

## **CIS Chairman's report 2020**

Can I begin this report by thanking all our supporters for your regular support. Without your prayers and your financial support there would be no Christian Initiative to Schools. We are extremely grateful to you for all that you contribute.

I would also like to thank the trustees for all that they have contributed throughout 2020. God has blessed us with three new trustees over the past year. Chris and Ashley Croft have joined us. Their contribution has been superb. They have taken on the responsibility of safeguarding leadership on the trustee board. We are extremely grateful to them for the way that they have updated our safeguarding policy. We are also grateful to them for their spiritual maturity and godly wisdom in discussion.

In the same way Penny Bainbridge has been a real God send for the trustees. Penny has supported the work for many years, notably supporting the trust in prayer. Now it's fantastic to have Penny on the trustee board where her spiritual maturity and depth of insight are greatly valued.

The person I would most like to thank is Christopher Baker, our schools worker. Christopher has done an amazing job of getting to grips with new technology over the past year when assemblies have been either pre-recorded or live on Zoom. Christopher has mastered this technical challenge and continued to put godly school assemblies out into schools. It has been an extremely difficult year for everyone but Christopher has cheerfully and valiantly kept going despite the difficulties. We couldn't be more grateful to him and to God for sending Christopher to us and gifting him for the job.

We are always very aware that schools ministry is a spiritual battle. This has been especially clear this year when the whole Christian Church has been limited in what it can do because of the virus. We are thrown back once again on prayer.

Please go on praying for Christopher and for the work in schools. After setting out that we are in a spiritual battle the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:18-19 “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

These words are very pertinent to Christopher’s work. Pray in the power of the Spirit for Christopher that whenever he speaks, words might be given to him fearlessly to make known the mystery of the gospel. Christopher will do this very wisely and graciously. He will not give unnecessary offence. He has spent years building up a reputation as someone the schools can trust. But particularly at Christmas and Easter Christopher is able to explain the gospel in the schools: that God has loved the world and given Jesus to be our Saviour. The children probably won’t hear about Jesus from anyone else. Studies show that 95% of all children have no links with a Christian church. Christopher is doing a vital work opening God’s Word and sharing it with the children throughout the year.

Thank you again for your support.

Chris Jenkins  
**Chair of CIS**