



Christians and Sheffield Schools (CaSS)
291 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, S7 1FJ
Tel: 0114 2495343 Email: office@cass-su.org.uk
Website www.cass-su.org.uk

Summer Newsletter 2010

Dear Friends,

We are currently in the grip of election fever and there is certainly a very different 'feel' about this campaign than on previous occasions. Whichever party is in power after May 6 there are likely to be some major changes in our nation and some interesting times ahead. One of my dreams is that the new government will give priority to the most vulnerable children in our nation - especially those living in poverty, many of whom struggle to thrive at school - and also work towards accomplishing the eight **Millennium Development Goals**, one of which is to achieve universal primary education for both boys and girls. We worship a God who does not change, but is more than able to bring about change in our nation and in our world as He sees fit.

◀◀◀◀ LOOKING BACK TO THE SPRING TERM ◀◀◀◀

Church Visits

At the end of January we celebrated **Education Sunday** at my church **St. Gabriel's**. I interviewed a secondary teacher and organised the prayers. A few days later I was able to ring round church members to ask for prayer for that same teacher whose school was having an Ofsted inspection! The following Sunday **All Saints Ecclesall** held their Education Sunday and I was interviewed about CaSS in both morning services. Later in February I was due to take the morning service at **Mayfield Chapel** but heavy snow in the early hours meant the service was cancelled! However, the next evening I was able to do my slot at **Gleadless Christ Church and St. Peter's PCC** which led to a very valuable meeting with one of their parents and discussions about renewing links with the local primary school. In March I took an evening service at **Cemetery Road Baptist**, one of our supporting churches, based on this year's Education Sunday material entitled: '**Called by God**'.

Links with Schools ...

The prayer activity at **Walkley Primary** which was postponed from the autumn took place just before February half term and again proved an excellent opportunity to spend some quiet time with the children reflecting on their experiences of life and God. I joined the Christian staff at **Rivelin Primary** and **King Egbert's Secondary** for their prayer meetings and caught up with staff at **Loxley Primary** after school one day - and attended the **Emmaus CE/RC Primary School** Easter service at St. John's Park.

New Contacts ...

I mentioned in my last newsletter that I would continue the **schools workers' forum meetings** though numbers had been low. At both meetings last term there were 2 **new workers** I hadn't met before so that was most encouraging - especially as they were people I had been hoping to meet for some time! During the term I also met some **Christian governors** I didn't know - one of whom works at **The Oakes Holiday Centre** and is heavily involved with the local school.

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS FORTNIGHT May 10 - 24
This is a national initiative encouraging churches to pray for schools during the period of exams and transition to secondary school

PLEASE PRAY FOR
11 year olds taking tests and moving to secondary school
Young people taking GCSEs, A Levels and other external exams

This fortnight also coincides with the
Sheffield Diocesan 'Ten Days of Prayer' initiative from May 13 - 23

➤➤➤➤ **LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SUMMER TERM** ➤➤➤➤

It's Your Move books ...

I've been reminding churches again of the opportunity for strengthening their links with primary schools by providing these books for the **Year 6 children** about to leave for secondary school. The **Anglican schools** in the Diocese are also being provided with the books again this year and I shall distribute those to schools or churches. There is a new edition of the book this year - essentially the same content but with a new 'look'.

Journey through Primary School ...

This will be the fifth year for my **Year 6 transition activity** and I'll be running it in **seven schools** - and possibly more - with the help of local church members as it's another useful tool for church-school links.

Resource for Year 2 children ...

I also have a resource for use with **Year 2 children** in school or church to help with their transition from Infant to Junior school - especially where they physically have to move from one location to another as is the case in some parts of the city.

Meeting people ...

I have some meetings arranged with individual **church leaders** and **youth / schools / community workers** who keep me in touch with the '**bigger picture**' and help to fill in the gaps in my citywide overview of church-school links.

Visits to churches / ecumenical groups ...

Over the coming months I'm hoping to visit a variety of '**Churches Together**' groups, **PCCs and Church Councils** to remind them about the citywide role of CaSS, my particular passions for the work - and to encourage them to keep 'school' on their church agenda and to find manageable ways of keeping in touch with local schools. My first visit is to **Oughtibridge Christian Council** in early June.

Back to School with God Sunday - Last Sunday in August / first Sunday in September ...

This is an initiative from Scripture Union Scotland and provides another opportunity for churches to commission and pray for their children, young people and adults as they return to school for another academic year - and to especially remember those facing major changes in their schooling. There are ideas and resources on their website **www.suscotland.org.uk**.

The Future of CaSS ...

You are probably aware that I shall be retiring in **summer 2011** and the CaSS trustees will be stepping down too, so **CaSS as it has been will cease to exist**. Our aim is that CaSS would continue beyond that time though not necessarily in its current form. However, if a **new Trust** has not emerged by **January 2011** the current trustees will begin the wind up process. Please pray with us as we continue to seek the Lord's guidance for the future of this citywide work.

**Monthly Meetings for Information, Discussion and Prayer
about the future of CaSS beyond summer 2011**

**Dates for the summer are:
Wed May 12, Wed June 9, Wed July 7, Wed Sept 1
10.00am
at 28 Frickley Road, Nether Green S11 7EX**

All Welcome

Thank you once again for your interest in the work - and for your ongoing support and prayers.

With my warmest wishes,

Linda Chambers