



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

# CiST Newsletter Winter 2016



CIST CHARITY NUMBER:1019848

## A letter from the Chairman

by Steve Innes

We are travelling through Advent. For us as Christians a time of waiting, hoping and expectancy. As a Trust, we have known what it is to wait, we have all hung onto a real hope expecting that God will provide for us as we seek to do his will. As we also reflect we give grateful thanks for all he has done this year, yes it has been a bit hairy at times but we are so grateful for all the support and prayer that we have had. We rejoice that God has brought to us a brand-new team in 2016 and we look to the future with great expectancy. Since our last newsletter we have been joined by a new Secondary Schools worker Andy Wisdom (read about Andy later in this newsletter) and we have just appointed a Primary Schools worker Joe Burgess who will work part time in the Heaton's schools and the rest of the time in other areas of Stockport (more from Jo in our next newsletter). We now feel we have a

good team to help us move forward and would ask that you will pray that they will blend together well as they work to bring a real hope to the young people of our town.

### **As a Trust, we still have some real needs.**

We really need someone to help us in acting as a secretary. The work is not massive but it is very rewarding. Is this something you could do? Or do you know of anyone else who may be able to help us. Please do get in touch.

We are so thankful for all the churches and individuals who have financially supported the work over many year, it is only your giving that maintains this amazing outreach, however employing three workers is for the trust a real step of faith as our current income does not yet match our expenditure. Would you or your

church prayerfully consider supporting the trust in this way? Any gift however small or big is vital to our work.

As a Trust, we want to say a big thank you for all the encouragement and prayer that we have had from you our supporters and hope that you will all have a joyful and blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus.

### OUR DETAILS

#### **Our team**

Senior Leader: **Emma Hinds:**

[emma.hinds@cist.org.uk](mailto:emma.hinds@cist.org.uk)

07510136094

Secondary School worker: **Andy**

**Wisdom:**

[andyw.cist@outlook.com](mailto:andyw.cist@outlook.com)

07510 379272

Primary School worker: **Joe**

**Burgess:** details to be

confirmed.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Andy and Joe, as they settle into their roles.
- That the Trust finds a suitable secretarial candidate to support it.
- Our planning and inspiration, and upcoming projects.
- Our Trustees, as they work hard to support and guide us.
- Our work in January, that during this fallow month we all make connections that grow our work



## News from Andy

by Andy Wisdom

Hi, I'm Andy, and I'm the new part-time Secondary Schools Worker for Christians in Schools Trust.

My background is in prisons outreach and youth work with The Message Trust, and I hope to put the skills I learned there into practice as I join CIST. I grew up in a Christian home, but it wasn't until I moved to Manchester (at the same time, my parents moved to Africa to be missionaries), that I realised I needed to start taking my faith seriously. With this revelation came a realisation that the years I'd spent at school were a huge opportunity to tell my friends about Jesus which I'd completely missed!

*The beautiful truth, however, is that you can never be disqualified from doing the things God has prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10), so here I am.*

I'm passionate that the years spent at secondary school are some of the most important and formative in a young person's life, and it's a true privilege to be able to bring a Christian perspective to the issues teenagers are facing in their schools today. I've been in this role for one month, and already I've had the chance to teach an R.E lesson on the Christian perspective on death and the afterlife. I've also been part of a Youth Alpha course run at lunchtime in a local high school, where the conversations generated by the students never fail to surprise me. I've dressed as Batman to deliver anti-bullying lessons in primary schools, educated groups of year 9 students on the stigma around mental health, and brought a challenging message of what it means to be a true hero to a secondary school during Remembrance Week. If so much can be achieved within one month, I'm excited for what the future holds.

When I'm not working for CIST, I'm a student studying Religions & Theology at the University of Manchester. Studying Christianity at a secular institution comes with its own challenges, but is serving to deepen my understanding of the Bible and its original authorship. In my spare time, I play Water Polo for the university men's team, sing, write music, and read legal thrillers. My wife Clare and I got married three months ago, and now live in Burnage. We worship at Christ Church Manchester in Fallowfield, the church where we met.

