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Scripture
union

Christians and Sheffield Schools
connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)

Annual Report

2013-14

CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

(Registered charity 1007305)

Link Adviser's Report

“....putting muscle and sinew in the lives of the disciples, urging them to stick with what they had begun” (Acts 14:22 The Message)

2013-14 was another busy year for CaSS, 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. Here are a few highlights.....

Open the Book training

CaSS ran three Open the Book training sessions. One for 3 churches (Methodist, Baptist & Anglican) in the Beauchief/Woodseats area, another for 20 participants at All Saints, Ecclesall and a third session for a group of 10 at Porter Croft School. All three resulted in new OTB teams, who are now regularly visiting four new primary schools.



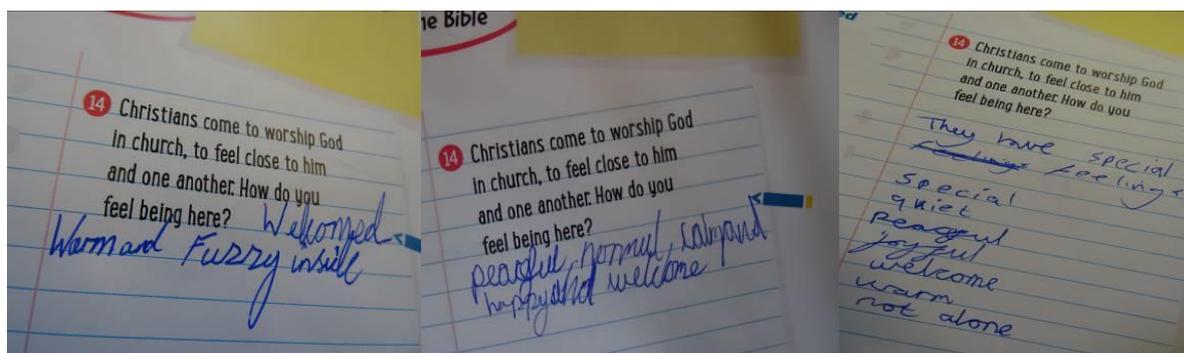
CaSS publications

CaSS developed a lesson plan for SGM Lifewords to distribute nationally to schools via its website. It told the story of the Gospels of John given out to troops during World War I (www.sgmlifewords.com).

CaSS wrote articles for Plexus to keep schools on the agenda. These included an interview with Lat Blaylock (RE adviser and author of the Sheffield RE curriculum); an interview with Phil Togwell (national leader of Prayer Spaces in Schools); and an article called 'Walking Sticks'. All these articles are available at www.plexusmag.com.

CaSS produced a booklet which summarises our work and a code of conduct (with help from Chester Schools Christian Work) to help those visiting schools to do so with integrity. Delegates at the CaSS conference were given copies of both publications.

CaSS piloted the new SU booklet, 'It's Your Church' for use by Key Stage 2 pupils visiting churches.



CaSS conference

Eighty five gathered at the 2nd CaSS Conference in June 2014 to learn together and connect with each other. Nick Harding was an excellent keynote speaker and there were a wide range of workshops. The Sheffield Short Stories were one highlight - there is such a variety of ministry going on in the schools of our city! The evaluation comments we received about the conference were overwhelmingly positive, but there are of course always things to learn. CaSS has undertaken a comprehensive review of the event which is available on the website at www.cass-su.org.uk.



Training for CaSS

CaSS visited a school - SU Lifepath event on John Wesley in Preston and thanks Rob Steward for sharing his ideas and resources. We will be developing a Sheffield version.

CaSS attended a Prayer Spaces development day in York and an SU training event in Leeds on mentoring in Schools.

