

## Prayer Items

Thank God for the work of the Trustees as they continue to lead the work and ministry of CIS.

Please pray for the financial position that CIS currently finds itself in that God would miraculously provide the finance that is needed to continue the ministry of CIS into the future.

### **Assemblies**

**Etonbury Academy** 7th-10th March

**Norton St. Nicholas** 7th March

**Pix Brook Academy** 16th & 17th March

**St. Francis College Prep.** 27th March and 24th April

**St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold** 28th March

**Grange Academy** 29th March

**Roecroft Lower School** 30th March

### **Other Activities**

**Easter Journey at St. Paul's** 20th-24th March

## 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 [www.cisletchworth.org.uk/documents/policies/20200707-Safeguarding\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.cisletchworth.org.uk/documents/policies/20200707-Safeguarding_Policy.pdf)

# CIS Newsletter



Christian  
Initiative to  
Schools



Spring  
2023

in partnership with



Scripture Union

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## **Christopher Taking an Assembly at Pix Brook Academy**

As you read this, we are well into the New Year. Christopher has resumed taking assemblies and lunchtime clubs with his usual aplomb. We are so privileged to have Christopher as our schools worker. He does a superb job for which we give great thanks to God and give Him all the glory.

Christopher cannot minister without our support. Firstly he needs our prayer support. Thank you to all of you who lift him up to God's throne of grace day by day. Christopher is engaged in spiritual warfare and this can only be fought in God's strength, relying on His victory.

Secondly, Christopher cannot minister without our financial support. Thank you to all of you who support the work financially. CIS is in need at the moment. A significant generous donation in 2019, together with our regular support, has enabled our work to continue, but as things stand, we only have sufficient funds to keep going for another couple of years. We urgently need to increase our financial support base.

Could you possibly increase your regular gift to CIS, or perhaps set up a regular gift for the first time or maybe make a one-off donation? Is there someone you may know who perhaps is not aware of the work of CIS but would possibly like to support? It would be a genuine investment in God's kingdom. Thank you all for the support you have provided to date.

If you would like to give, please contact our treasurer, Martin Money, at [treasureratcis@gmail.com](mailto:treasureratcis@gmail.com).

As important as prayer and giving, please could you spread the word about CIS and encourage others to become supporters? Thank you so much.

**Rev. Chris Jenkins - Chair - Christian Initiative to Schools**

**Trustee Roger Aldridge writes,**

“God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.”

The poet William Cowper lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and worked with John Newton, of Amazing Grace fame, on hymns for Newton’s parishioners in Olney, Bedfordshire. The verse above starts his encouraging poem which proclaims God’s sovereignty and providence in spite of outward appearances.

Why start this article for the newsletter with this poem? Well, in CIS we have experienced something of God working his purposes out over the last few years and are looking to his continued provision. Before 2020 we were given a sizeable donation for the work, which enabled us to start developing our own version of “SPACE”, which we used to borrow from the schoolworkers in St. Albans. (SPACE enables a class of Secondary School pupils to reflect on themselves, their place in the community and their response to God.) I have helped Christopher set up the St. Albans material at Etonbury and have been amazed at the response of the pupils. You can hear a pin drop as the class of 30 work their way round the activities and their response to questions regarding how they felt about the experience is overwhelmingly positive.

We were on our way to finishing our own version of SPACE when, early in 2020 the Covid epidemic put paid to any opportunity to start using it. The lockdown meant that Christopher could no longer have face-to-face meetings in schools in assemblies or lessons. Where was God in all this?

We used the donation money to upgrade our technology,

which enhanced Christopher’s production of audio-visual material so that schools could show them as ready-made topics without Christopher being there. His excellent work presenting the Christian faith and values to pupils and staff could continue through Covid! When the donation was given we did not know the challenges we would face, but, looking back, we can see God’s hand in directing us.

There are many challenges ahead and only God knows the future. We know that many young people have benefitted from God’s love, encouragement and wisdom imparted by Christopher. In these days of increasing uncertainty – wars, financial instability and global disasters – we need to trust God and help others to trust him too.

However, many of us are suffering mentally with all the uncertainties. This is especially true of schoolchildren whose education has been severely interrupted. William Cowper suffered from severe depression for much of his life, even contemplating suicide, but he was able to write this very encouraging verse in his poem:

“Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break  
In blessings on your head.”

As trustees, we are looking at potential dark clouds as our income is not covering our expenses at the moment. However, we are confident that our God, who is able to supply all our needs, according to his riches in Christ Jesus, will shower us with blessings. Take courage, you saints and pray for us as we seek to serve our Lord.

**Roger Aldridge (Trustee)**