

Prayer Items

Thank God for all those involved in educating the children and young people in schools in Letchworth and District

Thank God for the holiday clubs and camps that children and young people were able to access over the Summer, and for all that they would have learnt

Thank God for the number of assemblies already booked for this term

Please pray for:

for all pupils and staff as they return to school after the Summer break, particularly for those who have moved schools

Assemblies

Grange Academy 10th September, 22nd October, 19th November and 17th December; **St. Francis College Prep.** 15th September, 13th October, 17th November and 8th December; **Etonbury Academy** 13th to 17th October

(Other assembly dates to be confirmed)

Grange Academy Christingle Service 5th December

Speaking Engagements

Letchworth Free Church 7th September; **King's Community Church** 16th November

Future Events

CIS Concert Friday 19th September 7:30pm Letchworth Free Church

CIS Annual Celebration Tuesday 21st October, 7:30pm Grange Baptist Church

You can donate to CIS online at www.stewardship.org.uk



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And (Jesus) said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.' Mark 16.15 NRSV

In our spring newsletter, Ashley welcomed me as a CIS trustee. Before my retirement in July 2019, I taught secondary Modern Languages for over 30 years. I first encountered Christopher Baker's work with CIS whilst working at Fearnhill School. Every Friday lunchtime, a group of students gathered at the Hub. We enjoyed the drinks and snacks Christopher brought along whilst watching video clips and talking about faith. I also remember an assembly where Christopher gave away a £10 note to one of the students!

After retiring from teaching, I began working as a curate at St. Mary's Church in Stotfold. I thought I would be leaving my teaching career behind, but God had other plans. I soon became involved with assemblies and the Open the Book group at St. Mary's and Roecroft Academies and at Fairfield Park Lower school. Knowing that I was involved with many of the schools he visits, Christopher asked me to join CIS as a trustee. I had seen first-hand what wonderful work Christopher is doing in our local schools and was only too pleased to say yes. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, said this:

'Mission is about finding out what God is doing and joining in.'

I hope that this is what we as trustees are doing as we support God's mission through Christopher's engagement with the students and staff in our local schools.

Let's pray that as a new school year begins God will use Christopher's words and actions to enable students and staff to learn more about the Christian faith and to help each of them in their own spiritual journeys.

Rev. Graham Clark, Trustee



Christopher writes:

Easter 1983. A young man sat among hundreds of fellow believers in the Spring Harvest big top at Prestatyn Sands, North Wales. The worship had been powerful - Christians from every background and denomination lifting their voices together in praise.

Then came the evening preacher, a well-known evangelist named Eric Delve. He delivered a stirring message about mission, evangelism, and reaching others for Jesus. For that young man, it felt as though he were the only person in the tent. He sensed the voice of God calling him to full-time service - to evangelism, and to ministry among children and young people.

When the invitation to respond was given, he went forward, received prayer, and was encouraged to seek God in the days ahead. For him, this was no fleeting emotional response. It was a clear and unmistakable call to the future God had in store. As he prayed, sought counsel from more mature Christians, and read his Bible, the call was confirmed.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine...They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5



Fast forward to 2002. Now no longer so young, he attended an interview for the role of Schools Worker with the Hitchin Churches Schools Worker Trust - known today as Phase. During the interview he was asked how he understood the role of a Christian Schools Worker.

By this point, he already had over fifteen years of experience working with children and young people - in churches, on the streets, and in schools. After pausing to reflect, he replied:

"I believe God has called me to be an evangelist - someone who shares the Good News of Jesus in whatever situation I find myself in. That includes the school environment."

Unsurprisingly, this caused quite a reaction among the interviewers! They explained that being an evangelist isn't simply about preaching or calling for public professions of faith - something not possible in schools anyway. Rather, it is about building relationships, creating opportunities, and cultivating an environment where the gospel can be shared in a natural and non-threatening way.

To be an evangelist in schools means being a visible Christian presence, raising the spiritual atmosphere in places where following Jesus can be difficult. It means living in such a way that Jesus is reflected in both word and action. It also means encouraging other followers of Jesus to do the same - to be that visible Christian presence where none may otherwise exist.

Now, more than forty years on from that first call to ministry, I can look back and see the faithfulness of God. Over the years I have witnessed Him work in amazing ways in the lives of children and young people. In the last



academic year alone, I saw so many positive responses from both staff and pupils - through assemblies, lunchtime clubs, and the use of the SPACE resource. Yet it is not about words alone. It is about how those words are lived out: in conversations in the corridor, on school trips, or in staff rooms.

We are blessed to have strong relationships with all the schools we are involved in. Since CIS began more than twenty years ago, thousands of children and young people have heard something of the Good News of Jesus through assemblies, lessons, and lunchtime clubs. This work will continue as we enter a new academic year. Your ongoing prayerful and practical support is vital to everything CIS does. We could not have come this far without it. Thank you.

As for me, the call of God still remains. I will continue to do the work of an evangelist—sharing the Good News of Jesus through both words and actions, and seeking always to be a visible Christian presence within schools.

Christopher Baker — Schools Worker