

# CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS IN SCHOOLS (CCiS) ISSUE 16. AUTUMN 2018



## Update from Wayne

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1988 was the first day of my induction term as a Schools Worker, and I got lost on my way to Harrow. I want to say a **MASSIVE THANK YOU** to all who have supported 30 years of schools work in this area, and give **glory to God** for making it happen!

### **Dealing with difficult times – even at the schools proms**

These past few months have been difficult with the tragic deaths of staff, pupils' siblings and others, along with redundancies, problems with school budgets and more. Chatting with staff, parents who have lost their loved ones and pupils has been a repeated challenge. Around this time the daily Bible readings I use have been in the book of Job.

Even the proms were not exempt, and the final prom I attended was just amazing. At about 10.00pm, with the music blasting out and the dance floor bouncing, a group of 18-year olds had some big questions, which gave me the chance first to listen and then to share some thoughts – a humbling experience. I was then asked to do the Christmas Rap...in the summer!

### **In the Classroom**

Some of the question and answer classroom sessions have just been brilliant and they often continue at lunch, in town, at school sports day and at some school proms! The final one of the year was at Churchmead School and it was just brilliant as I asked a question and then stood back as a Christian student so eloquently

unpacked an example of Jesus in action amongst her peers. Brilliant! This was a real highlight for me and a reminder of the need to continue to pray for our Christian children, young people and staff who are **KEY** in making Jesus known amongst their peers all the time.

### **In the assembly hall**

As I stood at the back of one assembly hall, wishing the pupils well for the day ahead as they filed out, a lad asked me a question about the verses John 15:12-17, which I had left on the screen. I repeated what I had said in the assembly, that these verses were to be found in the Bible, and we chatted further. The encounter reminded me that many people increasingly have no idea what the Bible is, so since then I have made sure to show on the screen that the verses I use are from the Bible itself. This incident proves again the value of Scripture Union's 95% campaign, which aims to raise awareness that most children and young people are not yet connected with Churches, so therefore we cannot assume that they know the stories which were so well known by those of us who grew up with the Bible as part of our lives

### **Hanging Around Ministry**

**"Thriving not Surviving"** ...was the title of a brilliant conference in Birmingham organised by Chaplaincy Central, which I was able to attend recently. I learnt loads and came away very moved and encouraged about how Hanging Around Ministry continues to be a key area in schools. Mark, a chaplain at one of the

## Update from Wayne continued

schools affected by the Manchester Arena bombing last year, gave a very moving account of his experiences, and as I listened I reflected on some of my own difficult times in schools over recent years, including a number in the last few weeks. I am very grateful for this on-going learning experience and have already started putting what I learned into practise during my conversations with parents, headteachers, other teachers and especially young people in our schools.

I even managed to do some HAM outside a local nightclub! Wednesday night is Student Night at Smokeys in Maidenhead, and I arrived as the place was heaving with many young people who had just left our local schools, or have left in recent years. The music was pumping; the DJ was an ex pupil and as the crowd waited to go in I hung around and had a chat with them – a first for me in this context!

### #CreatedToPlay - [Inter Schools Soccer Sevens](#)

The Inter Schools Soccer Sevens girls' event took place in May. Eight schools took part with Ditton Park Academy beating Cox Green on penalties in the final. Sadly, the boy's event, which was scheduled for the end of February, was cancelled due to snow, but this time the weather was kinder! The great conversations I had with both staff and pupils are ongoing, as both schools which took part in the final have been invited to the LZ7 Concert next month, and continue to benefit from Sports Plus run by Christians in Sport.

### **It's Your Move! 2018 (& 2019)**

This year approximately 50 schools received these presentations, which seek to advise and encourage Year 6 pupils before they move to secondary school. Over 2300 **It's Your Move!** books were given out, but sadly we didn't have enough

for all the schools who requested them - the first time this has happened. This means that in the future we will need funding for approximately 3000 books, with the hope that we can encourage more churches to take ownership of this initiative for their own local schools, and so provide funding for the required number of books. These books are valued by schools, as was proved when one teacher was so impressed she called up Scripture Union and ordered enough for her class as only two were left for them to share.

### **Opportunities in Schools Ministry**

This free training event is intended for anyone of any age from our churches who is interested in serving in our local schools: we hope to hold it in the autumn or next spring. Please let us know if you are interested or can recommend others who would benefit from this event, which hopes to draw together like-minded people who can share experiences and learn together. Some might already be serving in our schools through initiatives like 'Wake Up Wednesday', 'Open The Book', 'iSingPOP' and 'SHINE', and we hope that we can benefit from specific input and advice, as well as discussing current opportunities, themes such as '*More than an assembly*' and taking part in a question and answer session.

