



in association with
Scripture
union

Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

Annual Report

2012 – 2013

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

“The Word became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood” John 1:14 (The Message)

I would like to take this opportunity, along with the CaSS trustees, to thank you for your ongoing interest, prayers and financial support for the work of CaSS as we continue to connect, encourage and resource Christians working in Sheffield schools and to see ‘The Word become flesh and move into *our* neighbourhoods’.

We are able to give thanks for an exciting year. Here is a flavour of just some of the activities

CaSS was involved in during **2013:**

Prayer CaSS continued to hold monthly prayer meetings, produce termly prayer diaries, meet with school/parents prayer groups when possible and meet with others praying across the city. CaSS spoke at the Pray Day for Schools in November on ‘Feeding a Hungry Crowd’. Nick Waterfield from Parsons Cross shared about his work, as did Joy French from Norfolk Park.



Events CaSS has taken part in or run a number of events such as the ‘Sticky Faith’ SU event at Meadowhead Christian Fellowship, the sell-out 1st CaSS conference with Bob Hartman and 12 workshops, and a Christmas tree festival at Millhouses Methodist. CaSS has run stalls at Ecclesall’s Mission Fayre at All Saints, a Care for the Family Event at the Mega Centre and the ONE evening at The Montgomery.

Scripture Union I have been on SU days for associates in Rothwell and Bawtry, given the ‘thought for the day’ at an SU schools work training event in Sheffield, and benefited from SU advice when CaSS was named in the National Secular Society report. CaSS distributed 2000 Christmas Story comics to local primary-school children.

An extra pair of hands I have acted with Open the Book groups in several schools, helped with ‘Pray Day for School’ activities at Walkley Primary and a Y6 transition day at St

John's School in Deepcar. I help Sue Brown's team each week with after-school Tea (hot chocolate really!) & Toast at Stephen Hill, Methodist. 80 – 90 young people regularly drop in and good relationships are starting to form.



Training I have been on the following training events:

Prayer Spaces in Schools (in Bradford); Imagine North (a Christian schools-work event in Leeds); Keep Your Fork (an excellent PR/Marketing course with Faye Smith); a PowerPoint training course (run by SU in Bletchley); and completed the Methodist Church safeguarding training. I ran an Open the Book taster event in Crosspool and recruited more Open the Book volunteers.

Speaking I have preached or spoken about CaSS to The Methodist Ecclesall Circuit, Meadowhead Christian Fellowship, Beauchief Baptist Church, Cemetery Road Baptist Church and been interviewed at a Sheffield SU event with national director Tim Hastie-Smith.

Connections I've made connections with a wide range of wonderful people across the city. CaSS has been part of a group consulted on Imagine North's 2014 conference. A highlight for me was the supper party held at The Oakes with its theme of 'we're in this together'. It was great to see around 40 people from across the city connecting over a meal and then sharing vision and testimony. It was a really encouraging time – amazing things are going on in our city! CaSS is so thankful to the Oakes for their generosity in hosting the event.



A thank you CaSS said a big thank you to trustee Jenny Lambourne, Childrens' Officer with Sheffield Diocese, as she retired. We are very grateful for all the experience and connections that she brought to the role and particularly for her help with the CaSS conference.

'Technology' Improvements have been made to the CaSS website, a facebook page has been launched, LinkedIn joined, and a PowerPoint on the work of CaSS has been developed.

Press I have spoken on Radio Sheffield's Faith Show and CaSS has had a mention in The Sheffield Telegraph, The Star, The Yorkshire Post and had an article in Plexus (5 top tips for taking collective worship in schools).

In **2014** CaSS will continue to connect with, encourage, resource, pray for and serve those working in schools across the city, bringing 'The Word' into our neighbourhoods. We'd be very grateful for your continuing prayers, support and involvement.

