

### Prayer Items

Thank God for the twenty years of ministry that CIS has had within schools in Letchworth and District.

Thank God for all the children, young people and staff who have heard the God News of Jesus presented in lessons, lunchtime clubs and assemblies.

Pray that God will continue to use the ministry of CIS in the coming years.

### **Diary Dates**

**CIS Celebration Ceilidh - Saturday 9th March, Fairfield Community Hall**

Ticket only event, details at:



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/20th-anniversary-ceilidh-tickets-807275822717>

### **Assemblies**

**St. Francis College Prep.** 12th February and 25th March

**Norton St. Nicholas** 12th February

**Etonbury Academy** 16th February and 18th-23rd March

**St. Mary's C of E Academy** 26th February and 26th March

**Grange Academy** 28th February and 27th March

**Pix Brook Academy** 19th-23rd March

### **Other Activities**

**Easter Journey at St. Paul's** 11th, 12th, 14th and 15th March

You can donate to CIS online at [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)



### 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 [info@cisletchworth.org.uk](mailto:info@cisletchworth.org.uk)

### Safeguarding

You can see our safeguarding policy on our website at [www.cisletchworth.org.uk/links.php](http://www.cisletchworth.org.uk/links.php)

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



# CIS Newsletter



Christian  
Initiative to  
Schools

Registered charity no. 110469

March 2004

to

March 2024

Spring  
2024

in partnership with



Scripture Union

## Celebrating 20 years of CIS

*'Remember the great things that God has done for you!'*

1 Samuel 12v24

Back in the day, when people commonly had a handkerchief in their pocket, they would tie a knot in it to remind themselves not to forget something important!

In the Old Testament there are repeated calls to the people of Israel to remember God's goodness and all He had done for them – and to give Him thanks!

In the exciting account of the crossing of the Jordan in Joshua chapter 4, memorial stones were set up as a reminder of the Lord's deliverance and so that they could pass the message on to future generations.

In 1 Samuel 7:12, Samuel set up a memorial stone and named it 'Ebenezer' - which means 'stone of help' and he said "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

We look back with thankfulness at the Lord's goodness to us over the last 20 years of CIS, and praise Him for all that He has done in the lives of children and young people through the ministry of Christopher and his predecessors, Jenny and Alex.

We also look forward with expectancy, continually seeing God at work as Christopher serves in our schools.

*'For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will lead us for all time to come.'* Psalm 48:14

**Penny Bainbridge - Trustee**

In recent days I've been looking over twenty years of CIS Newsletters. The journey that God has taken Christian Initiative to Schools on during that time is amazing. From forming in March 2004, becoming a registered charity later that year, and then employing the first of three schools workers, Jenny Kimble, in September 2005. The ministry to which God called CIS to has grown and developed to what it is today.

Has it all been plain sailing? At times no, however, throughout the past twenty years CIS has known God's leading and guiding as schools have opened their doors. Thousands of children and young people have heard the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus from Jenny, Alex Drew (CIS's second schools worker), intern Zanel Dempers and myself in lunchtime and after school clubs, 'It's Your Move' presentations, lessons and assemblies. Individual pupils have been helped through Pastoral and Chaplaincy work, as have many members of staff.

And all of this has come about because of the vision for a schools ministry in Letchworth and District that God gave to an individual a few years before. An individual with great tenacity, determination and perseverance. An individual who brought people together to pray, to prepare the ground and in March 2004 see the formation of Christian Initiative to Schools. I want to pay tribute to Pauline Wade who that vision came to. For her dedication and commitment to God as He led her to see the fulfilment of that vision come to pass. Thank you Pauline.

Alongside Pauline, the initial group of Trustees that oversaw the ministry of CIS were Theo Clark, Rev. Andrew Doherty, Carol Griffiths, Kevin How, Sue Merrick, Rev. Mark Ryan and Ola Sijuwade. Together they worked to see fledgling ministry take flight. They went about fundraising, promoting the ministry, gathering prayer and practical support and creating strong foundations on which the ministry was built. It is testimony to them that what they went about establishing in those firm and deep foundations are still evident today. Alongside those who were Trustees at the outset of CIS's ministry others have served in that role. Crista Haak, David Latter, Rev. Anne Lovegrove, Margaret Owen and Steph Worrall. Thank you for your wisdom and leadership as you've served over the years.

Alongside those involved with setting up CIS locally, there was a great

deal of support, help and advice given from Scripture Union. Regional Workers brought their wisdom and experience as they worked alongside the Trustees in commencing the work. Their involvement has been invaluable over the years particularly in providing training and support for CIS's schools workers and helping the Trustees in the initial set up of CIS. Thank you to them.

The support from local churches, practical, financial and through prayer, was vital in seeing the ministry of CIS established. They also provided volunteers to help within the lunchtime clubs which helped the work develop further. A particular mention goes to Letchworth Garden City Church for providing office space for the schools workers and the resources that go with it.

Finally, a big thank you goes to all who have supported CIS practically, financially and prayerfully over the years. Without your support CIS wouldn't be where it is today. God has answered, and continues to answer your prayers. The power house in the background that may seem invisible, yet it is the reason that CIS has seen God move so powerfully in all that it has sought to do in schools.

When CIS began a booklet was sent out to local secondary schools introducing the ministry of Christian Initiative to Schools. In the opening introduction it said this,

*Our aim is to provide a link between schools and the church community, by providing good quality resources and teaching on Christianity and relevant topical and ethical issues.*

Over twenty years of ministry God has used CIS in making that happen in the schools in Letchworth and District. As I've looked back I've clearly seen God's hand in the ministry of CIS. Pupils and staff members have been presented with the Good News of Jesus in lessons, lunchtime clubs and assemblies. As we move into the next phase of CIS's ministry my prayer is that all that God started in March 2004 will continue for many years to come. As Penny reminded us from Psalm 48:14,

*'For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will lead us for all time to come.'*

**Christopher Baker - Schools Worker**