

Christians and Sheffield Schools

connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

in association with

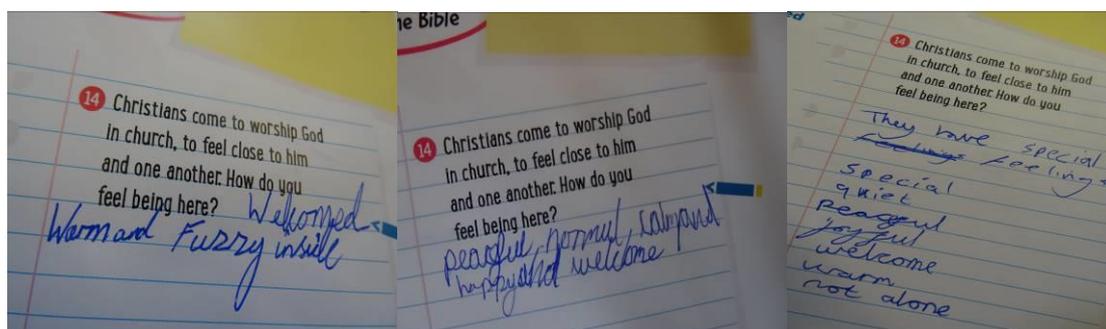


**'Lord, I don't have anyone to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up.'** John 5:7

Happy New Year! CaSS has a lot to look forward to in 2015, as we approach our thirtieth birthday in September! But first a few reflections on the term that has just passed. It has been another busy time, with several new opportunities to encourage and resource Christians to serve schools and to try and ensure that there are people to support and serve children and young people.

A few highlights – **September** Tim Elgar of e:merge began sharing the CaSS office, attended a Prayer Spaces Development day in York & SU training in Leeds, the Ecclesall Open the Book team that CaSS trained started to take (almost) weekly assemblies at Ecclesall Junior School.

**October** CaSS was invited to talk to 30+ Diocesan Headteachers about Open the Book, Prayer Spaces in Schools and Godly Play. Piloted an SU booklet for KS2 pupils visiting churches with my two Y6 classes.

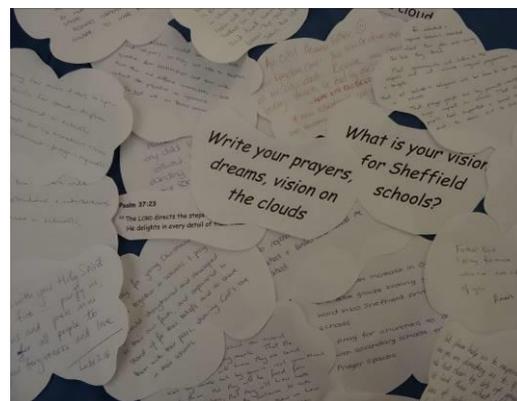


CaSS took a two foot tall statue of James Montgomery round his favourite haunts - the resulting photographs were used in a twitter campaign and The Star to advertise an 'Off the Shelf' James Montgomery Day at the Cathedral.

**November** 850 visitors passed through the cathedral. CaSS had some good conversations and made useful connections, as CaSS provided the activities for the young visitors on Montgomery Day.



CaSS did some Open the Book training with a group of 10 parents and volunteers at Porter Croft School and another OTB team was launched. I visited an SU Lifepath event on John Wesley in Preston. CaSS is grateful to Rob Steward for sharing his ideas and resources. At the Pray Day event John O'Brien gave a very encouraging message, and a large group of people prayed using the school themed prayer stations.



**December** saw the CaSS Christmas Tree decorated and on display at Millhouses Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival. The 20+ trees



were visited by 8 schools and each child was offered a Christmas story comic, supplied by SU, via CaSS. A few hundred of these comics were distributed by CaSS in December.

And so to our plans for **2015**. Here are some of the things we'll be up to -

- running a Prayer Spaces in Schools event with national team leader Phil Togwell on Wednesday 11 February. Please consider supporting this event and helping advertise it (flyer on reverse);
- purchasing RE resources for loan, using a Keswick Hall Trust grant;
- assembling a 'Bereavement Box' of books etc. to loan to schools;
- supporting SU's 3D event at Wesley Hall on Thursday 19 March;
- planning the CaSS conference to be held on 20 June;
- running more Open the Book training events;
- hoping to support work with schools in Pitsmoor & Arbourthorne;
- exploring the possibility of running Montgomery Days for schools with Wincobank chapel;
- looking at developing John Wesley 'Lifepath' days;
- giving thought to how CaSS can celebrate/mark its 30th birthday;
- submitting funding bids & looking at fund raising ideas to help give CaSS a sustainable future;
- producing Open the Book costumes/props for loan & courses;
- investigating the possibility of collating a CaSS book of short Sheffield School Stories with a variety of contributors;
- identifying how CaSS can encourage churches to support teachers.

We are so grateful for your prayer & financial support. Thank you. Fiona

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