

## Prayer Items

Thank God for the positive response from pupils and staff who attended the Easter Journey at St. Pauls

Thank God for new opportunities CIS has for involvement in schools and for the positive response to assemblies already taken this year.

Please pray for:

### Assemblies

**St. Mary's C of E Academy** 8th May

**Gothic Mede Academy** 8th May

**St. Francis College Prep.** 20th May

**Norton St. Nicholas** 20th May

**Etonbury Academy** 21st-24th May

**Roecroft Lower School** 21st May

**Grange Academy** 22nd May

### Speaking Engagements

**Grange Afternoon Fellowship** 16th May

**New Life Church** 19th May

**King's Baptist Church, Stotfold** 26th May

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# CIS Newsletter



Christian  
Initiative to  
Schools

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Summer  
2024

in partnership with



Scripture Union

## Jesus in front of Pontius Pilate at the Easter Journey at St. Paul's

Every year, a Christian youth organisation I was part of, produced a poster which members could purchase. My favourite poster has been blue-tacked to the wall of my bedroom for years.

The text is from John's gospel, chapter 10: "I am the Good Shepherd and I lay down my life for the sheep." Note the mixed flock and the purposeful stride of the shepherd as he leads them with his trusty crook to protect them. He is leading them beside still waters. However, note the reflection in the water. The sheep are a mixed group of children and his crook has become a cross which the shepherd is carrying!



We thank God for Christopher, our schools worker, who is a welcome visitor in some of our schools, taking assemblies and lessons, and providing a listening ear for pupils and staff as he encourages them to trust the Shepherd. We pray that many will come to say "The Lord is **my** Shepherd".

**Roger Aldridge - Trustee**

I've now been the Schools Worker for CIS for 15 years and during that time there have been many changes, not just in regard to schools, but also in terms of those I have had the privilege to work with. I'm particularly thinking of those who are, and also have been, part of the Trustees. Their support and encouragement has been crucial in enabling me to work as effectively as I have over the past 15 years. Their leadership, wisdom and advice has been invaluable as I've served in many of the schools in Letchworth and District.

We're very fortunate in the number of schools we are able to minister in. Although policies, curriculum and staff have changed over the years the relationships that have been built over many years still remain strong. After the Covid-19 Pandemic and not being able to be present in schools we wondered what the future would hold for CIS. However, due to those strong relationships we were soon able to get back to being in many of the schools, and over the past year we've seen the lunchtime clubs re-established in many of them. In recent weeks an opening to be involved in taking assemblies, involvement in RE lessons and support for staff in a new Lower School in the area has come our way which we thank God for.

We're nearing the end of another academic year and for many pupils and staff this will be a time of transition. Children and young people in all year groups in school will be moving up a year into new classes with a new form teacher to get to know. Year 6 children will be preparing to move on to Secondary School, but before this their focus will be on the forthcoming SATs. Year 9 pupils will be preparing to commence their GCSEs in September. Year 11 students will begin their GCSE exams and Year 13's their A Levels. In all of this activity is the knowledge that time, and life, moves on very quickly. Before we know it the summer break will soon be here which gives an opportunity for rest, refreshment and the opportunity to recharge for all that is to come in September.

As for me I will begin a 3 month Sabbatical from June 1st to August 31st. This is only the second time in over 35 years of ministry with children and young people that I have taken such a period of time out. I've been encouraged by the Trustees to take this time to rest, refresh and recharge particularly after dealing with a number of ongoing health issues over the

past few years. In so doing I hope to be able to commence the Autumn Term in September with fresh vigour, enthusiasm and health for all that is to come.

In a few weeks we'll be remembering all that happened to the Followers of Jesus on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. How as the Holy Spirit came upon them they were empowered to leave the place where they were meeting and move out into the streets to share the Good News of Jesus to the people from all over the known world in Jerusalem at that time. The boldness that came through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit enabled the Gospel of Jesus to spread out from Jerusalem to the ends of the world. Through the obedience of the disciples we too have heard the Good News of Jesus through those that shared it with us and we became Followers of Jesus too.

In 2017 Scripture Union first presented their research that revealed that 95% of children and young people in the UK are not involved in the life of a local church. In a nation with such strong Christian foundations how could this have been allowed to happen? As SU began to present their findings they used the following verse from Romans 10:14 (CEV) to encourage people to respond and get involved.

***How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?***

My prayer is that children and young people will continue to have the opportunity to hear of all that Jesus has done through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead through the ministry of CIS in the schools they attend. That they will continue to hear what can be theirs through all that Jesus said and did for them because He loved them so very much, to the point of giving His life for them. My hope is that as I continue to share Jesus with pupils and staff alike that God will continue to use me in sowing the seeds of the Good News of Jesus to all that I meet and speak with.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and practical support.

***Christopher Baker - Schools Worker***