

# CIS Newsletter

(Summer 2021)



**Christopher showing how  
to pan during an  
assembly**



## **A Message from Roger Aldridge, CIS Trustee**

During these days when Covid 19 hampers face-to-face contact with others, it is easy to become despondent and negative, turned in on ourselves. It is more difficult to be honest about what we feel and think and fear and yearn for. "How are you?" someone asks. "Fine" we reply, but perhaps we should say "Do you really want to know? How long have you got?"

However, God is calling us to tell him the truth and find freedom in offering up our flawed selves, rather than trying to pretend that all is well. As Adrian Plass (look him up) has said "We are called, not to be wonderful Christians, but obedient failures." We are a work in progress, but for unfathomable reasons, God chooses to use us to work for Him. We, who have received the light of the good news of Jesus, "have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:6-7) We all need God's "surpassing power", so please pray for each other and especially for Christopher and Christian staff and pupils as they seek to further God's work in our schools.

## Christopher Baker's Report

We've reached the final term for this academic year and with it comes some notable challenges for children and young people. Within Primary, Lower and Junior Schools all pupils will be moving up to new classes in September with new teachers to get to know. Year 6 pupils will be moving on to Secondary Schools with all the change and challenges that will bring. For Year 11 pupils September sees them beginning either A Level or other courses, which may involve for some a change in School or College. And for Year 13's the hope of University or starting work is on the horizon.

As we all know with any new challenge or change comes a measure of anxiety. However, this is quite normal as we are not living in normal times. The Covid-19 Pandemic is still causing many to be anxious and concerned about what the future holds for them, and for those moving to University or work, what they hope for or expect may now not be the case.

The Government is still moving towards lifting all social contact restrictions on June 21st, and we all hope and pray that will happen. If there is one thing that we have learned over this past year it is that we all need to be with others. We need to have that person-to-person contact, to be physically present with people, not apart from them.

I'm reminded of words from Genesis 2 where God says, "It is not good for the man to be alone." *Genesis 2:18*. Even though all that He had provided for Adam in the Garden of Eden was so good, God saw that Adam needed someone created like him to be with him, someone whom he would be able to work with, a partner, to share the load.

For me, this past year has been a struggle, as it has for many people. Not being physically present within schools, not being able to be with children, young people and staff within the school environment has been very hard for me. Restrictions have meant that the ministry of CIS to the schools has been somewhat curtailed. The Lunchtime Clubs, that have always been a central part of what we do in schools, have not been able to meet. That opportunity to build strong links with young people, to chat, to answer questions, to provide support has not happened. Also, chaplaincy and pastoral support for both pupil and staff members for a time has been brought to a halt. Despite this, there are positives to take from this time:

- ◆ The SPACE Mat resource is ready to run.
- ◆ Assemblies have been able to happen, either through recordings or virtually through online platforms - Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
- ◆ Relationships with schools remain strong and vibrant despite not being able to be physically in them.
- ◆ Further opportunities for involvement are still coming our way.

Throughout this period of time, throughout the tragedy of loss many have experienced, throughout the uncertainty of what the future looks like or may hold for us all, God is still on the throne. He hasn't changed. The events of Easter remind us of the fact that God's love for us is steadfast and immense. It is never self-seeking or self-serving. It is all encompassing and sacrificial. And at one point in history, one specific time, that love was shown to all through a death. A death on an instrument created by human beings. A death so cruel and painful, so public and humiliating that only one man could bear it. One who was, and is, perfect, spotless and without blemish. One who knew the frailties of being human. One who experienced pain, suffering, denial, betrayal. One who was tempted in every way as we are, yet was without sin.

Jesus came to be the physical presence of God among us. He came to be "Emmanuel", God with us, showing us how to be right with God once more, not separated from Him, not apart from Him, but bringing us back to Him. On the cross Jesus became sin for us. The punishment that we deserved Jesus took upon Himself. In His death, the power that sin and death held over us was dealt with once, and for all time. In Christ's sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, forgiveness for sin was achieved for us, new and everlasting life available to us, to all who choose to believe and follow Him.

And that is the reason CIS has been ministering to schools for the past 17 years. To take the Good News of Jesus to children, young people and staff members. To give them the opportunity to hear what Jesus came to do. To give them the opportunity to think about what His death and resurrection means in the here and now.

Although I may have been prevented from being physically present in schools, the message of the Good News has still been going out through virtual and recorded assemblies that schools have been receiving. And the response to them has been incredibly positive. This from a Senior Leadership Team staff member at one school following an Easter themed assembly shown in March;

*“Just a little note to say thank you. A number of staff and students have commented about how good the assembly was this week. There were a few tears as I walked around the building.”*

God is at work within our schools because He is there in them. My not being physically present does not stop that happening. There is always a Christian presence through believing pupils and staff members. God’s presence, His light and love, is shining out through them as they attend their schools, as they witness to Him on a daily basis.

Please do pray for Christian pupils and members of staff as they continue to be the physical presence of Jesus in their schools. Please continue to pray for CIS as we navigate the way ahead, as we look forward to once again being able to be within schools in the near future.

Thank you for your support for the ministry of CIS, whether practical or prayerful. Without it we would not be able to fulfil all that God has called us too.

Continue to stay safe and well, and thank you again.

**Christopher Baker (Schools Worker)**

**([cisletchworth.org.uk](http://cisletchworth.org.uk))**

**NB: Prayer items and forthcoming events in this edition of the Newsletter are shown on the enclosed separate sheet.**

## **Prayer Items**

Thank God for the positive response from schools to the recorded assemblies that have been shown over the past term.

Please pray for the recorded assemblies that will be going out to schools this term.

Pray for Year 6 pupils as they prepare to move up to secondary school. Pray that the It's Your Move Books that they will receive will help them in that transition.

## **Forthcoming Events (Covid willing)**

**Concert** 17th September at Baldock Methodist Church  
7.30 - 9.30pm. Retiring collection.

**Annual Celebration** 19th October at Grange Baptist  
Church. 7.30 - 9.30pm.

**Quiz** 26th November at LGCC. 7.00 - 10.00pm.

## **Data Protection Statement**

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## **Safeguarding**

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