



**Christian
Initiative to
Schools**

in partnership with

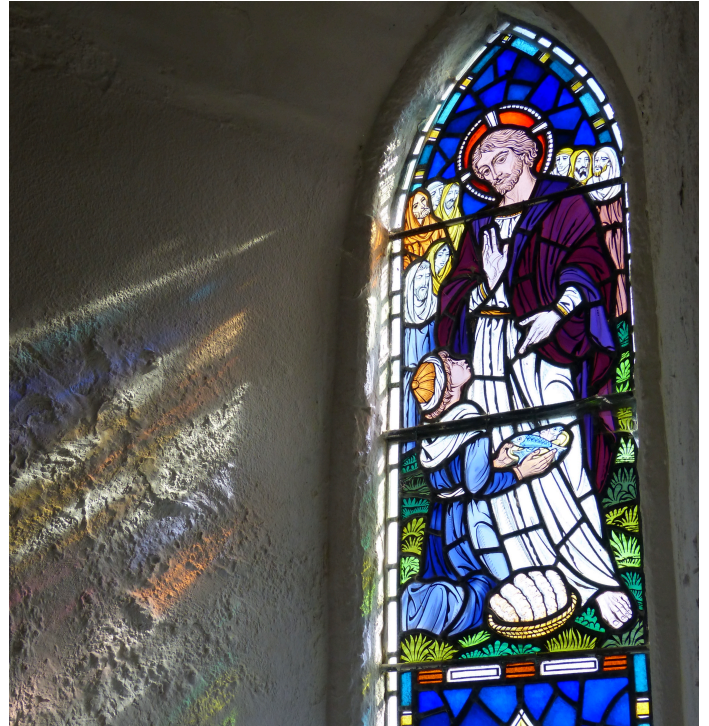


Scripture Union

Registered charity no 1104698.

Prayer Pointers ►

January to February 2022



But now, this is what the Lord says -
He who created you, O Jacob, He
who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not,
for I have redeemed you; I have
called you by name; you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1

Happy New Year!

I wonder what our hopes and aspirations are for this coming year? What resolutions have we made? Are we looking forward to what this new year has to bring or are we apprehensive due to the ongoing pandemic and restrictions?

Whatever we may be feeling at the beginning of 2022, even in our apprehensions and uncertainty, we have one who has gone before who we can totally trust with our lives. The one who is Immanuel - God with us. Jesus, the Son of God.

Over the Christmas period we have celebrated His arrival on earth. Not as a full grown human being, but as a helpless baby.

A baby born in the most unhygienic of situations, an animal shelter as Mary and Joseph could not find a better place to stay.

Right from the point of conception Jesus' life was under threat from the Jewish Law, from disease and from a jealous puppet king who sought to destroy His life before it had even begun.

Yet His arrival brought joy to the unexpected. To shepherds, viewed as outcasts in that society, were given the news by a host of Angels. This was Good News for all people including them. To foreign star gazers who traveled from the East following a star to bring their gifts to a new King, yes, but one who had been spoken of and expected for millennia.

His name gives His credentials, Jesus would be the 'One Who Saves.' He became like us, one of us, experienced everything that we have or ever will go through and, because of the love that He has for us, gives His life for us.

Please Turn Over

Sin and death defeated. Forgiveness and new life available for all through His sacrificial death on the cross.

Isaiah reminds us we are a redeemed people. A people God has called by name. A people who belong to Him. Therefore we should have no fear for the coming year as the One who is Immanuel - God with us, will be with us in and through all that this year has to bring. An encouragement to us all in these exceptional times.

As we begin this new year and new term here are some things to thank God for and to pray for.

Please thank God for...

- ▶ the positive response from pupils and staff who attended the Christmas Journey presentation at St. Paul's before Christmas
- ▶ the continued positive response from schools to the recorded assemblies that they have received
- ▶ enabling CIS to maintain good and positive relationships with schools despite the restrictions that still remain in place in some of them
- ▶ Christopher's recovery after having had Covid in November

Please pray for...

- ▶ future assemblies
St. Francis College Prep. 17th January (live online) and 7th February (in person); **Grange Academy** 19th January (live online) and 23rd February (in person); **St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold** 24th January and 28th February

(both in person); **Etonbury Academy** Year assemblies 31st January to 4th February (Recorded); **Norton St. Nicholas** 7th February (in person)

- ▶ Christopher as he prepares for assemblies, particularly that recording/filming and editing would go well and that there are no technical issues/problems arise
- ▶ the Trustees as they oversee the work of CIS; Chris Jenkins (Chair), Crista Haak, Kevin How (Secretary), Roger Aldridge, Ashley and Chris Croft, Penny Bainbridge and Martin Money (Treasurer)
- ▶ the safety and good health of children, young people and staff within our schools particularly in light of the impact that the Omicron variant of Covid is having in our area
- ▶ Headteachers and Senior Leadership Teams in schools at this time as they deal with staff and pupil absences due to Covid

To contact Christopher:

Mobile: 07881465043

Office: 01462 480126

Email:

cisschoolsworker@gmail.com

There is a group that meets to pray for the schools in the area on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30am. If you would like to join with others to pray then please contact Penny Bainbridge on 07974944175 for more details.