



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By the time you receive this, I expect you will have got used to the idea of 2004 and your Christmas celebrations will be a distant memory except perhaps for the reminder on a monthly bank statement. I speak from personal experience.

However, we are in the business of looking forward with the benefit of the wisdom of the past to help us. God meets us in the "now" and at this point in time we have two secondary workers – Sue and Andrew – which can mean two CIST assemblies happening in Stockport at the same time. How good is that! The Bible says "Two are better than one" (Ecc 4:9) but with Kate and Judy as enlisted volunteers, the scene gets even better. However, our plan is to have five full time workers serving the five groups of schools. How's your faith?

We are seeing changes in our Trustee membership. I am sure you will want to join with me in thanking Lesley Ashworth who leaves us to give more time to focus her energies on the opportunities emerging at her children's school. Lesley was a founding member of the Trust and was the Stockport SU Secondary Schools' worker before Steve Bullock. Her contribution has been inestimable. We plan to keep in touch but will miss her regular, distinctive input.

Lesley's leaving has increased our need to recruit members for our Development Group. We especially need people with skills and experience in the areas of publicity, PR and finance. If you would like to know more please give me a ring on 0161 285 0346.

Thank you for sharing in the work of Christians In Schools. We look forward to God's blessing in 2004.

Philip Clarke

Do come if you can to

Pray for Schools

on Saturday, 15 May 2004

from 10 am – 11 am

at Norbury Parish Church

London Rd, Hazel Grove

If you do not receive a personal copy of this Newsletter and would like one, please contact your Church Representative or the Trust Treasurer who maintains our address list.

Christians in Schools Trust - Web site: www.cist.org.uk

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God is so good!

Dear Friends,

Happy new year! I hope you had a great Christmas and are raring to go in 2004. As usual, far too much is happening to be able to fit into one little article but I'll try to give you a flavour.

- Thank you so much for praying for our **schools in Advent**. I had a number of letters from head teachers, expressing their gratitude for your support. I'm including a diary for **praying for Christian groups in schools** on a regular basis and hope you'll find it useful.
- The **Christmas assemblies** went really well and in one school, the Head of Year told me that our assembly was the only time the youngsters would hear about the real meaning of Christmas. The school had no other Christmas event at all! This may be so unlike your memories of your own school days that you will find it difficult to believe, certainly to understand. Once again, in some places, **Christians in Schools Trust are offering a 'taste of the Lord'** which is not being offered by anybody else.
- As a number of local schools undergo their **OFSTED** inspection, it's been great to be asked to present assemblies, lessons and work in clubs for the Inspectors to see. One of the best things about this ministry is being on hand to support staff in a very real and timely way.
- Plans are now well under way for supporting the work of In Yer Face professional Christian theatre company in local schools over the next term. Last term the team were at Marple Hall High School and, by the time you read this, will have completed a schools week at Poynton High School. With Offerton High, Kingsway and Bramhall High School to come, it's wonderful to see the relationship between **In Yer Face and Christians in Schools Trust** growing in the power of the Lord!
- **SU workers** from throughout the North West got together in Liverpool before Christmas to enjoy a time of fellowship and prayer at SU worker Andy Banks' place. We plan to make this a regular meeting and the next one is planned before Easter. I'll also be attending the **Advanced School for Schools' Workers** in February and Andrew and I will go to the **SU Conference** in March. These times of sharing with fellow workers are encouraging and resourcing – we get to nick each other's ideas for good assemblies!!
- Plans are now underway for:
 - the next **Fusion** event on March 19th – watch this space!
 - **Year 6/Year 7** links through our volunteer, Kate Clements, and involving Year 11 students from local schools
 - Christians in Schools Trust first **residential** in June
 - *The Wizard of Oz* at Avondale

- Finally, may I make another plea for **office space**?! You may recall that I asked for your help this time last year but decided at that time that I could manage working from home. Things have changed a bit and I do now desperately need some office space. Ideally, somewhere that Andrew and I (and who knows how many other workers the Lord is going to bring us!) can work together, creating a recognisable base for Christians in Schools Trust. It needs to be able to be secured and we would want to put a phone line in. **PLEASE, if you have such a space or know of one, could you tell me about it?** I don't mind if it's in a church, an office building or a spare room in your large house!

