



in association with
Scripture
union

Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

Annual Report

September 2017

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 Advisor's Report

September 2016 – September 2017



joined up conference

'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.'

John 1:14

CaSS has continued to work hard to offer connections, encouragement and resources to those serving children and young people in Sheffield schools. There has been an increase in activity in every area. Here is a flavour of our work...

Connecting & Encouraging

We have been delighted to connect, encourage, support and offer ideas to a range of people keen to serve schools, e.g. in Westfield, Owlerton, Cemetery Road, Darnall, Meadowhead, Crookes, Diocesan House and elsewhere.

Speaking

I enjoyed speaking about CaSS at Beauchief Baptist's 80th Birthday celebrations and CaSS was very grateful for their birthday donation to the work of CaSS. I have also had the opportunity to speak at Meadowhead Christian Fellowship this year and an impromptu chance at St Thomas Crookes!

Scripture Union's 95 Tour came to St Mary's, Bramall Lane, in May with National Director Tim Hastie – Smith reminding around 40 of us that research tells us that 95% of children and young people have no meaningful contact with a church. SU's Matty Hawthorne interviewed me on the work of CaSS and we all enjoyed celebrating SU's 150th birthday with a delicious slice of cake!

The Higher Tour

CaSS was delighted to hear, with many other leaders, about the launch and preparations for The Higher Tour/Shine which is planned to reach South Yorkshire schools and young people in 2019.

Millhouses Methodist Christmas Tree Festival

A CaSS Christmas tree formed part of the Millhouses Methodist Christmas Tree Festival and CaSS helped with two of the several school visits to the church, where the children heard the Christmas story and took part in activities.

Open the Book

CaSS has connected with, sent stickers, encouraged and even narrated for Open the Book groups, as well as ferried props across the city to various OTB groups. Ecclesall OTB group ably performed an OTB session (the story of Samuel) at The Joined Up Conference, in order to inspire other groups to start up.

Prayer

The CaSS trustees and I have continued to meet monthly to pray for Sheffield schools, and we have met 4 times a year as a management group. We produce 3 termly prayer diaries and 3 newsletters p.a. which are sent out to around 200 people.

Mindmap – what does CaSS do?

We have sharpened up our CaSS vision statement and produced a mindmap to clearly convey the different areas of CaSS' work. A copy can be found on the website [here](#).

Resourcing

CaSS Website – www.cass-su.org.uk

Further categories/links/advice have been added to the resources area of the website (e.g. mental health, statistics). There are now 32 categories. Several new RE lesson ideas have been added. We have added a 'Pray Day' sheet of suggestions for those holding prayer meetings for a school. Find it [here](#).

Y6 Transition

We have updated our Y6 Transition booklet and session ideas with the help of Kinder Kalsi (Church Army) and Rev. Phil Goodacre (Christ Church, Hillsborough and Wadsley Bridge). This can be downloaded from the website along with instructions for transition activities [here](#). A box of ready-to-use Y6 transition ideas and materials are available for loan.

Gabi's Grief Box

Gabi's Grief Box of resources has been out on loan to various places. For example, to a local special school, who often have to deal with loss within their community, it has been borrowed twice by a group of community nurses helping bereaved families, by clergy who have passed

it on to bereaved families and by a church children's worker. We have added more books for teenagers and hope to secure further funding to add additional resources to both boxes.

Values Bags – What are you building your life on?

At present we have 7 values bags for schools/churches to borrow and we hope to create a few more. They can be used with the Y6 transition activities, with the school – church visit packs or can be part of a stand-alone session. Some of the bags are at present with a school in Fir Vale.

Church - School Visit Packs

We wrote to 16 Sheffield churches and offered to produce individualised school-church visit packs. We heard back from seven. We have started to create school visit packs for Christ Church Hillsborough & Wadsley Bridge, Beauchief Baptist, All Saints Ecclesall, Saint Thomas Crookes, Saint Mark's Broomhill, The Jesus Centre and St Luke's Lodgemoor. We were encouraged to read in the press this week that research indicates that visiting a church building has a big impact on young people. See the article [here](#).

