

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS IN SCHOOLS (CCiS) ISSUE 18. SUMMER 2019



“Making Jesus known to children, young people and staff in the schools of Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead”

Giving thanks to God for 30 years of school's ministry.

You are invited to Dedworth Green Baptist Church, Smiths Lane, Windsor, SL4 5PE at 7.30 pm on Friday 12th July as we pause, reflect, pray and give thanks to God for more than thirty years of working in our local schools. Please come along and celebrate as we seek to maintain and develop these opportunities to make Jesus known in Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead.



Update from Wayne

Common room to classroom

Some schools have table-tennis tables in their common room and so after signing in and setting up I'm

off to the common room to play first to 11 and winner stays on. I call it win-win and just love it. After a few games, it's time for registration and five minutes later the whole sixth form are in for assembly!

The common room is also the venue for interesting discussions. A group of sixth formers on their way to the common room spotted me in the canteen just before going off to a lesson and asked me a question about purgatory! A week later and again in the common room I'm doing some follow up work, when the same student showed me the book **Who moved the stone**. At that time, she was still reading it, so our conversation will continue when she has completed the book

In recent weeks there have been a number of Question and Answer sessions in some of our schools, including one where a class of Year 11's (aged 15/16) jotted down their questions, then asked me to read them out and share some thoughts. Supplementary questions followed and soon the hour was gone with more questions still to be looked

at. To be continued...

The organised Q & A times either during or at the end of a lesson are just brilliant, providing a chance to share about Jesus. I love them and thank God for such opportunities - not forgetting the questions from staff about Christianity and the resurrection!

It's Your Move!

Last year we didn't have enough books for all the schools and pupils that wanted them, but that is no longer the case, and it's likely that in the coming weeks around **50 schools** and around **2800** pupils will receive the books. Praise God! This work sticks in children's minds, as I discovered very recently when chatting with an older pupil who said they still have their copy. When their friend said they didn't get a copy and would like one I made sure they got it - even though it was five years late!



The Importance of Easter!

During the holidays, some schools run sessions for their exam students on a variety of subjects, and I popped into one as the pupils were looking at some Christian content. The teacher remarked that in a recent lesson the Last Supper was

Update from Wayne continued

mentioned and none of the pupils had any idea about it. This reminded me of the role played by many churches, locally and further afield, when younger pupils visit them to learn about Easter. I've been involved with *Easter Cracked* for 25 years and it remains so significant because of the way it enables many churches to impact their local schools. Below is some feedback from children and staff from this year's event:

"As always a wonderful way of explaining the Easter story. Full of fun too for the children to remember what happened "

"Session was well-structured, interactive and varied. All children were able to engage with the content "

"We enjoyed every single second during our visit. Big Thank you to the team "

"I thought it was entertaining, while the students picked up very relevant information and learned a lot from it. Thank you "

"The baptism really engaged the children and they found this way of giving information easier to access "

"As year 6 children, their comprehension of traditions and stereotypes is challenged "

"One of the best school /church educational visits I've attended"

Looking ahead, *Christmas Unwrapped* is scheduled for the last week of November so if you would like to know more do get in touch and perhaps visit a church which is already running an event.

iSingPOP www.isingpop.org



iSingPOP is lined up for St. Bernard's Prep. (3rd - 7th) and St. Peter's School Burnham (10th -14th June). Do pray for Chris, the iSingPOP Tutor, who will be in these schools for both weeks; for others who will help put on the events, including the end of week concerts; and for parents

who will attend at St. Peter's Church and Holy Family Church Langley. At Burnham Grammar I met some 14-year olds who remembered the previous event 3 years ago and asked to come along to the evening concert! As always, it's good to remember that initiatives like this can have a lasting impact. They include Open the Book, Prayer Spaces in Schools, Soccer Seven's, 'Examattack', Wake up Wednesday, 'Easter Cracked' and 'Christmas Unwrapped', amongst others.



Inter Schools Soccer Seven's (Boys) - #CreatedToPlay

We've been holding this event for thirteen years and this time we had six schools and around fifty pupils involved for the lads' event. **Cox Green** beat **Holyport College** in the final before I went back into the schools and having a brilliant chat with the boys.

