



in association with   
Scripture  
union

Christians and Sheffield Schools  
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

# Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS) Annual Report

**Sept 2015-Sept 2016**

CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

(Registered charity 1007305)



### **CaSS aims to connect**

- Christians with Sheffield schools so that they can work together to serve their communities;
- Christians working in schools with one another;
- Christian activity happening in Sheffield schools by building up an overview of it.

### **CaSS aims to encourage**

- Christians to pray for and serve their local schools;
- Churches to support members of their congregations who work or study in schools.

### **CaSS aims to resource**

- Christians working in or serving Sheffield schools in a wide variety of ways.

## Link Adviser's Report



It is estimated that 4% of 11-16 year olds are in the nation's churches, meaning therefore that 96% of that age bracket are not. If we are serious about reaching this generation, about encountering them, serving them and being salt and light to them it means praying for them and getting involved with them in our schools. Headlines continue to remind us of the pressure and stress many teachers/pupils feel and the reported rising numbers of young people self-harming, abusing drugs or alcohol, with mental health issues, eating disorders, suffering from cyber bullying, sexting etc. When CaSS formed 30 years ago in 1985 it was ahead of its time, but I feel the work of CaSS is needed more than ever.

However, there are lots of opportunities for Christians to serve schools through RE, chaplaincy, Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC), collective worship, church visits, Christian Union, prayer and many more. It is a great time to engage with our schools.

CaSS has been very busy this year, acting as an armour bearer – bringing resources and encouragement to those on the frontline in our city's schools

### Prayer

I meet with the CaSS trustees each month to pray for Sheffield schools. CaSS also produces a termly prayer guide (copies at [www.cass-su.org.uk](http://www.cass-su.org.uk)) We ran a Pray Day (November 2015) for schools at Broomhill Methodist Church. We have met for prayer a few times with other organisations who work in the office building – CLC, e:merge and Heart for Truth.

### Staffing

Emily Clark joined CaSS as an administrator for six hours a week (Thursday) from August 2015. Emily's appointment was as a result of a generous donation for this specific purpose. It has been great to work as a team and Emily brings a wide range of skills – she has even made some Open the Book costumes for CaSS/OTB training sessions! Her contribution to the work of CaSS has been absolutely invaluable.

I continue to work 20 hours a week during term-time.

### Resources

CaSS was awarded a small grant from Keswick Hall Trust to develop RE resources and RE boxes to loan to schools. We now have two (Primary & Secondary) 'Gabi's Bereavement Boxes' of

books, stories and advice for loan to schools coping with bereavement. They are with Woolley Wood Special School, as I write.

I have worked hard to develop 12 RE lesson ideas on e.g. Joseph, 5 sessions on Moses (Women, Anger, Courage, Holiness, 10 Commandments) David & Goliath, The Good Samaritan, Easter and WW1 St John's Gospels. They are available on the CaSS website [www.cass-su.org.uk](http://www.cass-su.org.uk) for download. CaSS is grateful to Sheffield's Rich Wells for the inspiration his artwork has provided – see [www.100biblechallenge.com](http://www.100biblechallenge.com) RE lesson ideas are constantly being added.

RE boxes have been put together, including a class set of crosses from El Salvador, a box containing a mixture of other types of Christian crosses (including a class set of small holding crosses) and a box of books on Mother Teresa (made a saint September 2016). These are available for loan to schools, with ideas for use. The boxes are being added to and developed, and a Prayer Box and Transition Box are being worked on.

CaSS distributed 5000 free Scripture Union Christmas (2015) story comics (we had requests for 5600) given out mostly to schools, or those working with schools at Christmas/Nativity events. At Easter (2016) we distributed almost 3000 Easter story comics.

I have planned activities, alongside Kinder Kalsi of the Church Army and Rev. Phil Goodacre, and helped resource Y6 transition events running in Springfield School and Parson Cross Schools.

I have talked with Richard Jumbe of PAIS about developing resources for use with Y12/Y13 and have met with CLC in order to facilitate the resourcing of those teaching RE in schools.

CaSS now has a professional roll up banner - we are very grateful to Dan Harris former Youth Worker at St Thomas, Crookes for the design.