### **SHINE 2018**

Shine 2018

is a three

week video resource (held nationally in November, though individual schools can use it according to their own timetables) which helps to mobilise groups of young people to live for God at secondary school and to create opportunities for them to explore the Christian faith for themselves. Church youth groups can also benefit from it. For more information, ideas and resources, visit [www.shineinschools.com](http://www.shineinschools.com)



## News from the trust

**“Illuminate” Windsor & Slough  
October 2018 with LZ7**



‘Illuminate’ is a ministry initiative to make Jesus known to young people in seven local schools using music, personal stories and the Bible, with an opportunity for young people to respond to Jesus at the end of week concert.

- Sunday 16 September - an important whole team briefing and preparation: 4.00pm at Langley Free Church, Trelawney Ave, Slough SL3 8RW
- Prayer Focus for our ‘Illuminate’ week:  
Wednesday 3 October 8.00-9.00pm: Dedworth Green Baptist Church, Smiths Lane, Windsor SL4 5PE  
Saturday 6 October 8.30-9.30am: Slough Baptist Church, Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2EJ. Pastries, tea and coffee served from 8.00am.

### **LZ7 Schedule:**

- Monday 8 October: Churchmead & St. Bernard’s Grammar Schools
- Tuesday 9: Windsor Girls’ School & Beechwood School
- Wednesday 10: St. Joseph’s School
- Thursday 11: Ditton Park Academy
- Friday 12: Langley Grammar School and end of week concert at St. Joseph’s School Sports Centre, Stoke Road, SL2 5AY . Tickets cost £5 and are available now - 100 have already been sold! The concert is for those aged 11-18 (school years 7-13) so please encourage our young Christians to come along and invite a friend to join them, regardless of which school they attend.
- Saturday 13: the initial follow-up event at Salt Hill Activity Centre, Slough SL1 3SS

See attached insert *40 Days of Prayer* schedule for more details.

After 30 years of ministry in our local schools, Wayne is due to have a three-month sabbatical, scheduled from August to October 2019.



*“Wayne has been coming into our school for as long as I can remember - and I have been here 17 years! He is always received warmly by students and they love having Wayne deliver assemblies to us. The comment goes 'Oh great, its Wayne ' and this sums up how the students feel about him. Wayne has organised the LZ7 work with us on a number of occasions and he makes the gospel come alive and relevant for the students. There is no sense of being preached at, but the gospel is being shared with students in a way that they can access and where they don't feel preached at.... they will continue to say hello to him even after they have left.”* Senior Teacher June 2018

We do not charge schools for the ministry we provide, so to maintain and develop the opportunities we have in schools, might you or your church consider giving an anniversary gift to CCiS, or becoming a regular supporter? Donations can be made online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/ccis>; or via a cheque made payable to ‘Christian Connections in Schools’ and posted to the address below.

This three minute film gives a flavour of the work we do:  
<http://ccischools.org.uk/about-ccis/>

### **Plans for the future**

With regard to the appointment of a second member of staff, the trustees are reviewing and prayerfully considering what manner of service God is calling us to provide in the days ahead. We have reached a consensus that we need CCIS to become a

## Pause to pray for...



- Christian staff, children and young people in our schools every day

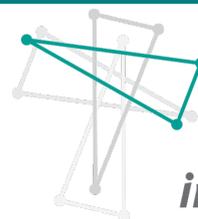
- Issues related to anxiety; eating disorders, depression, self-harm, suicides, exam pressures, low self-esteem; bullying connected with social media, family break down
- The new term, which begins this week. Pray especially for children and young people starting new schools or starting school for the very first time
- Those students beginning college or university this month and the great work of organisations like Festive, Fusion & Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship.
- CCiS Trustees meeting on Wednesday 7 November (Wayne's birthday!)
- 'Illuminate' Windsor & Slough with LZ7 next month (8-13 October)
- A potential new Lighthouse in Langley, 5-9 August 2019
- "Christmas Unwrapped" in around nine local churches, for 30+ schools, from the end of November.

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...body which could encourage, coordinate and build contacts between our local churches and schools, with the aim of enabling every school in Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead to have a proactive Christian connection. To that end we are investigating models of work carried out by trusts in other areas, both in schools and in their wider communities, and consulting with trusted partners, as we seek to discern where God is leading us. We hope to be able to draw up a suitable job description in the very near future.

### 'What's On?'

- **Education Sunday:** 9th September
- **LZ7 in Concert Friday for those aged 11-18:** 12 October, 7.00-9.30pm: St. Joseph's School Sports Centre SL2 5AY
- **Initial follow-up event:** Saturday 13 October 2.00pm: Salt Hill Activity Centre, Slough SL1 3SS
- **Training in Schools Work: 9th - 11th October:** High Leigh Conference Centre. Details <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/training-schools-work-course> (or 24-26 September in Sheffield)
- **'SHINE' 12th - 30th November:** [www.shineinschools.com](http://www.shineinschools.com)



**Christian  
Connections  
in Schools**

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)**

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CCiS is a local mission partner  
with Scripture Union



**Scripture Union**

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1150149

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