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the work. May God bless you this term.

With much love in Christ,

Sue Mayo

Andrew in Action

I've been working for CIS for 3 months now and am really enjoying it. I had a good first term, which saw a new lunchtime club called **theclubwithaname** start in **Stockport School**. We regularly see 25+ year 7 and 8's each Wednesday and enjoy chatting, games and a discussion on a specific issue. I feel that good relationships have been built up with these young people.

Assemblies have come thick and fast at **Reddish Vale** as well as teaching twelve year 7 forms about right and wrong. These were my first ever lessons and I absolutely loved them.

The **new term** is now in full swing and I am currently teaching all of Reddish Vale's year 7 and doing the school assemblies for their OFSTED week. My second lesson was inspected and the inspector was very supportive – praise God!

The best news of the year so far is that we are now going into **Priestnall** to **'hang around'** on a Thursday dinnertime. Please pray for this as we start in the next couple of weeks.

It's an exciting time in all 3 schools and if you could pray for the following, it would be much appreciated:

- For some **Christian help** in Reddish Vale so that a lunch/after-school club can be set up, particularly for year 7s.
- For **all the helpers** at Priestnall as we start our HAM
- For some **assembly opportunities** in Stockport School
- For the **Fusion** event on March 19 – for the right venue and for the 'roadshow' we plan to put on the 2 weeks before.

Thank you so much for all your prayer support – it means so much.

Andrew Phillips

In schools - Kate Clements

Kate has had a good first term as our Voluntary Worker in Primary Schools. She has linked up with feeder Primary Schools for Avondale and completed the OT **Bible Explorer** course in **Cheadle Heath** and **Bridge Hall**. There was a wonderful response and after five weekly sessions of one hour she feels she knows a lot of the children in Years 5 and 6. These schools have already asked Kate to come **back in the summer** when she has completed her training for the New Testament in April.

This term she moves on to Larkhill, and has meetings planned with Heads of St Matthew's Edgeley and Cale Green.

Pray for Kate on **Mondays** and in all her **links with Sue** as they decide how to help in the run up to **transfer to Secondary School** with these children during the Summer and Autumn terms.

Behind the Scenes - Audrey Bomford

Stockport LEA Revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

After three years of review and consultation with teachers, this Syllabus is nearing completion. The SACRE 'Conference'... a title for the working party... appointed a group to do this task. Audrey Bomford, Jan Ford, (RE Offerton High), Simon Oldfield (RE Hazel Grove High), and Philip Clarke have been involved from the start, and we ask for prayers for the dates of final meetings and the 'launch'.

Feb 24 & 25	Teachers see the completed syllabus
March 17	SACRE meeting to formally adopt the Syllabus
March 23	Launch day for Heads, RE co-ordinators and Governors

More importantly it's the teachers whom we hope will find this easy to use, helpful for meeting their needs for RE teaching and giving clear guidance on what is to be taught. Christianity is compulsory at all Key Stages. By law, it is the Local Authority who set the Syllabus for schools in their jurisdiction.

Although a National RE Syllabus is planned by Central Government for September, it is not envisaged that this will 'replace' local Syllabi, but will follow the same format and method of guidance as used in other National Curriculum documents.