Joined Up Conference 2017

Around 200 gathered at St. Thomas Philadelphia for The Joined Up Conference 2017, organised by CaSS, The Diocese, The Methodist Area & YMCA. Phil Togwell of Prayer Spaces in Schools and Alastair Sharp, Methodist Superintendent, were our keynote speakers. There were 24 workshops on an impressive range of topics such as mental health, social media, autism, challenging behaviour, messy church, Godly Play, schools work, gaming and many more, led by national and local leaders, for example The Children's Society, Think Twice, Youthscape, The Diocese etc. There were also the usual 'Sheffield Short Stories' or testimonies, while 30 organisations exhibited in the marketplace. The Pulse worship band and Bishop Peter also took part. Comments about the day included, 'brilliant event!', 'thank you for making it possible for us to come together', 'outstanding quality', 'same again please!', 'very good thought provoking day', 'really valuable. Glad I came', 'networking was great' and 'wonderful'.

To get a flavour of the day or to look at photos, visit the conference [website](#). Organisation for The Joined Up Conference 2018 is well underway.

Scripture Union Magazines

CaSS distributed more than 4,300 Scripture Union Christmas Story Comics, through our contacts, and a further 2,000 Scripture Union Easter comics to various schools and church settings.

School Chaplaincy

CaSS was delighted to secure funding from The Methodist Church for a School Chaplaincy project. We believe a chaplaincy volunteer working in a school can make a huge difference to a school's ethos and to pupil and staff well-being. We will be promoting chaplaincy in schools, training potential school chaplains, offering resources and also providing further training opportunities and support for existing chaplains. An advisory group will monitor the work.

A proportion of this year's time, therefore, has been spent researching school chaplaincy and meeting some school chaplains from across the city.

Please note: there will be a recommended stream of workshops for school chaplains at the 2018 Joined Up Conference.

Funding

CaSS was delighted to be awarded £500 worth of books from The Rebecca Hussey Trust which has enabled us to supplement our resource boxes for loan. We have made additions to Gabi's Grief boxes, started a Bible Box and begun a small school chaplaincy library.

We have applied to further trusts for funding to sustain our work.

Staffing

Emily tendered her resignation in July-August 2017 after 2 years of working as the CaSS administrator. We are so grateful for all she brought to the role and we wish her well with her new full-time job at Sheffield University.

Please keep praying for the children, young people, staff and all those serving Sheffield schools. Thank you for your continued support. 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.

We have recently said goodbye to Emily as CaSS administrator, since she has moved on to take up a role working for the Students' Union at the University of Sheffield. Emily worked for CaSS for two years during which time she established systems to communicate better with our supporters and initiated a strategy for writing bids to grant-awarding trusts. We have appreciated her work very much and wish her well in her new role. We will be recruiting a new administrator.

CaSS has been awarded funding from the Methodist Circuit to develop chaplaincy in Sheffield Schools. The aim is to recruit, train and support school chaplains to serve in half of primary and secondary schools in Sheffield over the next three years. This project resonates closely with the vision of CaSS and provides an opportunity for Christians with a heart for Sheffield's schools to make a real difference in their communities by engaging with their local school. Further details on the roll-out of this project and how you can get involved will follow over the coming months.

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 all of their behind-the-scenes work to support the ongoing work.

Martyn Edwards

Treasurer's Report

The charity has produced a deficit for the year ended 31st August 2017. The trustees are aware that this position is not sustainable and an extraordinary meeting has been scheduled to review the functions of CaSS moving forwards. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Income	£16,485	£16,247	£15,502
Expenditure	£16,574	£20,039	£16,100
Surplus	£(89)	£(3,792)	£(600)
Reserves	£2,376	£2,465	£6,256

We received donations from approximately 24 (31 in 2015/16) individuals, 9 (14) churches and 3 (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 89% of all expenditure is on salaries and associated costs such as National Insurance. We paid £100 (£0) 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 into 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.

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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

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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