CIS
Christian Initiative to Schools

Making a lasting difference in the lives of children and young people

Registered Charity Number: 1104698

in partnership with

Scripture Union

Prayer Pointers

November to December 2026

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30



The End of an Era – and a New Beginning

In just under eight weeks' time, we will reach the end of the Autumn Term and, for me, the end of an era.

After just over 17 years, I will be finishing my time as Schools Worker for Christian Initiative to Schools (CIS), bringing to a close many years of ministry amongst children and young people.

When God called me into ministry in 1983, I had absolutely no idea how that calling would work itself out. In fact, after three years at Moorlands Bible College, I can distinctly remember uttering the words, *"I never want to do schools work!"*

Well, as they say, never say never!

Thirty-six years later, I can honestly say that it is within the schools environment that I have felt most effective and fulfilled in the ministry God called me to.

The opportunities that working in schools have provided over those years have been remarkable. Thousands of children and young people have had the opportunity to hear about God's love, revealed through the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

A love demonstrated so clearly as Jesus gave His life on the cross, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with God to all who put their trust in Him. But, of course, the Good News doesn't end at the cross. Through His resurrection, Jesus offers the promise of new life to all who believe in Him.

What a privilege it has been to share that message!

Whether on the streets, in churches or in schools, it has been a joy to serve God amongst children and young people, sharing something of His love, grace and compassion.

But as one chapter comes to an end, another begins.

As I prepare to pass the baton to our new Schools Worker, Kate Ladd, my prayer is that God will take her unique gifts and talents and equip her for everything that lies ahead. That, working alongside the Trustees, she will be able to develop and extend the ministry of CIS in new and exciting ways.

Someone once said,

"God loves to do the same thing, but differently."

I rather like that!

Kate will inevitably approach things differently from me, and that's good news for CIS. God has gifted each of us differently, and He uses those gifts in different ways to accomplish His purposes.

After all, when Jesus came into the world, He did so in a most unexpected way.

Not as a fully formed adult, arriving in power and splendour, but as a baby, born in humble surroundings.

Immanuel. God with us.

In Jesus, God entered into the frailty and vulnerability of human life. He experienced what it means to be human. He understood weariness, disappointment, sorrow and suffering. Yet throughout His ministry He demonstrated compassion, love, grace and mercy to those He encountered.



And He offered an invitation.

An invitation that remains as relevant today as it was when He first spoke the words recorded in Matthew 11:28–30.

To paraphrase those words:

"Come to me if you're weary, if you can't carry that burden any longer. I'll give you the rest you need. Share your burden with me. I'll walk with you and I'll take the weight. I know. I understand. Come and rest."

What wonderful words of comfort and encouragement!

As we approach Advent, a season when we remember the coming of Jesus into our world, perhaps we need to remind ourselves that He didn't simply come to be admired or celebrated. He came to enter into our lives, to walk alongside us and to bring us into a relationship with God.

And He still invites us to come to Him.

To bring our burdens, our worries, our uncertainties and our fears. To discover the rest that only He can give.

As I prepare to lay down the responsibilities of the ministry God called me to all those years ago, those words have a particular significance.

There is much to look back on with gratitude, many memories to treasure and, inevitably, some sadness as this chapter of my life draws to a close.

But there is also a great deal to look forward to. The work of CIS doesn't end with my departure. Far from it! God is continuing His work, and I look forward to seeing how He will use Kate in the years ahead.

My prayer for her is that she will know God's wisdom, strength and guidance as she serves Him in our local schools. That she will have a real love and compassion for the children, young people and staff she encounters. And that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, she will continue to share the Good News of Jesus in all that she does.

As I reflect on the past 17 years with CIS, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities God has given me, for the schools that have welcomed me, for the relationships that have been built and for the many children and young people I have had the privilege of meeting.

And I am grateful to you.

Thank you for your love, your prayers, your encouragement and your practical support over so many years. Your partnership in this ministry has meant a great deal, and I know that without the faithful support of so many

people, much of what has been accomplished would not have been possible.

As I hand over the baton, I would encourage you to continue supporting Kate and the Trustees in prayer, trusting that the God who has been faithful in the past will continue to be faithful in the future.

And perhaps, as we approach Christmas, we can all take a little time to respond afresh to that wonderful invitation from Jesus.

"Come to me ... and I will give you rest."

After all, while the seasons of our lives may change, the love and faithfulness of God never will.

Every blessing.

Christopher Baker - Schools Worker

Here are some items to thank God for and to pray for over the next few weeks.

Please thank God...

- ☆ for the appointment of Kate Ladd as Schools Worker for CIS
- ☆ for the well attended Annual Celebration
- ☆ for the positive response from pupils and staff to the assemblies that have already been taken this term
- ☆ for the trustees as they oversee the work of CIS; Ashley Croft (Chair), Penny Bainbridge (Secretary), Martin Money (Treasurer), Roger Aldridge, Lindsey Bryant, Graham Clark, Chris Croft and Christine Sherriff
- ☆ for the strong relationships that CIS has continued to build within the schools that it is involved in

Please pray …

- ☆ for forthcoming assemblies and other speaking engagements.
- ☆ Assemblies:-

  Norton St. Nicholas 3rd November and 7th December; ***St. Francis College Prep.*** 9th November and 7th December; ***St. Mary's C of E Academy*** 16th November and 15th December; ***Roecroft Lower School*** 17th November and 2nd December; ***Etonbury Academy*** 20th and 27th November, 30th November - 4th December and18th December; ***Grange Academy*** 18th November and 16th December; ***Pix Brook Academy*** 7th - 11th December
- ☆ Other Speaking Engagements and Events

  New Life Church 8th November and 6th December; ***St. Thomas' Church*** 13th December

  Leading Act of Remembrance at Etonbury Academy 11th November

  Grange Academy Christingle Service at St. George's Church 4th December

  St. Francis College Prep. Carol Concert 9th December

  Etonbury Academy Christmas Concert 16th and 17th December
- ☆ For the Trustees as they meet together on 11th November
- ☆ for the Fearnhill CU that meets on a Friday lunchtime
- ☆ for Kate Ladd as she begins her role as Schools Worker for CIS
- ☆ for a good working relationship between Christopher and Kate during the transition period
- ☆ for Christopher as he comes to the end of his time with CIS and full-time ministry and prepares for retirement. Pray particularly that he would finish well

Thank you for your prayers and practical support during 2026 and over the years. Have a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

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