

Serving



Your

Local

Schools

**Ideas and organisations to help you**



# Introduction

## Reverend Sue Mayo



*After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.*

*Judges 2:10*

Welcome to this resource to inspire and support you as you seek to Serve Your Local Schools! I speak to many churches who are only too aware of the importance and urgency of reaching children and young people with the Good News of the Christian Gospel. But how to do that effectively?

Building lasting relationships with local schools not only offers the opportunity to stand alongside the other major pillar of our communities – our schools – and to serve them but also to allow schools to have a look at their local church and maybe find that we have more to offer them than they had thought.

Many churches are already engaged with their local schools, church and non-church. They take assemblies, sometimes teach lessons and even run clubs in school. And schools are visiting churches – at special times of the Christian year and at other times too, when churches can support the school's curriculum in unique ways. Some churches are just beginning and wondering the best ways to start. This and other resources from the Diocese are intended to support you wherever you are on that journey. Everybody mentioned in this booklet is very happy for you to contact them for more information or just to have a chat about your particular circumstances.

I'd also love to help and support you further as you seek to serve your local schools. Please contact me to arrange a visit to your church or group or just to have a chat.

With love in Jesus,

Rev Sue Mayo

e-mail: [sue.mayo@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.mayo@chester.anglican.org)



## Big Bible Event

### What's it all about?

The Big Bible Event (BBE) started with events run in Chester Cathedral and was developed in school when Rev John Harries, then Chaplain at the school, ran a joint diocesan, local church and youth organisation event at Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School, reaching out to the local primary schools in the area with the gospel of Jesus. Four Megazone workshops explored key parts of the Bible story using storytelling and drama, art, music, and technology. Each ran throughout the day so all the children could experience the whole event. There were also lots of drop-in Minizone activities with makes, challenges, games, a labyrinth and much, much more.

The initiative served to unite the school and the Christian community together in mission, empowering Christians and deepening links with partners in Chester and Liverpool dioceses.

Highly recommended!

### How can I find out more?

Contact: David Bell at [david.bell@chester.anglican.org](mailto:david.bell@chester.anglican.org)



# Christians in Schools Trust

## What's it all about?

Christians in Schools Trust was established in 1993 after some local people saw the importance of a continuing local schools work in the borough of Stockport. The Trust was set up with the help of Scripture Union and has been growing ever since! They are associated to Scripture Union which provides The Trust with vital support, expertise and resources. Working alongside local churches, Christians in Schools Trust serve schools across Stockport offering, amongst other things, lessons, assemblies & projects.

As Chaplain to Stockport Academy (one day a week but sometimes more!), Karen Beal offers those things but also pastoral support & a listening ear for staff and students. She also oversees & leads whole school celebrations at times of festival including Christmas & Easter and led the school's WW1 commemorations which led into the theme of Peace throughout advent. During this time they were also hosting the school's first week long Prayer Space. Karen also helps to lead the Academy Charity Group working to raise awareness of & funds for charities at home & overseas and working to serve the local community. New worker Duncan will also be in secondary schools while Linda works in primary schools in the Borough.

If you're a Stockport church who would like support and resources to work with your local school, contact the team who will be thrilled to help.

## How can I find out more?

Karen Beal, Team Leader & Chaplain (Stockport Academy) Christians in Schools Trust

Visit the website: <http://www.cist.org.uk/>



## Church Week, All Saints, Marple

### What's it all about?

All Saints' Church, Marple recently hosted their seventh annual "Church Week". "Church Week" brings Church and the local school together, involving people across a wide range of groups in organising and delivering the event. Originally starting in September 2008, "Church Week" involves a large collection of activities, ranging from bell ringing to golf lessons, praying for the local town to telling stories with puppets, from pretend weddings (with full bridal gown and top hats) to treasure hunts around the church grounds.

Church members fully support the event and find involvement with it very rewarding indeed. With careful planning and using a rotating system of events, each child is able to experience all the activities, culminating in a "Kids' Church Experience" on the final day, allowing the children to see what they would experience should they visit the Church on a Sunday. The format has been reviewed over the years to make best use of time and resources. "Church Week" is valued highly by the school staff and adored by the children. It provides opportunities for the Church family to be together and to serve together. It takes a great deal of organising and needs lots of input from lots of people but running a shorter, less ambitious event, "Church Day" or "Church Time" (half a day of activities) could be equally effective in your context.

### How can I find out more?

Contact Phil Alston, All Saints, Marple, at [Philip@worshippark.com](mailto:Philip@worshippark.com)



## Cre8 Learning Plus

### What's it all about?

We provide one-to-one alternative education for young people at risk of exclusion or who struggle in full time education.

Our sessions focus on personal and social development and behaviour management, which takes place in a calm and nurturing environment. The aim of the project is to use a variety of activities to improve self-esteem, confidence and behaviour management & help young people stay connected or re-connect with some form of 'mainstream' education (either full time or on a reduced timetable).

### How can I find out more?

Learning Plus takes referrals from agencies and schools across the Macclesfield area. If you'd like to chat about the project and how you could do something similar, please contact Steve Drake on [steve.drake@cre8macclesfield.org](mailto:steve.drake@cre8macclesfield.org) or 01625 503740. You can also visit the website: <http://www.cre8macclesfield.org/learning-plus>



## Easter Story Trail from Bible Encounter Trust

### What's it all about?

Easter is the major Christian festival which every child should know about. The Easter Story Trail is a wonderful way of presenting the story and meaning of Easter to children of primary school age. It is also a great way of getting churches working together in both preparing and presenting the Trail.

