



Christians and Sheffield Schools

connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Christmas Term 2012

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and becomes a tree. Birds even come and nest in its branches.” Matthew 13: 31-32 (CEV)

If you have driven around Sheffield recently you will have seen the, 'New School Year. Allow extra journey time' signs. For those involved in education it is the start of a new year, with all the joys and challenges that can bring. For Christians connecting with schools this term offers lots of opportunities to serve, with the seasons of Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas presenting starting points.

An American study found that nearly half of all people who become committed Christians did so before the age of 13 (43%), with 64% finding their faith before they were 18. In this country, I found faith at 12. CaSS believes the small mustard seeds we plant in a child's life are important.

During the 'inspiring a generation' Olympic Games a prayer torch relay was organised. The prayer torch was passed from Leeds to Sheffield. One of the prayers, in response to a word about 'starting small' with young people, was 'for spiritual blessing on the primary schools in Sheffield that God will open doors, and that God's people will be able to **build deep foundations and roots.**' CaSS has an important part to play in that planting and building.

CaSS has been busy **connecting, encouraging and resourcing** Christians involved with Sheffield schools. For example CaSS has –

- continued to encouraged the **Open the Book** teams that have started in Sheffield since the CaSS & friends OTB training days – new teams have started in Totley All Saints, Oughtibridge Infant & Junior, Lydgate Junior Schools. (Next CaSS **Open the Book** session at Mosborough Methodist on Wednesday 19th September)
- assisted at Y6 transition days at St. Mary's Walkley, Walkley Primary, St. John's Deepcar & Parson's Cross C of E. It was a real privilege to be involved at each school.

- connected with school prayer groups and is looking forward to meeting/leading a 'Pray for Schools' event with several prayer groups meeting together. (Wed. 14th Nov. 1.30pm. Venue tbc)
- enjoyed an afternoon at Diocesan Church House meeting key people and looking at the excellent resources available for loan.
- continued to develop the new website – coming soon! I'd really like to thank **C & C Photography** (www.candcphotography.co.uk) for the excellent photo they took of me for the website and for their generosity in gifting it to CaSS. It was fun being a model!
- manned a stall about the vision of CaSS at Ecclesall mission fair – an opportunity to meet people and spread the word.
- commented on school sport in the Sheffield Telegraph!
- attended a prayer event for schools in Stocksbridge Valley - meeting church leaders and schools workers there. Looking forward to running a prayer station at **Empower** (a citywide prayer meeting) focussing on education this month (28th September)
- enjoyed rehearsing and performing with young people at Montgomery Hall's 'Sheffield Song.'
- met with Dan Inglis the new **Love2Last** part-time worker & St. Thomas' Crookes school worker, Graham Sandersfield working for Operation Mobilisation and using sport as a tool for ministry with young people and with a teacher's assistant in a multi-cultural city centre school taking a small group for Christian assemblies.
- continued working on a pack for school visits to the Jesus Centre.
- enjoyed being involved and seeing the pupils' extremely positive response to the SU Eric Liddell Lifepath Day at Wesley Hall.
- attended a Christian event (Manchester) on how to use media, a course on the early sexualisation of children (Sheffield) and is going to a 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' day (Leeds) on 12th October
- started to collect readings/ideas for Harvest, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas and Easter to offer through the CaSS website.

Please consider coming to the **CaSS AGM** at the CaSS office – Saturday 10th November, 10am for 10.30am start to hear more and to meet Martyn Edwards, the new chairman of the CaSS Management Group.

Keep **planting seeds** in the lives of our young people that they may **grow strong roots** and keep **encouraging** them to **build deep foundations**.

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CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

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