

Forthcoming Events

Silent Auction 2018

(for CIS funds)

A Silent Auction involves collecting a list of items and services that people are offering for auction. The list is then publicised and folk bid for the items over a time period. The outcome for each bid is announced and the winners are put in touch with the providers.

Roger Aldridge is making up the list of offers and we plan to set up the auction for the beginning of June. Please contact him if you have anything to offer in aid of CIS - on **01462 585196** or email **roger.aldridge2@ntlworld.com**

Annual Celebration 2018

16th October, at 7.30pm, at Grange Baptist Church

Quiz Night 2018

17th November, 7 - 10 pm, at LGCC

Winter Concert - Garden City Singers

Last year, the G.C.Singers kindly donated us an excellent concert and they plan to do so again around Christmas/New Year.

We will publicise this when we know the date.

CIS Newsletter

(Summer 2018)

in partnership with



Christian
Initiative to
Schools



Registered charity no 1104698.

The Easter Journey - Discussing Jesus' trial

Message from Martin Money, our Treasurer

I continue to be amazed at the impact CIS has in local schools. As a small organisation, our resources may seem limited but we have a great and faithful God who is able to meet all our needs. Indeed God often uses small things to achieve great outcomes - Gideon and David in the Old Testament come to mind.

Christopher, our schools worker, does a fantastic job providing Christian input to school assemblies and lessons. Whilst he is the public face of CIS, he has the support of a considerable team behind him: volunteers assisting with lunchtime Hubs/CUs; trustees ensuring that CIS runs smoothly and meets all of its legal obligations; and of course **you**, our prayer and financial supporters.

We are grateful for the financial support we receive; Gift Aided donations are much appreciated as we receive almost 10% of our income through our Gift Aid refund. We aim to organise at least two fundraising events throughout the year to supplement our regular donations. (See the back of this newsletter for dates of events planned for this year.) Pray that we will be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and that we will use them wisely.

Thank you if you support CIS prayerfully and financially. If you do not do so at the moment, we would love to have you as part of the team!

Christopher Baker's Report

The Spring Term is now a few weeks behind us, and we head into the final term of this academic year - a term full of SATs, exams and preparations for moving on or up for many in our schools. Only a few weeks ago I was taking assemblies on why Easter is so important for followers of Jesus, involved with the Easter Journey at St. Paul's and taking part at the Churches in Letchworth Walk of Witness. The focus now changes and this term will see me doing presentations with Year 6 pupils as they prepare to move up to secondary schools, once the dreaded SATs are out of the way, as well as the Hubs/CUs and other activities that I'm involved with.

One stand out moment from last term was being invited by Grange Academy to be involved in their Well-Being day during the last week of term. As well as taking a full school assembly, I was also involved in taking part in lessons with the Year 5's and 6's. As someone who has had a mental breakdown and still struggles with mental health issues, I was asked to share from my own experience of why some people struggle more than others, and what advice I could give in order to help the children look after their mental health and well-being.

I spoke about my experience of being bullied as a child of 12, how what happened then still impacts my life today 43 years later, and of the hurt that I still feel as a consequence. I talked about the words of others that took a hold in my life; that I was worthless, a failure, would never achieve anything. Lies were spoken over me that I took to be the truth. Words were used to destroy and not to build, words designed to cause pain and harm.

In the recent film 'The Greatest Showman' a group of performing artistes are prevented from going to a reception because of what they look like. They had been chosen as performers because of their appearance, but now they were deemed unacceptable. The song that comes after is 'This is Me.' The lyrics of the chorus go like this:

"When the sharpest words wanna cut me down, I'm gonna send a flood,
gonna drown them out. I am brave, I am bruised, I am who I'm meant to be;
this is me.

Look out 'cause here I come, and I'm marching on to the beat I drum.
I'm not scared to be seen; I make no apologies; this is me."

At Easter we remember the person of Jesus who experienced such unimaginable pain and suffering, who was ridiculed, and had people crying out for His death. He made no apology for all that He said and did, no apology for saying that He was the only way to God. And as He hung on the cross for our sins He says to us, 'This is me. This is me putting your needs above my own. This is me laying down my life for you. This is me showing how much I love you. This is me bringing you back to God. This is me dying in your place in order for you to be truly you.'

By putting our lives into God's hands we become the person He wants us to be. He created us, He knows us better than we know ourselves, and, through Jesus, He understands all the pain, suffering and difficulties that we go through. He's been here, He's worn the T-shirt, He knows. And in doing any assembly, lesson, Hub, CU or presentation I always speak from my own personal experience, becoming vulnerable in order to reveal more of how my relationship with God has impacted my life. Being real and relevant, talking about the negatives, the disappointments, the failures, but then talking of how God turned things round in my life and out of those negative times brought me to where I am today. In and through Christ, this is me.

Thank you again for your continued practical and prayerful support.

Christopher Baker
(Schools' Worker)

Please pray for:

Assemblies

Etonbury Academy – 15th May (KS2 7 KS3), 16th May (KS4), 12th June (KS2 & KS3), 13th June (KS4), 10th July (KS2 & KS3), 11th July (KS4)

St. Francis College Prep. – 21st May, 11th June, 1st July

St. Francis College Senior – 14th May

St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold – 22nd May, 20th June, 17th July

Grange Academy – 23rd May, 20th June, 18th July

Exams

Year 6 (SATs), Year 11 (GCSEs), Year 13 (A levels)

It's Your Move books (SU) to be given to Year 6 pupils

Arranging visits for sessions in Junior Schools with the pupils.