If you'd like to pray for me in my new role, the key area to pray for would be school connections. In the new year, most of my time is going to be spent making and maintaining relationships with staff members at the secondary schools in Stockport. Please pray that God is in the e-mails and meetings so that more young people can be reached!

## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

- ✚ The first day back of term is the 9<sup>th</sup> of January.
- ✚ Our next prayer meeting will be a joint prayer meeting with the Heaton's Churches Partnership on January the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 – 9:00am. This will be held at Heaton Mersey Methodist Church, Cavendish Road, Heaton Mersey.
- ✚ The next Trustees meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> of January.
- ✚ The next Trustees and workers meeting will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.

## Project Reviews



In November we delivered our anti-bullying assemblies and projects in over 12 schools. here are some of the kind reviews from staff:

*"Hi Emma! All the children loved the workshops and assemblies and the staff were very enthused by it all too!"*

CLARE TURNBALL, PROSPECT VALE SCHOOL

*"Thank you so much for today. You were both absolutely brilliant and delivered some excellent messages. my class thoroughly enjoyed it!"*

AMANDA LANCASHIRE, ST ELISBETH'S PRIMARY

## Wow! It's been quite a term!

I am so pleased to be writing this now as a Team leader of a team of three. Both Joe and Andy have already demonstrated their amazing capabilities and talents, and I am confident that our work will only flourish in their hands. Praise God for his provision! But now, let me take you through some of the highlights from this term:

### The Not a Secret project:

After much prayer and preparation, we delivered our first mental health project in Stockport Academy. This is a project that I have developed with Lily Jo, singer/songwriter and founder of The Lily Jo project, an award winning online



## News from Emma

by Emma Hinds

mental health resource aiming at giving young adults professional, friendly mental health support.

For a week in October Lily Jo and myself went into Stockport Academy every day and delivered an exciting, relevant assembly with a moving video, testimonies, and a live performance from Lily Jo. We then followed up with mental health drop ins at lunchtime, to which we had a total of 11 students attend to share their concerns and problems. There has been some great follow up from this project. Since then we have:

- ✚ Delivered a day of mental health workshops for Y9 in the Academy.
- ✚ Continued to run a weekly drop in at Stockport Academy.
- ✚ Had three other secondary schools express their interest in the project, with bookings to be confirmed.

My prayer for this project is that it will continue to grow and expand across the Stockport Secondary schools.

**R.E lessons:** We have really been developing our R.E projects, particularly in primary schools. This term I have focused of delivering fun, relevant projects that will catch teachers and

students' attention. These have been called the R.E Experiences:

- ✚ The Church Experience: We have done this successfully with Dial Park Primary and St. Alban's Church. This is when students from the school come to visit the church and learn about what it means to worship in a church in a practical way.
- ✚ The Faith and Art Experience: I have delivered this session to five classes (Y5 and Y6) and it focuses on exploring popular artistic forms and culture that express faith.
- ✚ The Faith and Charity Experience: I have delivered this session to four classes (Y5 and Y6) and it focuses on exploring how our belief systems affect our giving. The children have made over 100 decorative egg boxes to donate to the Boaz Trust.

**Christmas projects.** Our Christmas projects have started! Our theme for this year is "The Big Secret," focusing on how we are all special and loved by God. So far, we have 3 secondary bookings, and 11 Primary schools.

**Looking forward, I am so excited for what our team will achieve in the new year. Thank you all for your prayer and support.**

[www.thelilyjoproject.com](http://www.thelilyjoproject.com)  
Like Lily Jo's mental health work, her music focuses on building young people's self-esteem. The following is a quote from her song "Need to Know."

*"You need to know, you are worthy, don't let anybody take it away!"*