

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS IN SCHOOLS

(CCiS)

ISSUE 28. SUMMER 2023



“Making Jesus known to children, young people and staff in the schools of Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead”

News from Wayne Dixon



Encouragements

I want to say a HUGE ‘Thank you’ for your on-going prayers, interest and support, along with encouragements like those below. This is, and always has, been gratefully appreciated. To keep you in the loop, this newsletter is published three times a year, currently in January, May and September, in the hope that it provides relevant information about the work we do. The previous three are available on the CCiS website: www.cischools.org.uk/newsletters. Once a month I also send out Pause to Pray, which gives up to date information on resources and prayer needs for our schools.

‘It’s now nearly three decades since I started at Slough / Upton Grammar School. I have many happy memories of my time there, and key among these is the impact of our Scripture Union Schools Worker, Wayne Dixon...As a young Christian, with few other Christians in the school, let alone in my year, having someone like Wayne who would teach the gospel faithfully and in a way that engaged my friends was invaluable. He was so approachable, helping them see Christianity differently, and giving me the confidence to speak out about my faith. And when, in 6th form, I took on leading the Christian Union, Wayne was really encouraging, supporting me both in prayer and practically. It made such a difference’.

Julia, January 2023

‘...you have dedicated your working life to enhancing children’s lives in so many ways with your engaging assemblies and pre-exam sessions. This has made such a difference to so many people...’ A local headteacher

‘Making memories – Changing Lives’

Residentials, including those held by Scripture Union, continue to change lives:

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/holidays

In October the Jem Sewell Fund was set up to help children and young people from any Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead school to attend a Scripture Union Holiday, where cost might otherwise have been a barrier. Check out this link to a message from Jem’s daughter Bryony, in which she explains what the fund would have meant to her dad.

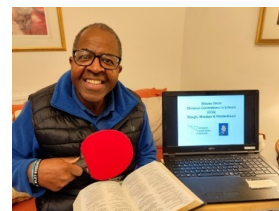
<https://youtu.be/XjInB44MKVk>

See *News from the Trust on p3* for how to donate, and let’s pray that this local initiative will change lives long into the future. Let’s also remember all those young people who are planning to attend any number of other festivals and residentials organised by Christian charities around the country.

In the Classroom

On Tuesday 7 February, I arrived at Dedworth Middle School for their **RE Drop Down** day. The topic was **Forgiveness** and gave me an opportunity to share in a Q & A with five classes; to unpack Luke 23:34 (for me, the most powerful sentence in the Bible!) and to tell them about the miracle of Easter. I had conversations with a number of staff and lunch with some year 7’s, but on this occasion there was no time for Table-Tennis! However, the week before at Windsor Boys’, I was given the same opportunities, using the same three items I later used at Dedworth – laptop, Bible and Table-Tennis bat. I enjoyed playing ‘winner stays on’ with some of the lads before they came into the hall for registration and assembly, so thank you Jesus for such opportunities!

Wednesday 22 March was one of those memorable days. It started before an assembly when I chatted with a parent who told me he was an ex-pupil at Furze Platt Senior, the very place where my day finished hours later at an



News from Wayne Dixon

event called **Building Bridges** (more information available on request). Sandwiched between the two, the unexpected occurred when I popped into Burnham Grammar to chat with students and staff. It happened to be their delayed **World Book Day** and one year 11 was wearing the most brilliant top - an Arsenal football shirt! If I'd known it was a non-uniform day I would have worn mine! (By the time you read this, the Premiership could be finished... Have Arsenal won it? There IS more to life than football!) Just before leaving I popped in to see Rachel, one of the RE staff with whom I shared the last lesson of the day, as her Year 11 exam group revised Christian practices, worship, Easter and more. She then asked if I'd like to stay and answer questions from the pupils, which proved to be just BRILLIANT. The hour flew by and I loved it. Towards the end of the session, one lad asked for the Zach Rap, so we found the backing track on YouTube and off we went! As I left, I thought: Praise God for **Hangin' Around Ministry** and the chance to assist and share, amongst other things, the Easter miracle with these 16-year-old students.

Eden Girls', Eton College and others...

A taste of the great variety which comes with being a local schools worker: on one morning I was at Eden Girls, where at the start of a lesson there was a prayer in Arabic which was then translated into English. Eden Girls' is an Islamic school which I have been visiting for many years, to share about Jesus and the Christian faith. Later I was invited into Eton College to talk about Jesus with a few hundred teenage lads. Such a contrast, and what a privilege, for which I'm very grateful.

Easter Cracked

Twenty years ago, Sarah Smart wrote the **Easter Rap**, which complements the **Check It Out!** Rap written by Anita Fielder. You can see and hear this rap on the link in the covering e-mail.

During the pandemic, I was on a regular local walk, when across the road someone called to me. He didn't say 'hi'. The first thing he said was, 'One Man!' This threw me! 'One Man' is

the first line of the chorus of the **Easter Rap**. So, I crossed the road and we chatted. His name is Neil, and he could remember coming along to **Easter Cracked** around thirteen years earlier, where this rap was performed. Praise God! I call it 'delayed reaction,' and it proves that nothing done for our God is wasted.

