



Our Address: c/o 35 Drayton Drive, Heald Green, Stockport SK8 3LE

CIST CHARITY NUMBER:1019848

A letter from the Chairman

by Steve Innes

"AND HE SHALL BE CALLED EMMANUEL GOD WITH US"

As we come to the end of another year, we do so with much thanksgiving, because as a trust we have certainly known GOD WITH US in so many ways. Thank you so much for your prayers and support, your faithfulness in this way has been richly rewarded. So much has happened this term, including a larger staff team than we have had for a number of years, a growth in schools reached, new projects developed and more besides.

2018 will be a special year in the life of CIST as we mark our 25 years since the trust was formed to carry on the work in schools of Stockport previously done by Scripture Union. We hope to mark this with a

service of thanks giving (details below). Also in this letter you will find a report from Joe, our Treasurer, showing amongst other things how we need to update and change things within the trust. I hope you find his report informative.

So as we approach the end of a busy year I want to thank our staff (Emma Andy Jill & Josh) for your commitment to the Lords work in our Schools. Thanks to all my fellow Trustees for all your support, and service to the Lord, in keeping the show on the road, you are all very special people, and again to you our supporters for your prayers and generosity.

May you know afresh something of the Joy, Hope and Peace of that first Christmas when a vulnerable

but obedient Mary gave birth to the Christ child. The Hope and Saviour of the world.

Shalom
Steve Innes (Chair)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- The trustees, as they follow God's word for us.
- Our team, as they recover from a busy and productive term!
- Our financial situation, as we step out into God's will.

OUR DETAILS

Contact Emma with any queries!

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Christians in Schools Trust Financial Report Dec 2017

Last year will be remembered by the trustees as a time of staff changes. One of the effects of this is that we have times when we are paying less wages this has helped to build our small reserves. We are grateful to the many loyal supporters who have continued their support throughout the changes.

Emma has been leading the development of various projects and joint activities in schools, some of these involve extra expense but we feel it is the right way to go as it has increased the requests from schools for other services. Schools have contributed to the joint activities and to projects like 'It's Your Move'.

The team are working well with great enthusiasm, we are trying to visit churches who support us directly.

In conformity with the Government directive we have introduced Automatic Enrolment to the NEST pension scheme. All of our workers have opted to stay in the scheme. The current cost is 1% for the employees and 1% for the employer. This changes in April to 3% for employees and 2% for employers. The

dates for these changes keeps fluctuating so keeping up to date is a constant challenge for me.

Our total income for the last financial year was £51,459 and our expenditure was £42,597, however our expenditure will increase considerably this year.

The free financial system which I inherited when I became treasurer failed to transfer to Windows 10. The system was developed by David Scott and has served me well as it covered many of the routine tasks like acknowledgement letters for gifts, Gift Aid claims, a data base of addresses of donors and organisations with powerful search facilities.

We now have a commercial system which gives security of support but is short of some facilities like the contact data base, this needs recreating. The accounts bit works well and as I get used to the terminology used will be fine. The organisation have promised acknowledgement letters in the near future.

Besides taking on a replacement for Joe the

trustees took a real step of faith and employed an extra worker in September 2017, we would really like to employ a further worker when the time is right. This would give a smoother transfer of work if and when staff move on it will also enable us to meet more of the current request for activities from schools.

Your support is critical to our work and should you know of others who may be interested in our work and want to add their support please put them in contact with me.

Joe Whetham Hon Treasurer.
J.whetham@ntlworld.com
 01614990266



Don't miss these dates!

We have lots of exciting things coming up! Here are just some dates to watch out for and to pray for:

- **28th of January 2018** – Prayer and Presentation at St Cuthbert's Café Church, 18:30. 1 Cuthbert Rd, Cheadle SK8 2DT
- **Storytelling Week (week commencing 29th of Jan)** – Please pray for our team as we work through this week of intense projects with local schools.
- **18th of February 2018** – Commissioning Service for Josh Openshaw, Primary Schools worker, at St Andrews Church at 18:30. St Andrews Church, Cheadle Road, SK8 5ET.
- **16th of May 2018** – 25th Anniversary Celebration, everybody welcome! 18:30, Stockport Baptist Church, 60 Thompson Street, Stockport, SK3 9DR. Don't miss it!

Highlights of the term!

We have been very blessed this term with great new opportunities and contacts. The result has been some really fantastic events and activities. Here are just some of our highlights from the term:

Jill: "My highlight from the term was our so-called 'Jesus Day' at Norris Bank Primary. This was an entire day with two classes, spending time really helping them understand who the person of Jesus was. We did lots of fun activities like drama and rapping and cartoon drawing! We got great feedback and the children loved it!"

Emma: "It's always so hard to choose one highlight from the term, but I've managed to bring it

down to 3! Our Dial Park Christianity Day really took our ministry to a whole new, collaborative level. It was wonderful to deliver that project with the help of so many local churches. I also have to mention the mentoring I have been doing at Stockport Academy which has been incredibly rewarding, and the Stockport Academy Christmas Concert, which we were heavily involved in, but went amazingly well!"

Andy: "My highlight of the term has definitely been the rapport and relationship I have built up with Bramhall High School. Particularly my mentoring group with vulnerable boys, which has continued this term. I have found this, and all the R.E lessons and assemblies I have done, very rewarding. "

Josh: "My highlight of the term has been the Guardians of Ancora clubs we have started at Oaktree Primary and ThornGrove Primary. There have been great opportunities to play fun games and talk to children about Jesus!"

As always, thank you all for your prayers and support. Our work is not made possible without your loyalty and faithful seeking of God.

**With blessings,
The Christians in Schools Trust
Team**