February

- 2-6 Advanced School for Schools' Workers with SU at Derby
- 8-16 Lay Reader placement at St George's Poynton
- 9 Assemblies all week at Marple Hall
Team meeting for Sue & Andrew
- 12 Talk at St Chad's Handforth
- 13 Schools break up
- 15 Preach at St George's Poynton
- 16 Half term
Pastoral and development meeting with Audrey Bomford
- 17-19 Training with PAIS School Team for Sue & Andrew
- 20 Meeting with In Yer Face to plan World Religion Week at Kingsway
- 23 Kingsway CU - Flood - planning and prayer
- 24 Talk at Elaine Allinson's (St Andrews Cheadle) 'At Home'
- 27-29 Preaching Weekend at Foxhill as part of my Reader Training
- 29 Preach at Inspire Service for young people

March

- 1 World Religions Week at Kingsway with In Yer Face
- 2 - 4 SU Conference for Sue & Andrew
- 5 Kingsway with IYF
- 8 Fusion Roadshow all week
Assemblies at Marple Hall all week
Team Meeting
- 11 Assembly at Marple Hall

- 15 Fusion Roadshow all week
Team Meeting
- 19 Fusion
- 22 Team Meeting
- 24 Talk at Missionary Evening at Heaton Moor Evangelical Church
- 25 Talk at Mothers' Union, All Saints Church
- 28 Talk at St John's Church Lindow

Regular Commitments

Tuesday

- **POG** Cheadle Hulme College CU with Jane Nanono, Careforce worker from Uganda & volunteer Nicola Smith both from All Hallows, Cheadle

Wednesday

- **Icthus** Kingsway Upper School CU with Alex Gardner, Careforce worker from St Cuthbert's, Cheadle, Mr Cawsey & Mr Nicholas
- **Classroom support** at Avondale
- **Impact** Avondale CU with Andrew, Rachel Heath & Chip from Stockport Family Church

Thursday

- **Flood** Kingsway Lower School CU with Alex Gardner from St Cuthbert's

Friday

- **Avondale HAM** with Andrew, Rachel Heath and Rev Helen Scarisbrick from St Augustines

Thank you for your faithful support of the work through prayer.

School	Activity	People
Avondale	Wed after school CU - Impact Fri lunch time HAM	Sue, Andrew, Rachel Heath, Chip from Stockport Family Church
Bramhall	Wed lunch time CU - CAT	Alex Metcalfe youth worker from Bramhall Methodist Church
Cheadle Hulme	Tue lunch time CU - POG (2 groups)	Sue, Jane Nanono Careforce worker from All Hallows Cheadle, Nicola Smith volunteer from All Hallows Cheadle, Senna
Hazel Grove	Fri lunch time CU - Woteva!	Mr Oldfield*, Alastair Middlemist youth worker from Norbury Parish Church
Kingsway, lower	Thu lunch time CU - Flood	Sue, Alex Gardener Careforce worker from St Cuthbert's Cheadle, Melissa Blaufelt
Kingsway, upper	Wed lunch time CU - Icthus	Sue, Alex Gardener, Mr Cawsey*, Mr Nicholas*
Marple Hall	Mon lunchtime CU - CAOS	Mr Clarke*, Captain Andy from All Saints Marple
Offerton	Thu lunch time CU - CHAOS	Mrs Ford*, Youth workers from St Chad's, Romiley
Poynton	Thu lunch time CU - Impact	Mrs Wilkinson*
Priestnall	Thu lunch time HAM	Andrew
Reddish Vale		Andrew
Stockport	Wed lunch time CU - theclubwithnoname	Andrew, Tina Kissinger Careforce worker from Stockport Baptist, Mr Murphy*, Mr Fletcher*
Werneth	Fri lunchtime CU - CAOS	Youth workers from St Chad's Romiley
Wilmslow	Wed lunch time CU - Vision	Nathan Philingham from St John's Lindow, Julie Francis from St Chad's Handforth

* School Staff

Interested in helping in schools?

Why not join the '**Become a School Helper Course**'?

Wed evenings starting 25 Feb and ending 17 Mar (7 pm to 9 pm)

at Whitehill Primary School, Heaton Norris

Contact: Carol Kyle 0161 442 3754

See leaflet for further information