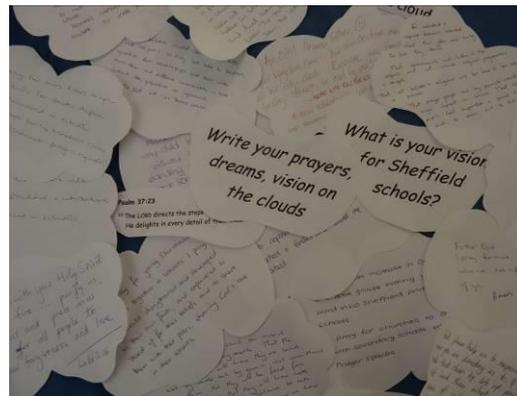
Events

CaSS was invited to talk to 30+ Diocesan headteachers about Open the Book, Prayer Spaces in Schools and Godly Play.

CaSS took a two-foot statue of Sheffield Christian hero James Montgomery round his favourite haunts - the resulting photographs were used in a twitter campaign and in The Star newspaper to advertise an 'Off the Shelf' James Montgomery Day at the Cathedral. 850 visitors passed through the cathedral and CaSS had some very good conversations.



At the 'Pray Day for Sheffield Schools' event John O'Brien gave a very encouraging message and a large group of people prayed using the school-themed prayer stations.



In December 2013 the CaSS Christmas Tree was decorated and on display at the Millhouses Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival. Over 20 trees were visited by 8 schools and each child was offered a Christmas comic, supplied by SU, via CaSS. A few hundred of these comics were distributed in Sheffield schools.

Other news

In September 2014 Tim Elgar of E:merge (www.emergeonline.org.uk) began sharing the CaSS office.

CaSS was awarded a grant from Keswick Hall Trust to develop RE resource boxes to loan to schools. A 'Bereavement Box' of books, stories and advice will also be created.

CaSS plans for 2015.

- running a Prayer Spaces in Schools event with national team leader Phil Togwell on Wednesday 11 February at The Oakes and The Montgomery;
- purchasing RE resources for loan, using a Keswick Hall Trust grant;
- assembling a 'Bereavement Box' 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 at Victoria Hall;
- 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.

CaSS continues to be grateful for the prayers and financial gifts of its supporters. Thank you.

Fiona Walton

Links Adviser

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.

Initiatives in 2014-15 have included:

- CaSS's second annual conference held at the Wilson Carlile Conference Centre in June 2014. Nick Harding (Nottingham & Southwell C of E Diocese) spoke on the theme of SHINE - TAKING LIGHT INTO SCHOOLS along with seminars and a marketplace of resources from various national and local organisations working in schools.
- Training events held in partnership with PRAYER SPACES IN SCHOOLS and SCRIPTURE UNION/URBAN SAINTS.
- The ongoing programme of Open the Book training in various parts of the City.
- The distribution of 3,000 comics to Key Stage 2 children as part of Christmas Unwrapped.

CaSS is grateful to the Keswick Hall Trust for a small grant to provide resources to support OPEN THE BOOK teams working with primary schools in Sheffield. More details of a launch event for this important resource for the City will follow in the autumn term 2015.

A key priority for Cass in the next 12 months is to improve the ways we communicate with and value our supporters and the churches that work with us in order to encourage informed prayer and regular giving so that the work remains sustainable in the medium term. CaSS is always happy to welcome new partners, and to send out copies of our informative termly newsletter and prayer diary to supporters.

I would like to express my thanks to the continuing officers and trustees of CaSS for their hard 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.

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 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

Chair of Management Group.

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.

Treasurer's Report

The charity has produced a deficit for the year ended 31st August 2014. The trustees are aware that this position is not sustainable and will be reviewing the functions of CaSS moving forwards. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Income	£13,395	£23,828	£18,765
Expenditure	£17,708	£17,518	£16,534
Surplus/(Deficit)	£(4,315)	£6,310	£2,231
Reserves	£6,856	£11,173	£3,863

We received donations from approximately 27 (23 in 2012/13) individuals, 8 (8) churches and 1 (6) 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 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

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Management Group

Ann Bielby	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 (trustee)	Methodist Yorkshire-Plus Learning and Development Officer

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