

Prayer Items

The Message of Easter

At the time of going to press the Easter Journey presentation has taken place at St. Paul's church in Letchworth, where pupils and staff from four local schools have experienced the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Other schools have received assemblies either by video or by in person by Christopher. Please pray that this will have challenged them to respond in faith to when they have seen and heard.

Assemblies to come (in person)

28th March *St Francis College Prep. and Norton St Nicholas C of E Primary School*

29th March *St Mary C of E Academy, Stotfold*

30th March *Grange Academy*

Other Prayer Requests

For good health for Christopher and the flexibility to adapt to the continuous changes in all the schools he visits.
Pray for good opportunities for Christopher to take "It's Your Move" presentations with Year 6 pupils in Junior Schools next term.

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CIS Newsletter



Christian
Initiative to
Schools



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In association with
 **Scripture Union**
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Christopher at Grange Academy

The latest DoE 24 page 'Contingency framework for schools about managing COVID-19' recognises the severe impact of missed face-to-face education over the past 2 years and we know the importance of safeguarding the mental health of children through 3D friendships and live interactions!

Pleasingly Christopher has had a number of opportunities to go into some schools recently and we pray that more schools will host him 'live.'

Recent statistics regarding UK School Children:-

56% of children were in church in 1904.

Today there are just 4% in church.

99% of children and young people attend schools.

But 95% of children and young people will only hear about Jesus in schools!

Against this backdrop, the work of CIS seems even more vital as Christopher brings the truths about Jesus to young people. Please pray specifically for the Easter Journey next month to have an impact and to provide a challenge to children and their teachers.

Revelation 1:17b-18a: "Don't be afraid! I am the First and Last. I am the living one. I died, but look – I am alive forevermore!"

Blessings, Kevin How - Secretary

Christopher Baker's Report

Just when we think things are getting back to normal, another crisis hits. The news of Russian troops invading Ukraine has caused widespread condemnation from across the world. News footage has shown the devastation that weapons of war are causing in city centres and residential areas. Lives are lost, families are separated and men, women, pensioners, students and children are taking up arms to defend their land from the invading army. The Russian President has threatened the watching and concerned nations, and NATO: "Don't get involved; back off or face the consequences."

The impact on the nation of Ukraine is devastating and as God's people we should be praying. Pray for the nation; pray for the Ukrainian Church, where 70% of the population call themselves Christian; pray that God will use them in saving lives and bringing peace.

However, the impact of this conflict does not end in Ukraine or the surrounding nations. The impact is being felt here in our own land as well, not just by Ukrainian people who call the UK home, but on all of us. There is anxiety about what is going to happen. Will we be drawn in to the fight? What if our nation is attacked?

Having come through the last two years of lockdown, with the uncertainty, the loss of earnings and the loss of life, we began in recent days, to look to the future with optimism, but the invasion of Ukraine has caused us to think again.

I recently spoke to a Deputy Head Teacher about whether the war in Ukraine was having an impact on the children and young people in his school. The answer was unsurprisingly "Yes". The anxiety that many had experienced during the past two years over Covid-19 is now being felt over the situation in Ukraine. Their mental health is being impacted once more.

What is needed more than ever before is peace — peace amongst the nations, peace between people, peace in individual hearts and minds, and peace with God.

In the coming days, assemblies will be taking place about what happened in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago — of how Jesus came into Jerusalem riding a donkey, declaring by that humble action that He came in peace. He entered through the gates of the city to the shouts of

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9)

Yet the One acclaimed by the people on that first Palm Sunday was in anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane a few days later. Knowing what was ahead Jesus went into the garden to pray. "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)

The next day Jesus was nailed to the cross to bring peace between God and all of humankind, past, present and future, by taking the sin of the world upon Himself. As He died in agonising pain, taking our place, taking the punishment that we deserved, the most powerful words ever uttered in human history come from the mouth of Jesus: **"It is finished"**. (John 19:30)

The battle is done, the battle is won; the power that sin and death held over us is defeated, and forgiveness and peace is now available to all. As Jesus rose on the third day, new and everlasting life is obtainable for all who come to know Him as Saviour and Lord. And all this came about because God loves the world so much.

This is Good News, the best news ever, and this is what will be communicated to children and young people in school assemblies leading up to the end of this term. Real peace, a peace that the world cannot give, is available to all through Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. That's something the whole world needs to know more than ever at this time.

Thank you again for your continued support of CIS.