## **Conference**

CaSS, Sheffield Diocese, The Methodist Church and Sheffield YMCA came together to run the 'Joined Up' conference on Saturday 12 March at St Mary's Bramall Lane. Speakers included Mary Hawes - National Youth and Children's Advisor, Julie Jefferies - National 'Open the Book' Trainer, Lucy Moore - BRF, Messy Church, Phil Togwell – National Leader of Prayer Spaces in Schools, Nigel Pimlott - Regional Learning and Development Officer for Methodist Church, Tim Elgar - CEO of e:merge (Winner of Christian Youthwork Award's 'Youth Worker Employer of the Year' 2014), Brian Cranwell - Author of 'Where's my Mum now?' a bereavement specialist, Geoff Brown - Scripture Union Development Worker (Schools). Almost 200 people gathered on the day. It was well received with lots of very positive reviews about all aspects of the day. Pictures and videos of the day, including both keynote presentations can be found at [www.joinedupconference.com](http://www.joinedupconference.com)

Planning for the 2017 The Joined Up Conference has started with Mike North (Sheffield Diocese) Rachel McCallam (Methodist District) Jonathan Buckley (YMCA White Rose) and new partner Richard Jumbe (PAIS). Keynote speakers – Phil Togwell (National Director of Prayer Spaces in Schools) and Alistair Sharp (Methodist Superintendent) and the 24 workshop slots are now booked and confirmed. It promises to be another fantastic event. It will be held on Saturday 11 March at St Thomas' Philadelphia, 6 Gilpin Street, Sheffield S6 3BL.

### **Connecting & Encouraging**

I can often be found connecting, encouraging and resourcing individuals and groups. For example: I have helped serve weekly after school Tea & Toast to 60 – 100 teenagers in Crosspool for a third year, offered advice, contacts & resources to a teacher setting up a Christian Union and delivered resources to Open the Book teams, talked 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' with Bev Cordle, Headteacher at St John's, Deepcar, met with Rev. Mark Goodhand and a group of church leaders in the North of Sheffield at Firth Park Methodist Church to share ideas and resources - the aim being to work together to serve/resource local schools.

### **Courses**

I have extended my knowledge/expertise by attending a number of courses. This allows me to share resources available for those serving schools with others. Courses have included –

- a Scripture Union course in Batley on using volunteers;
- a Chaplaincy Central course in Birmingham about school chaplaincy;
- visited a Y2 prayer space at a school in Wath-on-Dearne (set up after attending some CaSS training.) [www.prayerspacesinschools.com](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com)
- I learnt more about the excellent mentoring work of TLG;
- went on the, very useful and informative, two day 'Unique' training course;
- I have tested out Sheffield's Golddigger Trust's wonderful 'Choose Your own Adventure' course. See [www.golddiggertrust.co.uk](http://www.golddiggertrust.co.uk)

### **Speaking**

I have worked to encourage the development of church – school links by speaking at St Andrew's URC, Landsdowne Chapel, Ecclesfield Deanery Synod Meeting (40 attended) in Southey Green and St. Thomas' Crookes. I have also visited Trinity URC and All Saints, Ecclesall.

I read two Christmas stories for Radio Sheffield, with one broadcast on Christmas Day. We have just distributed almost 3000 free Scripture Union Easter story comics, as a follow up to the 5000 (we had requests for 5600!) given out to schools and churches at Christmas.

I spoke at an Aurora Children's Ministry Course (facilitated by Sheffield Diocese & YMCA. Accredited by Cliff College) in January 2016 and offered practical ideas churches might use to connect with and serve schools.

### **Online Presence**

Emily & I have worked to update and improve information and resources on our website. It is now more helpful and informative. There are now 26 categories of resources with links to many excellent local and national organisations with lots of ideas, advice, tips and suggestions. We are continually adding ideas with the aim of improving it further in the hope it will become a 'go-to-place' for resources.

CaSS often posts resources on our Facebook page and we are now on Twitter @ChristiansSheff

### **Future Projects**

There are a number of projects planned for September 2016 – September 2017.

