

## **Christians and Sheffield Schools – A New Beginning**

The summer of 2011 sees the end of an era. It also gives us fresh opportunities for Christian service in a key area of city life.

For the past 25 years Linda Chambers has brought together the churches and schools of Sheffield. As a former teacher in a city secondary school Linda understood how schools worked and what was acceptable in non-denominational schools. As a Christian with a commitment to supporting Christian pupils and staff Linda was able to be a bridge between local churches and their neighbourhood schools.

Prayer meetings, parent support groups, Christian clubs, training events, access to resources, meetings for governors, putting teachers in touch with other Christians in schools, sharing information of mutual interest – all these and similar activities have kept Linda more than busy in her full-time job. Hers has been the task of preparing the soil, sowing seeds and watering young plants in the urban setting of Sheffield schools, both directly and perhaps even more importantly by encouraging and enabling churches to do this effectively.

In summer 2011 Linda retires, and all who have worked with her will want to say thank you and wish her well. Linda is employed by the charity Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS). The trustees are a group of Christians from across the city and they would like to hand over to a new team at the same time as Linda retires.

How do we find a new team of trustees? Do we appoint another full-time worker to fill a role similar to Linda's? Do we divide the role up between different people in different agencies? Do we focus support on the youth workers already employed by some churches to work with schools? How do we relate to church schools? How does God want the churches of Sheffield to support the schools of our city, both the young lives being shaped within them, and the Christian pupils, staff and governors who spend so much time there?

What do you think? There will be a new beginning in 2011, but what will this mean for the next generation involved in our schools? Do pray (CaSS is praying: we have a prayer meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. Please see the web site for more details.) If you have some ideas or would like to be part of the decision making, please ring Linda on (0114) 249 5343, or email: [office@cass-su.org.uk](mailto:office@cass-su.org.uk)

May 2010