



CiST Newsletter Summer 2017



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

CIST CHARITY NUMBER:1019848

A letter from the Chairman

by Steve Innes

As we come toward the end of yet another academic year, the Trustees can look back with great thankfulness. 2017 continues to be a year of change for us and we are so thankful for all of God's goodness to us. Earlier this year, after being without a base for our staff, we moved into our new office at St Matthews Church Centre. For this we give a big "Thank you!" to Rev David Brewster and the PCC at St Matthews. This office is in a great position near the centre of the town, and the staff are settling in well. Then, last month, after a year of asking and looking, we welcomed Mrs Jo Lawrinson to be the trust secretary. This is great news and a real answer to prayer; we are so glad to have Jo join us. Please do pray for her as she seeks to serve the Lord in this way. We also had a great Commissioning service for Andy and Joe in April.

Later you will read about some of the great opportunities our workers have had in schools, but our main project this

half term will be "It's Your Move!" This is a project for year six children who next year will be going into "Big School." "It's Your Move!" is a Scripture Union program and guide book is given to every child that does the project. If you or your church are interested in financing some books and sponsoring a specific class in your local school, please do contact Emma.

Although the summer holiday will provide a time of rest for the staff, the staff and Trustees will be spending time reflecting on the vision that we believe the Lord has given us. We would value your prayers at this time.

Finally, thank you for all your prayers, support and financial giving! Have a great summer.

"He put our feet on a wonderful road, that took us to a good place. So thank God for his marvelous love!" Psalm 107

Steve. (Chairman)

OUR DETAILS

Our team

Senior Leader: Emma Hinds:
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Secondary School worker: Andy Wisdom:
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Primary School worker: Joe Burgess:
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Our new secretary, as she settles into her role.
- Our year 6 students, who will soon be receiving SATS results and planning for their transition to High School.

INTRODUCING JO! SECRETARY FOR THE TRUST.



Hi, I'm Jo Lawrinson!

I have recently joined the volunteer team as "Secretary to the Trust". It is humbling but affirming to hear that you are an answer to prayer and part of God's plans for the Trust. I trust with God's grace I will fulfil the role and expectations.

I am part of Emmanuel Community Church so have heard a fair bit about the work in the Heaton. However, I have been excited to hear the opportunities the staff team have right across Stockport, both with pupils and staff, as well as the potential they see to expand the team to meet the need.

So please do pray for me as I take on this new responsibility and thank you for your support.



The Manchester bombings

On the night of Monday 22nd of May, a suicide bomber set off a nail bomb at an Ariane Grande concert held at the MEN arena, Manchester. Many of those hurt were children.

This has been one of the hardest weeks in our working year. When I woke up on Tuesday morning to the terrible news, my first thought was concern that some of our students would have been involved. Ariane Grande is a role model to many of them, from our young primary students all the way up to our older year eleven students. As I emailed our schools with words of comfort and offering our support, I knew that the chances of none of our schools being affected was very small. Unfortunately, I was correct.

The impact of the Manchester bombings has been far and wide. We have spent time this week with students who were at the concert, and are carrying their own pain about the things that they saw and heard. We have also spent time with students who know people who have been hurt, and are worried about the unknown. Mostly we have spent time with children who, for the first time in their lives, have been made aware of the present terror threat in the UK.

The fact that the bombing took place at the MEN arena, a place where many of our students have been for concerts, and the fact that it took place in Manchester, a city that they love and know well, has created a real sense of fear among the children. They are afraid of going to the city centre, and afraid of attending the concerts. They are personally feeling the attack.

So how can we possibly respond to this, and how can we help our children respond to it?

We have offered our schools the chance to engage directly with what has happened. We have been delivering assemblies that acknowledge the fact that many of them are afraid, but focus primarily on the fact that humanity is full of goodness. We have been delivering lessons with classes who have been particularly impacted, looking deeper into what terrorism really is and answering their questions. We are also offering creative prayer spaces to schools which give students some space to process their feelings. Above all, we are trying to listen.

Please continue to pray for the students, particularly over half term. Many of them would be using this time to go in Manchester or Stockport and visit the shops, but several students have already expressed to us their fears and going to public places after the bombings. Please pray that fear does not get a strong hold on them, and their half term is fun and restorative for them.

Please also pray for the following schools:

Stockport Academy: Several girls from year 9 and year 7 were at the concert and are experiencing shock in the aftermath.

Didsbury Road Primary: We know there are students from Didsbury Road who were injured in the blast, and are in hospital.

Project Reviews



Here are some great reviews for our Mythbusters of Easter project and our Storytelling week project:

"Staff from the Christian Trust shared the Easter story with children in such a fun and interactive way." Cale Green Primary School.

"A great deal of time and effort had gone into making the artefacts and practical resources to help 'bring the story to life' which was very effective in helping children to recall the story." Cale Green Primary

"Thanks for coming in to do the Storytelling workshops with Years 3 and 4. Both teachers were very happy with what you did." Fairway Primary



News from Schools

Exciting news from our schools' workers; Emma, Andy and Joe.

Our secondary school work is also developing at an excellent pace. Here are some of our highlights!

New projects in Bramhall High:

Andy has been making great progress in Bramhall High and has started a new weekly lunch time club there. He has also begun to get involved by mentoring some year seven boys, and providing them with a steady positive influence. Andy has become an important part of life at Bramhall High, and we hope he will continue to be blessed there.

Mental Health in Hazel Grove High:

In coordination with Hazel Grove Baptist Church and The Lily Jo Project, we delivered a week of mental health assemblies in Hazel Grove High. This was an amazing week where we could really influence the students positively, and we heard lots of stories of students opening up about their personal situations.

Upcoming projects: "It's Your Move!"

is our next big project, and will be a priority for our Y6 teachers now that the Y6 students have finished their SATS. Hopefully we will be able to provide them with an amazing session that answers their questions and allays some of their fears about High School.

Looking forward, we are hoping to deepen our relationships with schools, but also to expand our relationships with new schools. We can't wait to see what God will do next!

Wow! 2017 has been amazing!

We have been so blessed this year by everything we have achieved so far. Our primary school work has exploded and we have been so grateful to God that he has opened so many doors. Here are just some of our highlights:

Storytelling Week project:

This was Joe's first large-scale project of his own initiative and it went very well! Many schools booked, and because of its uniqueness it caught the eye of some schools who have not booked with us before. It gave us a great opportunity to present the parables and the story of Jesus within a literacy context. We will definitely repeat it next year!

Mythbusters of Easter project:

Our Easter project this year was exciting and engaging, and gave us the most intense two weeks we have worked in primary schools! We estimate that over 10 days we presented Easter assemblies or projects to over 1600 students. This was an unprecedented achievement for us, especially as our project directly challenged students to consider their own opinion about whether Jesus really rose from the dead. We really believe that God will nurture the seeds planted by our Easter projects.