These include –

- to produce 10 packs to aid and encourage schools to visit churches, as a place of worship as part of their RE Curriculum. It is anticipated the churches will be spread across the city (funding received from The Church Burgesses);
- to help facilitate The Joined Up Conference 11 March 2017;
- to encourage churches to get involved in school chaplaincy & to produce a training programme/sessions;
- to update Transition Box, after trial runs (July 2016) with Y6 at Springfield and Parson Cross Schools;
- to update website, if funding made available;
- to complete school loan box on prayer;
- to apply to become member of Sheffield SACRE;
- to publicise school loan boxes, CaSS RE lessons, Gabi's Grief boxes to schools.

Fiona Walton

## Management Group Report

The Management Group has continued to meet regularly to provide oversight and governance to the work of CaSS. Our commitment remains to value schools and all those who work and learn in them throughout Sheffield. We do this in partnership with churches from different denominations and across the whole of the City.

I would like to thank CLC for continued use of their office at 291 Abbeydale Road. It has been a privilege over the last year to share the office space with other Christian charities seeking to reach out across Sheffield. I would also like to thank the trustees and officers of CaSS for their behind-the-scenes work to support the ongoing work.

In the past year we received a designated gift that enabled us to employ Emily as CaSS administrator for six hours per week. This meant that Fiona was able to concentrate more fully on 'encouraging, supporting and resourcing' Christian teachers and volunteers directly involved in reaching out to children and young people in schools.

CaSS trustees sent out a letter to supporters in the summer term of 2016 that set out the financial challenges ahead:

We receive funding from our supporters and from a few grant making trusts, but we cannot continue to run in deficit. We are grateful to God for what He has generously provided in the last 30 years, and look to Him to provide for the future.

The current situation is that CaSS has sufficient reserves to meet its liabilities until April 2017. The trustees are applying for funding from a number of local and national trusts to secure the ongoing work of CaSS beyond that date. We will continue to assess the situation over the coming months and will keep supporters informed of developments.

Please get in touch if you would like advice on any school-related issue as a church leader, children's worker, teacher or parent. The trustees of CaSS are happy to provide a short talk/PowerPoint and display-table on its work as part of Sunday services in churches. If you would like to support the work of CaSS through joining a prayer group, volunteering to work with schools, serving as a trustee or giving to the work of CaSS please do get in touch.

Martyn Edwards

## Treasurer's Report

The charity has produced a deficit for the year ended 31st August 2016. The trustees are aware that this position is not sustainable and have scheduled meetings to review the ongoing vision and work of CaSS into 2017 and beyond. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
Income	£16,247	£15,502	£13,395
Expenditure	£20,039	£16,100	£17,708
Surplus	£(3,792)	£(600)	£(4,315)
Reserves	£2,465	£6,256	£6,856

Please note that the increase in expenditure this year is due to the appointment of our administrator, paid for by an earmarked donation. As this special donation is included in our income, the cause of our deficit is actually a significant reduction in our income, rather than through overspending.

We received donations from approximately 31 (30 in 2014/15) individuals, 14 (13) churches and 2 (2) trusts. Many individuals give under gift aid which brings in a welcome sum from HM Revenue and Customs. The trustees are grateful to all who support the ministry.

About 91% of all expenditure is on salaries and associated costs such as National Insurance. We paid £455 (£455) to Scripture Union for their support and training facilities. Our reserves are held on deposit at our bank where we have rapid access for our day to day needs. The trustees are looking to investigate other areas to support the organisation so it can be sustainable in the future. We are grateful for God's faithfulness in providing the resources needed for this ministry, and trust in Him for our future provision through the generosity of our supporters.

Efe Eruero

Treasurer

## Management Group

Richard Donkin (trustee)	All Saints Ecclesall Parish Church
Di Durie (trustee)	Christ Church Fulwood
Martyn Edwards (trustee)	Meadowhead Christian Fellowship
Efe Eruero	Cemetery Road Baptist Church
Glenn Evans (trustee)	Bents Green Methodist Church
Rachel McCallum (trustee)	Methodist Yorkshire-Plus Learning and Development Officer

## Contact CaSS

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**Further copies of the annual report may be obtained from the CaSS office.**



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Registered Charity number - 1007305