We will, for example, be working on the following

- Writing regularly for Plexus, a Christian magazine for Sheffield, keeping service to schools on the agenda. My column entitled '*Tardis Theology*' – a look at *Doctor Who* and *Open the Book* goes live on 19 March, while my interview with Lat Blaylock (a mover and shaker in the RE world) will be in the paper edition of Plexus in June.
www.plexusmag.com
- Acting as Scripture Union's representative on The RE Council of England and Wales. Established in 1973, it is made up of 60 organisations covering a wide spectrum of beliefs. They are 'working together to strengthen the provision of religious education in schools, colleges and universities.' An influential body that talks to government and they listen. www.religiouseducationcouncil.org
- Running Open the Book training events.
www.openthebook.net
- Starting a lending library/storage facility at the CaSS office for larger Open the Book props.
- Writing a clear, comprehensive code of conduct for Christians visiting schools which will be distributed and published on the CaSS website.
www.cass-su.org.uk.
- Writing a lesson plan for SGMlifeworlds about the Gospels of John given out in World War 1.
www.sgmlifeworlds.com
- Being part of a team (alongside the Cathedral Heritage Officer, The Star newspaper, The Montgomery, Sheffield University Archives, The General Cemetery etc.) planning the James Montgomery Day in Sheffield Cathedral on 1 November.
- Working on the CaSS Conference - speakers, workshops, a prayer space, advertising, bookings etc.
- Producing a publicity booklet/leaflet about the work of CaSS.

Management Group Report

Much has happened in the last twelve months for which we thank God. Highlights include:

- CaSS' first annual conference held at the Wilson Carlile Conference Centre in June 2014. Bob Hartman (author of the Lion Story-teller Bible) was guest speaker, along with seminars and a marketplace of resources from an array of national and local organisations working in schools.
- A joint city-wide supper in partnership with The Oakes Christian Holiday Centre. Participants were able to present their ideas for youth and children's work and explore ways of working together.
- The ongoing programme of Open the Book training in various parts of the city.
- Continued partnership with Scripture Union including Sticky Faith and Transformed Lives training events and the distribution of 2,000 comics in keystage 2 as part of Christmas Unwrapped.

Plans are already underway for our second annual conference on 07 June 2014 with guest speaker Nick Harding. Nick is the children's ministry advisor for the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese and is a member of the Church of England Synod. He has a particular passion for engaging boys and making school visits to churches and cathedrals more interesting.

CaSS sees its role both as supporting churches to get involved in national initiatives around schools work, and to support individuals and churches to serve God in appropriate ways in schools. Please get in touch if you would like advice on any school-related issue, or simply to receive our termly newsletter and prayer diary. The trustees of CaSS are happy to provide a short talk and display table on its work as part of Sunday services in churches, perhaps as part of 'back to school Sunday'.

There have been some changes to the CaSS Management group over the last 12 months. Jenny Lambourne has stood down as trustee following her retirement from her role as Children's Officer for the Church of England diocese. I would like to express my thanks to Jenny for her much valued contribution to schools' work in Sheffield and to wish her a very happy retirement. I would also like to thank the continuing officers and trustees for their

support for the work. Whilst much of the trustee's role is mundane (for example, working through the legal obligations of pension auto-enrolment) it is a valued role that enables the 'connecting, encouraging and resourcing' to go smoothly.

CaSS welcomes enquiries from Christians with a passion for education and young people who would like to get involved. We are particularly looking for a volunteer with administrative skills able to work flexibly either from our office on Abbeydale Road or from home. Those interested in being a CaSS-link to their local church or willing to pray for the work are also sought.

Martyn Edwards

Chair of Management Group.

Treasurer's Report

The charity has managed to produce a surplus for the year ended 31st August 2013. The size of the surplus was enhanced by Methodist Church Sheffield District funding which crystallised in 2012-13 which related to the previous financial year. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
Income	£23,828	£18,765	£22,701
Expenditure	£17,518	£16,534	£27,560
Surplus	£6,310	£2,231	(£4,859)
Reserves	£10,173	£3,863	£1,632

We received donations from approximately 23 (31 in 2011/12) individuals, 8 (11) churches and 6 (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 73% 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 broaden the support of 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

Ann Bielby (trustee)	St. Thomas Crookes
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	Sheffield Methodist Mission Enabler

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

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