful Open the Book training at Base Green.



CaSS also loaned out resources e.g. Open the Book costumes to Base Green, Y10 Prayer Space resources for prayer space at Chaucer.

CaSS Website

We are continually adding resources to our website, including RE, Collective Worship, Festival ideas, Statistics etc. These resources are of various types including worksheets, lesson ideas, videos and photograph resources, as well as links to useful organisations and helpful resources on other websites. These can be found in our resource hub: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/resource-hub>. We also have an events page which lists upcoming training and events (not just from CaSS) and this page is updated regularly: <https://www.cass-su.org.uk/events-training>.

Fiona Walton, Schools Links Advisor

fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk

Management Group Report

September 2022 - September 2023

We are very pleased that our regular activities have continued much more normally in 2023, following the disruption caused by Covid in recent years. The annual Joined Up Conference continued to attract people from all over the North of England and the Midlands, with excellent feedback for the talks, workshops and other events. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold a School Chaplaincy training course in the summer, as numbers were not viable. We hope revised dates in early spring will prove more popular. Our excellent Schools Links Advisor, Fiona Walton, edited one edition of the Arise Sheffield magazine with many interesting features about youth events in schools and churches. She also helped organise a very successful visit to Sheffield by Bob Hartman, as well as Open the Book training, networking, individual support, membership of the Diocesan Board of Education and SACRE, linking with Prayers Spaces, and other activities, all using just half of each week. We are also blessed by all the help given by our Administrator, Jacqueline Ryan, who works one day a week, supporting Fiona in maintaining the website and our social media presence, sending out mailings including this annual report, and in other ways.

The past year has been very significant for CaSS for two reasons. Firstly, since our formation we have always been formally associated with Scripture Union (SU), in recent years as a mission partner. We have always valued this link. Both our Schools Link Advisors, Linda Chambers and Fiona Walton, and the Trustees, have attended various SU events and training, we have participated in SU initiatives, and we have had good relations with the SU office and regional reps. However, in more recent years SU has published a revised Memorandum of Understanding for mission partners which included a lifestyle statement. It seemed to the Trustees that one small phrase of just 6 words within this lifestyle statement had the potential to seriously jeopardise our

good relationships with the state schools which form the great majority of Sheffield schools.

We prayed and debated about this at length within the Trustees, and engaged in a long period of discussion with SU about whether it was absolutely required to accept this small phrase, or whether we could formally associate with SU in a different way, for example as a resource partner, but no alternative was possible. The Trustees, irrespective of their personal views, felt they could not sign up to a document that, if it became public, could seriously impair our work with state schools. When we informed SU of this, they confirmed that we could not continue as a mission partner. We are therefore now independent of SU, although we are permitted to keep our website address and email addresses unchanged. The discussions were cordial throughout, and we maintain good personal links as individuals, and in a small number of informal ways, but this is a matter of significant regret to us.

The second significant event was the passing of Diana Durie, known to almost everyone as Di. She was a founding member of the Trust, and served the Trust in various capacities throughout its existence. She supported us practically and financially, and certainly no less importantly, she supported us with her wisdom and her vision. She was always quick to remind us of our calling to the whole of the city and to the whole of the Gospel. Her insight and her advice were only matched by her commitment and her dedication. She remained a Trustee until the last year or so of her life, and a prayer supporter until the very end of her life. We have sorely missed Di.

We continue to operate without a Chair of Trustees, despite our best efforts to recruit one. Several people have been asked and have declined, generally because of other commitments. We therefore take it in turns to chair our meetings. We have been able to recruit one new Trustee this year, Linda Chambers, who brings a wealth of experience with her as the Schools Links Advisor from the beginning of CaSS until 2011. We also now have two very valuable observers who make important contributions at our 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. The five new people who have joined us in the last two years have greatly invigorated our Trustee meetings.

After an anxious period in the Spring when there were cash flow problems, we were grateful to receive substantial financial help from the Church Burgesses and the Sheffield Evangelical Fellowship. This has gone a long way towards replacing our fixed-term funding over six years by the Sheffield Methodist Circuit and over three years by the Anglican Diocese. We are very grateful for this help, and for the churches and individuals who also fund us, and in some cases have done so continually for many years. Nevertheless, we still have work to do to maintain our finances, and we have a bid to the Laing Trust currently under consideration.

It is likely that the next two or three years will also be very significant for CaSS. Fiona is considering taking retirement, and two or three of the older Trustees are considering finishing at the same time. The remaining Trustees will need to consider how best to continue the work, including the recruitment of a new Schools Links Advisor, and ensuring that sufficient on-going regular funding is in place to support this. It may also be that this is the time to bring this work, unique in England, to an end, with the belief that a different or new approach may be needed. We will hold these discussions and decisions very much in prayer and seek God's guidance in all respects. This will be a major item at our AGM.

You are warmly invited to attend our AGM, which will be held on Friday 8th December 2023 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 if you are coming so that we can prepare the refreshments. We expect to finish by 11.30am.

I am very grateful to all the Trustees and other people mentioned above, and to our other Trustees, Richard Donkin, Alan Nickless (Treasurer), Cherry Mair and Philippa Dand.

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.

Glenn Evans

Secretary and Trustee

dglennevans@hotmail.co.uk



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Treasurer's Report

September 2022 - September 2023

A summary of accounts is shown in the table below:

	2022 - 2023	2021 - 2022
Income	£21,122	£19,042
Expenditure	£20,590	£20,954
Surplus	£532	-£1,912
Reserves	£4,676	£4,143

Income rose slightly from £19,024 in 2022-2021 to £21,122 in the current year. This year we had support from 17 individual donors, including two new ones, six churches and grants from two trusts. We are truly grateful to all 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 surplus of £532 this year as against a deficit of £1,912 for 2021-2022 and our reserves stood at £4,676. 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 salaries in line with national guidelines. We are currently applying to several trusts to enable us to continue our work and always 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.

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

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

www.cass-su.org.uk

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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