



## So much has happened in a Year....

And we at CICS believe that we have seen answers to prayer.

SO our important request is

### PLEASE KEEP ON PRAYING

Perhaps your church already has a group that meets for prayer. Could you commit to spending part of your time praying for local schools?

I pass two schools on my way to church and a different two on the way to supermarket, all within the space of a couple of miles. Working with people of any age brings challenges as well as rewards. Working with children, I think, adds to both these categories. There may be staff or students who are Christians who feel a bit isolated. You never know what your prayers might achieve.

If you do already have a regular group praying for schools, could you let us know? Also did you know Pray for Schools have a website with excellent resources?

Two weeks in the middle of May is designated by them as Pray for Schools Fortnight. You can find details of this on their website too.

[www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org) with a full list of Calderdale schools on [www.cicscalderdale.org.uk](http://www.cicscalderdale.org.uk)

OR Could you start a Pray for School Group for your area? CICS office could put you in touch with a group already running to give help. Just a meeting once every half term would be sufficient.

And remember CICS, schools and workers in your private prayers. Use the prayer diary on the website or request a copy from our administrator.

**Join us in thanks for all God has done and in trust for all that we believe He will do.**



## An eventful few months for CICS.....

*June 2015 Resignation of Tony & Ruth*

Tony Buck had been our senior worker for 9 years. Mostly in senior schools, he delivered assemblies, ran lunch clubs, spoke at Faith Days, inspired volunteers and all the time was a great ambassador for Christ & CICS. Tony's new post is Youth Officer for the Football League Trust

Ruth Wyeth was our primary schools worker. She forged invaluable links with primary schools & filled us all with great enthusiasm for Open the Book. Ruth's elderly father came to live with her family and needs her care.

*CICS work carried on with Laura & volunteers*

Laura Woodfine is our part time senior school worker. Laura carried on flying the CICS flag, mentoring pupils referred by the schools and running Info Point at Brooksbank and Brighouse High. She was (and is) supported in this by volunteers, one of whom, Angela Ashton, became a CICS trustee during this period.

*Decisions made, advert circulated, Neil appointed Oct 2016*

We are delighted to have Neil Harris as our senior schools worker Neil has picked up the work in schools where we already had links and is looking for new openings for CICS to explore.

*Another prayer answered – Treasurer found!*

Amanda Millington has taken over the treasurer's job from Rosemary, who will continue to be our administrator.

*The trustees have made the decision to advertise for a new part time primary worker. Interviews June 2016.*

We are grateful to St Georges Community Trust for welcoming the workers back to use an office including car parking and storage space at St Georges House, Lee Mount

Our website has been updated where you can find out much more about us [www.cicscalderdale.org.uk](http://www.cicscalderdale.org.uk) . We also have a Facebook page and Twitter - search CICS Calderdale.



**And read on to meet new faces and learn more about our projects.**

### **Meet Neil.....**

Neil was born in Bradford and became a Christian at age of 16. He graduated from Teeside University and worked as an insurance company sales assessor. Volunteering in youth ministry led Neil to 9 years as schools project worker for Tees Valley Youth for Christ. During this time Neil trained in worship leading and preaching. He took up the post of part time Pastor at Worth Valley Community Church in Keighley and CICS worker in 2015.

### **Angela.....**

Angela Ashton has been involved in children's and youth work all her life. She is married with 2 children and one grandchild. Angela believes every child should be given the chance to achieve full potential. 'Working with CICS' says Angela, 'is one way of helping this to happen.'

### **And Amanda.....**

Amanda Millington feels she has 'been led' to work with CICS. It was while looking for a church in which to be married, that Amanda became a

Christian in her early 20s It was a busy city centre church in Leeds near where they then lived. She became involved in church life and as her family grew they re-located to Calderdale where her husband teaches. Her boys now attend a local countryside school. She attends a church in Halifax with youth work for the boys. Amanda also volunteers for Festival Angels.

### ***What is mentoring?***

Sometimes we all need someone who can listen to us and give us undivided attention. Just putting our thoughts into words and being helped to think through a problem can help us to come to our own solution. Mentoring can provide this for a student.

Recently Noah's Ark volunteers ran a Listening course for CICS. We were helped to listen well and ask the right questions. Volunteers to be mentors have come forward from this course.

### ***Open the Book – Which book?***

The book is the Bible and Open the Book is an Ofsted approved scheme

produced by the Bible Society to take Bible stories into school assemblies. It provides a whole assembly package which is suitable for pupils of all faiths and none. Volunteers themselves find the Open the Book material gives them new insights into Bible stories.

### ***How does Info Point work?***

All that's needed is a table, a large sheet of paper, coloured markers and some small sweets! Set up in a busy corridor at school lunch break and wait for customers. Ask an open question e.g. 'If you could have a meal with anyone.... from history or the present, who would it be?' Conversations start as students scribble their answers and relationships are formed and students return week after week.

### ***Could you help us with our work?***

Are you a good listener? Then maybe you could offer an hour a week to a young person who just needs to share their problems and feelings.

There may be a primary school staff near your church that would welcome

some help with whole school assemblies and would find Open the Book just what they need. A school where an Open the Book team goes regularly finds it makes their collective act of worship into a 'meaningful experience' CICS will give help with registering with Bible Society and there is a pool of props, etc to help.

**Visit our new look website** - [cicscalderdale.org.uk](http://cicscalderdale.org.uk) - for the latest news and events or if you send your email to Rosemary - [office@cicscalderdale.org.uk](mailto:office@cicscalderdale.org.uk) - she will add you to our regular email update.

**Donate to our funds** - sadly, grants are not easily available for schemes with 'Christian' in the title. We rely on you. Our workers are 'worthy of their pay' and we want to continue to maintain the present level of staffing including our new appointment as Primary worker, throughout the school age range (sort code 090153 / account 41984485 or see our website Donate page for details of online giving).