

Prayer Items

Thank God for the positive responses to all the assemblies that have been taken so far this academic year. Thank Him too for the numbers attending the lunchtime clubs at Etonbury Academy and Fearnhill School.

Thank God for the Trustees that oversee the work of CIS. Roger Aldridge, Penny Bainbridge (Secretary), Graham Clark, Ashley Croft (Interim Chair) Chris Croft, Martin Money (Treasurer) and Christine Sherriff.

Please pray for:

Assemblies

St. Mary's C of E Academy 10th February and 1st April; **St. Francis College Prep.** 10th February and 31st March; **Norton St. Nicholas** 10th February and 26th March; **Grange Academy** 12th February, 12th March and 2nd April; **Roecroft Lower School** 27th February; **Etonbury Academy** 14th February and 17th to 21st March; **Pix Brook Academy** 24th to 28th March

Speaking Engagements

King's Baptist Church, Stotfold 9th February and 16th March; **New Life Church** 16th February and 23rd March; **King's Community Church** 2nd March; **St. Thomas' Church** 13th April

Future Events

CIS Quiz Friday 6th June

You can donate to CIS online at www.stewardship.org.uk



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Perhaps it's a sign of my increasing age, but I'm shocked we are already entering the second month of this year! Time certainly seems to pass faster the older we get; was the "New Millennium" really 25 years ago?

2025 is a year of some "new beginnings" for CIS. Chris Jenkins retired as a long standing trustee and chairman in October and is now settling into his new role as Minister at Ebenezer Church in South Wales. We thank him immensely for his work and support of CIS over the many years. I have taken over the role of chair on an interim basis until such time as we are able to appoint a replacement for Chris. We are pleased to welcome Graham Clark onto our board of trustees, helping to strengthen our numbers.

Amidst the tumult, tensions and changes within the world as we enter this year, it is good to also recognise and be thankful for continuity. Throughout last year there was a feeling of strong and encouraging response to Christopher in the assemblies he was taking both from the pupils and staff present. Many encouraging words were said. How good it is to have started the assemblies of this year in the same vein. We pray that God will use Christopher's faithfulness in the messages he gives to be strong stepping stones in the pupils' coming to know Him. Whatever tumult there is around us, it is good to know "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases" (Lamentations 3:22 ESV). Our faith and trust are rightly placed in His hands.



I would like to thank you for your support to the work of CIS, whether through prayer, financial giving, attending our events or a word of encouragement to Christopher. It may be a cliched phrase, but it couldn't happen without you.

Ashley Croft, Interim Chair of the Trustees

We're already through the first month of the year! January, with all its focus on the beginning of a New Year and all that we hope the year will bring, is almost a distant memory as February sweeps in and brings with it a change of scene. Winter is on its way out and Spring is almost upon us. And with that we look forward to more daylight at the beginning and end of the day and warmer weather, which many of us crave for. Signs of green shoots, of bulbs emerging in our gardens, of colour reappearing in what may have felt for a while like barren gardens, begin to lift our spirits. A looking forward to a more positive and productive time.

For pupils and staff in schools there seems to be an almost constant looking forward to what is to come. Teachers helping students to progress in their learning, to hit set targets for individuals as well as for groups, and that is seen as pupils head towards SATs, GCSEs and A Levels, all of which are now only a few months away. There is a pressure on all to do well, to achieve the highest possible grades to enable them to progress in the best possible way towards whatever the future will bring them.

Even closer than exams, however, comes something even more life changing. Something that gives the reason for why CIS exists. In the coming weeks we'll be seeing young animals appearing in the fields around us. If you get an opportunity to visit Standalone Farm, Wimpole Hall Home Farm or even Lower Wilbury Farm the fields will be filled with ewes and their lambs. Being the son of a farm labourer, this time of year has always been significant. I grew up surrounded by fields and could see lambs being born from my bedroom window.



A few years ago my family and I visited Wimpole Hall to see the lambing. Because of the experience of seeing lambs being born when I was young I was able to point out a ewe that was having difficulty

giving birth. The shepherds immediately went over to help deliver the lamb.

In terms of the ministry of CIS our role is to point the way to the new and everlasting life that Jesus offers. Part shepherd to lead and guide the way, part midwife to help deliver people into new life by being 'born again' through the Spirit of God working within them. That can only come through sharing and presenting all that Jesus did for us on the cross, the events of that first Easter over two thousand years ago

which is fast approaching in our Christian calendar.



This is the reason that CIS exists as a ministry. It is because of the death and resurrection of Jesus that we minister in the schools in our area. The cross shows just how great the love of God is for us as Jesus takes our place, takes our sin upon Himself, takes our death, brings us forgiveness and with it relationship with God restored and new and everlasting life. Good News for all people for all time. That is what we

seek to share in assemblies, lessons, SPACE and lunchtime clubs, not just through words but also action.

Over nearly twenty one years of ministry CIS has created a special relationship with many schools. This has given many opportunities to present the Good News of Jesus to pupils and staff. A schools ministry may never see the fruit of its labour, but as we obediently sow the seed, God waters it and by His Spirit we will see what is planted grow in the lives of children, young people and adults.

Your prayers and support are all part of the ministry of CIS. Thank you for your partnership with all that CIS seeks to do in our schools. Without it we would not have been able to do what we've done and seen how God has worked through us over the past twenty one years. God has been so good to us and we praise Him for all that is past and all that is to come.

Christopher Baker - Schools Worker