



CIS
Christian
Initiative
to Schools

Registered Charity Number: 1104698

in partnership with

Scripture Union

Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

A souvenir is a memento, an item kept as a reminder

As we move into Autumn, what will be your memories of this Summer break? I've celebrated a big birthday this summer and enjoyed spending a week with my family – children and grandchildren as well as my brother and sister-in-law on the glorious North Norfolk coast.

Watching our grandchildren playing in the sea, jumping the waves or busy in the sand digging the deepest hole until they reach water, building sandcastles and sand boats will be a memory for me forever. Buckets full of shells and pretty stones treasured and taken to their homes will be their physical souvenirs. One, holding a shell up to my ear asked me; 'Can you hear the sea?' Memories rush in of similar holidays when I was a little girl.

Perhaps your mementos are on a shelf or in a drawer. They are all very special to us.

This term will be Christopher's final one as CIS Schools Worker. Please join us in praying for him to continue to be as enthusiastic and passionate in every school opportunity he has. What will be his memories of his years of ministry in the many schools he visits? What will be the children and young peoples' memories of him?

Of greater importance, what memories will they have of what he said in his fun and engaging assemblies? Only time will tell.

In Ecclesiastes 12:1 we read 'Remember your Creator in the days of your youth.'

Growing up today is undoubtedly more complicated and with a lot more pressures than it was for me. Christopher's love for the Lord and his thorough preparation for every school visit presents clear teaching giving an anchor for each child's joys and concerns.

Please pray Christopher's words will resonate, be remembered and be applied in every young life.

It's good to remember all that God has done for us and Praise Him!

Christine Croft – Trustee



The Sower and the Seed - A Final Reflection

This new term comes at a crucial time in the farming calendar. The harvest will finally be gathered in and preparations for the planting of new crops will begin. Being the son of a farm labourer, an awareness of the agricultural seasons is something that has always been part of my life. Maybe that's why the Parable of the Sower has always been important in the way I've approached ministry.

In Matthew 13:1–9, Jesus describes the work of the sower. Preparing the ground would have involved hard manual labour. Rocks and weeds would have been cleared, the soil ploughed and the ground made ready. Only then could the seed be sown.

As the sower spreads the seed, it lands in different places: on the path, on rocky ground, amongst thorns and weeds, and on good, fertile soil. Jesus later explains that the parable concerns the different ways people respond to the message He brings - the Good News of the Kingdom of God.



The same is true today.

Over many years of ministering to children and young people on the streets, in youth clubs, churches and schools, I have sought to sow the Good News of Jesus through word and action. In a church-based ministry, it can sometimes be easier to see that message take root and grow in young lives. In schools, not so much.



As a schools worker, I have sought to faithfully share the Gospel through assemblies, lessons and lunchtime clubs. As a Chaplain in some schools, I have also developed strong relationships with pupils and staff, giving further opportunities to become involved in the wider school community.

Schools ministry requires the message to be shared carefully and sensitively, giving those in the assembly hall or classroom

the opportunity to think about things differently - to challenge the way they live and to show that there is another way.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of speaking to tens of thousands of children and young people. It may not have been what I expected when God called me to minister to children and young people in 1983. In fact, when I left Bible College in 1990, I told God there was no way I would ever work in schools! Yet it is within the school environment that I have felt truly fulfilled.

How do you measure success in schools ministry?

The simple answer is: you can't.

Success isn't about numbers. It is about relationships - relationships between CIS, the schools worker and the schools themselves.



CIS has been ministering in local schools for over twenty-two years. The fact that we are still working in them today is a testament to the vision of Pauline Wade and others who prepared the ground before the first schools worker, Jenny Kimble, was appointed. Alex Drew followed and, for the last seventeen years, it has been my privilege and joy to serve CIS and the schools of Letchworth and District.

As I prepare to retire in a few months' time, I want to thank you all for your support and especially for your prayers. Knowing that people have been praying for me, the schools and the children and young people we serve has meant more than I can say.

I also want to thank the Trustees who have supported, guided and encouraged me over the years. I want to thank my wife, Jane, for sharing this journey with me. She has been a strong and constant support through the good times and the difficult ones. Without her love and encouragement, I would not have reached this point in my journey. And finally I thank God for His faithfulness over these many years and for equipping me for the task He called me to.

As I end my time with Christian Initiative to Schools in December, there will be new beginnings and new opportunities - not just for me, but also for CIS. A new schools worker will bring new gifts, ideas and ways of working. My prayer is that the Trustees will clearly hear God's voice and continue to follow His leading.

And perhaps that brings us back to where we began.

The sower prepares the ground and sows the seed, but ultimately it is God who brings the growth. Over the years, many people have played their part in preparing the ground and sowing seeds through CIS. I have simply had the privilege of being one of them.

As one season draws towards its close and another begins, the sowing continues.

May God continue to bless this amazing ministry, the schools it serves, and the children and young people whose lives it touches. God bless you all.

Christopher Baker - Schools Worker

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 number of assemblies already booked for this term

Please pray for:

For Christopher as he enters his last term of ministry for CIS. Pray that his health would be good for this period and enable him to achieve all he desires, that his messages will be well received and for a clarity in what he has to say to staff and pupils alike.

Assemblies

Etonbury Academy week of 12th October, week of 30th November and 18th December; **Grange Academy** 23rd September, 14th October, 18th November and 16th December; **Norton St. Nicholas C of E Primary School** 28th September, 3rd November, 23rd November and 7th December; **St. Francis College Prep.** 21st September, 9th October, 9th November and 7th December; **Pix Brook Academy** week of 7th December

SPACE Resource at Norton St. Nicholas 19th October

Speaking Engagements and Future Events

King's Community Church 13th September and 11th October;

New Life Church 27th September, 8th November and 6th December;

St. Thomas' 13th December

CIS Concert Friday 25th September

CIS Annual Celebration 13th October, Grange Baptist Church

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