Keeping with the sporting theme, in the coming months we will see two world cup events: the Rugby World cup in the autumn, and coming up very soon the Cricket World Cup in England & Wales. **'Sticks for Stumps'** is a resource from Scripture Union which can assist local churches with a variety of ministry opportunities. Check out this link for some more details <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/sticks-stumps>



'Unleashing the Bible'...

...was the title of the Scripture Union National Conference in Stafford, which was brilliant on many levels, allowing us to engage with each other through shared stories, networking and input. Many things really challenged me, including a contribution from Jo-Ann from Bedford who told us about how a story she had once told in a school had an effect years later. As I listened, I thought PRAISE GOD - nothing done for Him, wherever He has placed us, is

wasted. I was so encouraged as a recent schools visit I had made had really 'bombed', but it made me realise that we just never know what might yet come of even those things which seem to fail. I love these gatherings. It was coldest day of the year but being there was just so worthwhile. Glory!

Lighthouse Burnham & Langley
'Unashamedly Christian - Amazing Popular - Locally Proven'

Lighthouse Burnham takes place from July 29th - August 2nd at Burnham Park

Academy. Langley Lighthouse will hopefully occur for the first time, and is set for 5th - 9th August at Langley Academy. Please pray for these events and others like them - I've loved being involved in recent years at the Burnham one.

'Making memories - Changing lives'
Scripture Union and many other organisations hold residentials so please make them known to children and young people. These events are life changing, as I know for myself from the Sports Holiday, I was able to attend over 30 years ago.

News from the trust

Wayne's sabbatical is from August 5th - November 3rd. We hope that this will give him a chance to pause, pray and reflect; to visit, listen, learn and observe; and hopefully to read and relax.

Plans for the future

Over the last year we have been reviewing our work and the direction of CCiS, with a view to developing 'a Christian Connection in every school in School in Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead'. We recently had an extended time together as trustees where we clarified that we would aim for this connection to be:

Regular - at least once per half term

Relevant - in communicating the Gospel as revealed in the Bible

Comprehensive - available to the whole school

We have also conducted a survey of local churches to try and understand their existing involvement in local schools. This process is on-going as we find out further details of good work that is already happening. However, it also revealed that there are a number of schools with no external Christian Connection that we are aware of, and the majority of primary, first and middle schools don't have the level of connection we would like to see.

In seeking to develop these connections further we have continued to explore appointing an additional member of staff, to focus particularly on primary, first and middle schools. We are seeking to appoint someone in an enabling role to help develop links between churches and schools and to train, support and enable volunteers to develop these connections further. Please continue to pray for us as we develop these plans further. Do contact us if you'd like more information or have any questions.

Rev. Andy Perryman (Chair of Trustees)

"For such a time as this - Cracking Children's Ministry"

In partnership with Moorlands College, we are organising this one-day conference for those in our churches who are interested in and involved with schools, or working in any capacity with children and families in our churches on **Saturday 6th July 9.30am-3.30pm at Dedworth Green Baptist Church, Smiths Lane, Windsor, SL4 5PE.** Tickets cost £15 each, with a group discount available of 5 places for the price of 4. Please bring your own lunch. A bookstall will be provided by Quench. Go to:

www.moorlands.ac.uk/2018/02/12/cracking-childrens/ for details and bookings, or e-mail or call me.

Pause to pray for...



- Christian staff, children and young people in our schools every day.
 - Young people facing exams in the coming weeks and months, www.examattack.org.uk
 - Issues related to anxiety: eating disorders, depression, self-harm, suicide, exam pressures, low self-esteem, bullying connected with social media, family break down
 - CCiS Trustees meetings: 20 May, 24 July, 30 September & 6 November
 - A new Lighthouse in Langley, 5-9 August at Langley Academy
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'What's On?'

- Cracking children's ministry Saturday 6th July Windsor
- Pray for schools fortnight continues until 26 May



We very much appreciate your interest, prayers and support as we seek to make Jesus known to children, young people and staff in our local schools.

Do check out our website.

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CCiS is a local mission partner
with Scripture Union



Registered Charity Number
1150149

Our arrangements for online giving
will be changing shortly.
If you wish to give online please
refer to our website:

<http://ccischools.org.uk/support-ccis>