

# CIS Newsletter

(Autumn 2020)

## Prayer Items

### Booked Assemblies

Etonbury Academy - weeks of 3rd Nov. and 14th Nov. (Video)  
Norton St. Nicholas C of E Primary - Week of 9th November (Video)  
St. Francis College Prep. - 9th Nov. and 7th December (via Zoom)  
Grange Academy - 18th Nov. and 16th Dec. (via Microsoft Teams)  
Pix Brook Academy - 12th - 13th Nov. and 10th - 11th Dec. (Live)

### Pray that this will take place:

The Christmas Journey at St. Paul's - week of 30th November

## Update on Events

Our **Annual celebration**, which should have taken place this month, is postponed until some time in 2021.

Instead of our usual **Quiz**, scheduled for 6th November, we are holding a zoom quiz, open to teams of up to 6. (See the details on the A5 flyer with this newsletter or contact Kevin How

**[kdhow54@gmail.com](mailto:kdhow54@gmail.com) or 07831 201137**

We are planning a **Concert** for 16th April 2021.

### Data Protection Statement

Christian Initiative to Schools (CIS) will use the information you provide to send you relevant news of our work, and sometimes about our needs. We will treat your information with respect. For more information about our privacy practices please contact the Data Protection Trustee at **[dpt@cisletchworth.org](mailto:dpt@cisletchworth.org)**

### Safeguarding

You can see our safeguarding policy on our website at <http://www.cisletchworth.org/contact-us/4585639654>



Having long recognised the importance of the work of CIS. and Christopher Baker specifically, Christine and I, together with Penny Bainbridge, were delighted to join the Board of Trustees in the summer. We are now able to witness “from the inside” the efforts and diligence of Christopher as he seeks to explain the message of Christianity to young pupils in this local area. His love and commitment to this work is so encouraging.

Obviously Covid-19 has impacted the plans that were in place, particularly with schools being closed during the period of lockdown. Current social distancing measures and class “bubbles” have meant different approaches have needed to be identified. Christopher has drawn on his initiatives and God given adaptability to provide a mixture of live Zoom/ Microsoft Teams talks, pre-recorded material, and some live assemblies through this term and these have been well received. We are thankful for the provision of facilities to make the filming and recording as professional as possible - **see the photo above this message.** Christopher has even been able to enjoy these new ways of communication – thank you Lord!

We thank God that, despite the apparent constrictions placed upon us as a result of the pandemic, this work continues and Christopher has been able to cater for the individual requirements of each school.

We thank you for your ongoing support through prayer, financial giving and interest in this work.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col. 3:17).

**Ashley and Christine Croft - Trustees**

## Christopher Baker's Report



The season of Autumn brings many changes with it. Each season brings with it many changes, but Autumn brings with it a myriad of colours for a photographer to try and capture. Here's one of my attempts. But trying to capture the 'season' we are going through in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, well that's a totally different thing.

Since the 'Lockdown' in March things have been very different for me as a schools worker. The main difference has been not being able to go physically into schools to be with pupils and staff, and that's been very difficult to adjust to. Part of my role is to offer pastoral support to both staff and pupils. That was suddenly taken away. Not being able to take lessons, assemblies, lunchtime clubs or It's Your Move sessions, well that's been really hard to deal with. However, one positive thing that has come out of the 'Lockdown' period is that our SPACE Resource is completed and ready to roll out. The problem is we don't know when that is likely to be.

So what of the current situation? Pupils are back in the school environment. Teaching and learning is again taking place, but not as before the pandemic began. The new restrictions has meant that I am unable to go into some schools and that because the HUBs/CUs run across different Year Groups we are unable to run them. However, schools are still requesting my involvement in assemblies, and this has meant adjusting to a new way of doing them.

I am still going into Pix Brook Academy to take assemblies with the two year groups there but with other schools it is very different. Via the wonders of the internet I am able to do assemblies live by Zoom or Microsoft Teams in some schools. For other schools I have had to film myself and then edit the recording for schools to use.

Although very apprehensive initially of how this would work, I've been really encouraged at the way I've been able to adapt to this new way of doing things and also the response from schools themselves. Here's a few comments that I've received from staff after an assembly on "Accepting our Differences" was shown at Etonbury Academy.

"I thought the assembly worked well, just the right amount of supporting images/material. An important message at the best of times, even more so at the moment!"

"Another fantastic assembly Mr. Baker. It was very thought provoking and an incredibly slick presentation."

"That's an incredible assembly. Very powerful thoughts for the day. Thank you Christopher."

The positive from filming and recording assemblies is that it has resulted in the start of a video library of resources being created which will be able to be used both now and in the future.

The opportunities for ministry in schools is still very much alive. Adapting to the 'New Normal' has been challenging but the Good News of Jesus is still being presented to pupils and staff. At this time of uncertainty it is good to know the steadfast and unchanging nature and love of our Heavenly Father. He is still on the throne. He is walking with us all through this season and is making Himself known through all that we are able to do. Although I may not be physically present in schools, God's presence is.

In a recent morning Bible reading I read these words from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18,

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

For me the reminder to 'give thanks in all circumstances' is a challenge, yet Paul encourages us to do so. Even in these uncertain times we can give thanks, because we have One who is with us in them, One who will sustain us, strengthen and comfort us through these troubled times.

Thank you again for your practical and prayerful support for the ministry of CIS.

Christopher Baker  
(Schools Worker for Christian Initiative to Schools)