

Fun, food, fellowship and a photo booth!
Where could you have found all these together and have your photo taken wearing a funny hat and feather boa?
At CICS Meet the Workers Evening at Café 816, Dean Clough on Wed 5th October!

The aim of the evening was to give supporters a chance to meet each other and the CICS workers and for trustees and workers to say a big 'thank you' for all the prayer and financial support we receive over the year.

Around 40 of us, supporters, workers and trustees were gathered by 6pm and several people had had their photo taken in the booth, supplied for us by Neil Deakin, Youth Pastor at Kings Church.

Paul Blakey, CICS chair of Trustees welcomed everyone and introduced John Stephenson, Scripture Union North East and Yorkshire regional officer. John said how encouraging it is to see all the local teams who come together under the SU banner to spread the gospel in schools and to young people.

The next item was a 'welcome back' to **Chris Mason**. Chris was a secondary schools worker with Tony and he is now in the position to return to CICS for 10 hours a week alongside Neil. Chris is delighted to be back as we to have him!

Elsie Russell felt a call to schools work while receiving cancer treatment 17 years ago (before CICS was even begun!) and has been conducting assemblies and being a listening ear for staff and pupils in several primary schools, sometimes helping them through difficult times, ever since. Elsie was our next speaker. She had no schools work background although she had Sunday School experience and so was reluctant to say the least to go ahead with this call. However she proved the truth of 'those whom God calls he equips' and doors opened for her in spite of circumstances. At her busiest times Elsie was doing four assemblies a day to all the stages of primary schools from nursery to year 6. She has teamed up with CICS to distribute Its Your Move books and we shall miss her help now she has decided that, due to her husband's ill health, it is time to 'retire' Paul presented Elsie with a plant.

Information Point is the new Lunch Club! As school lunch breaks get shorter new ways of engaging with students at senior school are needed. Grab a table, open a box of sweets and write an open question on a large sheet of paper. Stand back for answers and see what interesting conversations follow! Info Point now happens at Brooksbank, Brighouse High and Ryburn schools, **Neil Harris** (senior worker) told us. Neil has also been at Ryburn leading Y8 lessons

on 'Who is Jesus?'. We thank God for the way this school has been opened up to Neil and CICS.

Angela Ashton is a CICS trustee and volunteer. She described her work as a one to one mentor in school. Mentors are there to listen and be available just for that young person for the given time. Angela said she made it clear that she is pretty un-shockable, but will not tolerate swearing or blasphemy!

Then it was time to meet the new workers – **Karen Hill** with the hard yellow hat and an inflatable banana to depict her background as an engineer and interest in Fair Traded goods; **Nancy White** with a clerical collar and magnetic letter board to show her work as a 'Rev' and out of school tutor; and musical **Angie Straddling** with a picture of the Cornish countryside to tell us where she was born.

These are our new primary workers as they introduced themselves. Karen will work in Brighouse (east Calderdale) area Angie in central & west Halifax and Nancy in the Todmorden and upper valley (east Calderdale). All these ladies, as you can see have their own talents to bring to the work and their priority at the moment is to get church groups involved with a local school. A gospel singing event involving 6 schools is currently being organised in the upper valley to take place during Advent.

In amongst all this excitement there was time to do justice to an excellent supper of jacket potato with fillings, salad, pasties and cake prepared for us by café staff. Our thanks to them for keeping open 'after hours' and looking after us so well.

So once again thanks to our supporters. We really couldn't do without the prayer and financial support. Keep up the good work!