



It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we are celebrating another successful year in the work and life of CICS.

In September we were sad to receive the resignation from our lead worker Neil Harris. Neil always had a desire to return to living in the North East of England and an opportunity opened up for him to co-pastor a church in Stockton-on-Tees which meant he could no longer be involved in CICS. We are thankful for all that Neil has done in terms of leading the organisation and our work forward.

The trustees and workers met in early January to look at the vision for CICS, recognising that life in schools has changed significantly since we launched in 2003. Our new vision was around an aim to become more integrated in the life of High Schools across the Borough as our workers Chris and Sarah are in Brighouse High and Nancy increasingly in Todmorden High. Sadly just as we were making inroads, life in schools changed completely with schools mostly closing down for COVID-19, and so these plans are put on hold until life returns to some kind of normality.

2020 was to be a year of celebrating our twentieth anniversary, recognising that the concept of CICS came out of a Millennium Project of Churches Together in Halifax. Our first event, a fundraiser with Halifax Young Singers, was a fantastic afternoon with over 200 people enjoying an afternoon of music, fun and cake! All other planned events were cancelled but we will revisit the year of celebration once we are allowed to hold events and meet together again.

In March 2020 as schools closed our workers went onto furlough which, thanks to the UK government scheme, has left us in a very good financial position to start the new 2020/21 year. (Taking a step of faith we have employed a new worker, Sophie Tinker, who will be working 4 hours a week offering mentoring in Brighouse High next yr) Speaking to schools we believe that some young people will not be in the best place due to lockdown and COVID-19, and so we have stepped up to be a blessing to the school and through CICS mentoring.

Trustee wise we said goodbye to Christine Jackson who has served CICS for many years (thank you Christine) and hello to Dawn Savidge who became a trustee in August.

Thank you to our workers, volunteers, trustees as well as those we work with in schools. CICS continues to pray for our schools, for young people, the staff and those who are making decisions in the new dynamics we find ourselves in.

Here's to 2020/21, our new vision and our twenty first anniversary year!

Paul Blakey, MBE. Chair.