



Christian
Initiative to
Schools

in partnership with



Scripture Union

Registered Charity Number: 1104698

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Happy New Year to you all.

I wonder if like me, you take the opportunity to reflect on how the previous year went before beginning a new one? To ponder on what went well and what didn't, the encouragements and discouragements, our relationships with others both professional and personal, etc.

I think that sometimes we can fall into the trap of moving into a new year based on what happened before. If it wasn't a good one from our perspective then commencing the new one can fill us with dread. Our minds clouded by the negative experiences we had and assuming that what happened before will happen again.

One thing I've learnt during my time on this planet is assumptions that I make can often be wrong: That what I think may not necessarily be the truth. That

Prayer Pointers ▶ January to February 2024



how I think a person will react/respond to events is not what actually happens. That the way that I do things may not be the right way or the only way.

At a recent assembly I spoke on the theme of empowerment, a subject that I've never tackled before. I heard how other staff members at the school had tried to put this over to the pupils and, like me, had found it difficult. However, one of the ways that I tried to put it over was to talk about Jesus and His Disciples. For three years this rag tag bunch of misfits spent time with Jesus, listening to His teaching, learning about who He was and what He'd come to do, looking to see how He did things, watching His every move in the way that He dealt with people, performed miracles, prayed and spent time with God. At times they didn't really understand what Jesus meant in what He said to them. Only after His death and resurrection did it all begin to fall into place.

As Jesus prepared to leave them He

Please Turn Over

commissioned the Disciples,
empowering them with these words,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

But Jesus didn't leave it there as we know. He then said,

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The physical Jesus may have gone, but through the work of the Holy Spirit within us He will always be with us.

Whatever the new year holds for us we trust in the fact that Jesus will be with us through every door and gateway we come to. And we will hear His words to us saying, “...this is the way walk in it.”

Christopher Baker, Schools Worker

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 encouragement received from staff for all that CIS is involved in within schools
- ▶ enabling CIS to maintain good and positive relationships with schools
- ▶ the twenty years of ministry that CIS has had in schools in Letchworth and District

Please pray for...

- ▶ future assemblies and speaking engagements

Assemblies

St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold
22nd January and 26th February;
Grange Academy 24th January and
28th February **Norton St. Nicholas**
12th February; **St. Francis College**
Prep. 12th February

Speaking Engagements

Kings Community Church 28th
January

New Life Church 11th February

- ▶ the lunchtime clubs at Etonbury Academy (Mondays), Fearnhill and Highfield (Fridays)
- ▶ the Trustees as they oversee the work of CIS and as they meet together on 17th January; Chris Jenkins (Chair), Penny Bainbridge (Secretary), Roger Aldridge, Ashley and Chris Croft and Martin Money (Treasurer)
- ▶ the planning and preparation for the 20th Anniversary Celebration Ceilidh on 9th March at Fairfield Community Hall
- ▶ Christopher as he spends time in preparation for assemblies, lessons, lunchtime clubs, speaking engagements and Pastoral/Chaplaincy work with staff and pupils

Thank you for your continued prayer and practical support

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