We had some very positive feedback from staff and pupils following the **Easter Focus** presentations which took place in schools during March. Ten local churches were also involved in serving well over forty schools. I personally had the chance to be involved with a greater number of schools than ever before - in fact, I ran out of pupil booklets. It was just as well that I had a 'plan B' to order more books, so that all the schools who wanted the presentation were able to have them to use during the session.

On a similar note, after a lunchtime visit to Langley Grammar, I popped into Langley Free Church to find Marish enjoying **Easter Cracked**. I was just so encouraged to see this Langley church continuing its long-standing relationship with one of its local schools.

'The presentation was brilliant. I have seen this for 5 years being in Year 6 and each year it gets better. Wayne is fab at delivering this.'

'As always, a fantastic, fun, informative + interactive afternoon.'

'A great opportunity for the children to discover facts about Easter themselves.'

'Excellent. Informative and engaging.'

'The children (and staff) love this (the Rap).'



A prayer for peace

I have repeatedly observed over recent months that many children, young people and adults are still struggling in the aftermath of the pandemic. As I type, it's exactly three years since the first lockdown was announced and whether for staff, headteachers, parents, carers or pupils there appears to be a tough and tricky

road ahead. I pray that the genuine PEACE of God will prove to be a help to all of us in these troubled times. To this end, I have been doing an assembly based on *Be Still*, the words that Jesus spoke in Mark 4:35-41 as he calmed the storm. A number of staff in different schools have shown appreciation as they have come into the hall and seen the subject and Bible passage on the screen before the session starts.

Illuminate with LZ7 & Saintz

By the time you read this, we hope that *Illuminate* (which was initially scheduled for October 2020) will have taken place. Look out for details in our next newsletter, where we will share about how the week in schools and the Friday night concert were received, and the impact made by the initial follow-up both in schools and (hopefully more importantly) in local churches.



News from the trust

Ways to donate

To maintain and develop the work in our schools we are looking for individuals and churches prayerfully to consider giving to CCiS. If you would like to support us financially there are several ways you can do it, all of which will bless us:

- Visit <https://www.cafonline.org/> - I'm an individual > Giving to charity > Connecting you to charities > I want to donate.
In the search box type: **Christian Connections in Schools**
- **Make** a bank transfer to *Christian Connections in Schools*.
Account number: **00032898**.
Sort code: **40 52 40**.
- **Send** a cheque (payable to *Christian Connections in Schools*) to:
The Treasurer, CCiS, Westfield, 3c College Avenue, Maidenhead SL6 6AR.
- **Leave** a bequest to CCiS in your Will. Your solicitor or will-writer should be able to help you, using our charity name *Christian Connections in Schools* and registered number 1150149.

Ongoing responsibilities

The trustees continue to investigate ways to expand the role of CCiS in primary schools. Although we received several applications when we advertised for a Primary Schools Development Worker, we decided not to proceed until we had given more thought to the requirements of this post. To this end, we have sought and received input from other local Christian schools work organisations, which has proved to be very helpful and given us insights which are allowing us to re-evaluate our approach.

Since its inception, we have been administering the **Jem Sewell Fund**, which helps children and young people from schools in Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead to attend

a Scripture Union Holiday. For more details, see Wayne's news above. We ask donors to indicate clearly that they are contributing to this particular fund, so that we can specifically allocate donations for that purpose. Cheques should be made payable to **Christian Connections in Schools**, with **Jem Sewell Fund** written on the back. Address and BACS details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

We have also been working on policies and IT backup to enable CCiS to continue to run safely and securely, and have been assisting with the arrangements for **Illuminate**.

Pause to pray for...

“Prayer is the most SIGNIFICANT contribution we can make to our schools”



- Christian staff, children, and young people in our schools every day.
- Those children and young people facing SATS, GCSE and 'A'-level exams this summer.
- Those in our schools and churches continuing to face bereavement, illness, redundancy, and other issues.
- The mental health and well-being of staff, children, and young people in our schools.
- Issues related to anxiety: eating disorders, depression, self-harm, suicide, exam pressures, low self-esteem, bullying connected with social media and family breakdown.
- For the young people who benefitted from their involvement with *Illuminate*, and their schools.
- *It's Your Move!* presentations in 50+ schools for 3000+ pupils.
- Inter Schools Soccer Sevens in June for Year 10 girls and Year 10 boys.
- Various residentials taking place over the summer and the '*Jem Sewell Fund*.'
- The ministry of *FESTIVE*, *Fusion* and *U.C.C.F.*
- Schools Work Conference organised by *Youth for Christ*: Friday 1st September in Halesowen.
- *National Prayer Day for Schools*: Friday 29th September.
- CCiS Trustees meetings: Thursday 18th May and Thursday 20th July.



**Christian
Connections
in Schools**

We very much appreciate your interest, prayers and support as we seek to make Jesus known to children, young people and staff in our local schools.

Please let us know if your contact details are incorrect. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know by replying 'unsubscribe' via email, or by getting in touch via the contact details below.

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Scripture Union



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Work of CCiS - check out the video from the link below:

<http://ccischools.org.uk/about-ccis>