The Easter story Trail is a mix of two things that children love – an engaging story and eye-catching visuals. The concept is simple – transform your church / church hall into a life sized tableau of 1st century Jerusalem, with an Upper Room, the garden of Gethsemane, the stark cross and the glorious empty tomb – maybe more if you have space and imagination to spare.

We have been using this approach over the last 10 years and it has been very well received by churches and schools.

One head teacher wrote to me and said “I have heard nothing but praise from staff and children regarding the Easter Trail”.

Pupils' comments – “I thought it was going to be boring but it was fantastic.” “Thank you for telling us what *really* happened at Easter.” “The background and scenery really helped us to imagine we were there. “

### How can I find out more?

Further details and resources at [www.easterstorytrail.org.uk](http://www.easterstorytrail.org.uk)



## Governors

### What's it all about?

It's a sobering thought that the English education system is based on the work of volunteers! School governors - who do the job on a voluntary basis - carry the ultimate responsibility for the standards of education provided by a school, although the day-to-day responsibility clearly belongs to the head-teacher and staff. Most governing bodies have people with a wide range of skills and experience, and governors do all they can to provide both support and challenge to the head-teacher in leading and managing the school. A lot of time is spent in meetings, often in the evening, but many governors try and visit the school during the working day to find out what really makes it tick. Being a school governor is a very rewarding experience, but it's a role that definitely needs commitment and 'stickability'. Lots of training is provided, and you don't need to have an educational work background in order to become a governor. Even if you've never thought about it before, it might be the way for you to serve your local school!

### How can I find out more?

Email Sue Noakes at [sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org) or Alan Bailey at [alanbailey6@sky.com](mailto:alanbailey6@sky.com)





## What's it all about?

iSingPOP (formerly Pop Connection) continues to grow across the UK with particularly exciting plans for the North West in association with the Dioceses of Chester and Manchester. The project offers a wonderful opportunity for schools and churches to partner in a singing, dancing and recording project. It gives every child in the school a chance to learn pop songs specially written from a Christian perspective, feature on their very own school CD and perform in an amazing concert in the church to which parents, family and friends are invited. As well as being a good educational experience and loads of fun for the children it also serves as a great community project whilst enhancing the relationship between church and school.

## How can I find out more?

The website for iSingPOP contains lots of information, endorsements and video clips: [www.isingpop.com](http://www.isingpop.com)

You can also contact Amanda Roberts (iSingPOP North West Regional Manager) on 07962 307376.



## Open the Book

### What's it all about?

**OPEN THE BOOK** offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible in an interactive and enjoyable way during assembly times. Teams of Christians from local churches tell the stories in a 10-15 minute presentation. This can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or stand alone.

All the Year One stories are taken from The Lion Storyteller Bible written by Bob Hartman, and give an overview of the Bible from Creation to the Ascension. There are a further 2 years of themed material for those schools (and teams) who wish to continue. It is a mark of **OPEN THE BOOK's** popularity that most schools continue with the programme!

**OPEN THE BOOK** fulfils both OFSTED and SIAS (Church School Inspection) requirements for Collective Worship, and has been successfully used in a multi-faith context.

### How can I find out more?

Contact: [enquiries@openthebook.net](mailto:enquiries@openthebook.net)



## Pray for Schools

### What's it all about?

One easy way for a church to start supporting their local school is through prayer. Pray for Schools is a network of Christian prayer groups and individuals who pray regularly for specific schools in their area.

The idea is to bring together people from local churches and those involved in education – parents, pupils, teachers, meals supervisors, Governors and anyone else with a heart for young people – to pray strategically for schools in their locality and those involved in them.

Pray for Schools events are larger events than the weekly, monthly or termly prayer meetings for individual schools. We encourage Christians to use one or more of four dates in the year, already marked for prayer for education, to centre an event around, although events can be planned at any time of the year. We provide resources which are available on our website.

### How can I find out more?

For further details or to find out if your school is a “prayed-for” school please contact Jane Newey, Volunteer England Co-ordinator at [england@prayforschools.org](mailto:england@prayforschools.org) . Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

[www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org)



## Prayer Spaces In Schools

### What's it all about?

Prayer Spaces In Schools enable children and young people to explore faith and spirituality from a broadly Christian perspective in a safe, creative and interactive way. A range of flexible resources can be adapted to work for participants aged 5 to 18 bringing an experiential dimension to a variety of subject areas and to pastoral aspects of school life.



Tim Abbott leads CYO, a schools work charity in Colchester. The CYO team work in secondary schools and the sixth form college as chaplains and also run other projects in schools including a prayer space for students called 'Sanctum'. Sanctum was created in 2008 and is set up in a classroom for a week giving students and staff a range of reflective activities that inspire thought and prayer. Sanctum has been run over 25 times in seven schools and colleges around Colchester. Tim is part of the

core team of Prayer Spaces in Schools (a project of 24-7 Prayer) that supports the rapidly growing number of people running prayer spaces in schools across the UK and Europe through networking, training events, resources and a web site.

Could your church offer your local school this opportunity?

### How can I find out more?

The website for Prayer Spaces In Schools has lots of resources, ideas and a step by step guide on how to get started: [www.prayerspacesinschools.com](http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com)

You can contact Tim directly at: [tim@prayerspacesinschools.com](mailto:tim@prayerspacesinschools.com)



## Reaching New Generations

### What's it all about?

The Diocesan Youth Committee have developed a web-based resource for you to find answers to your questions about reaching new generations, as well as to share your experiences to encourage others.

We know that you want to reach and keep new generations and help young people grow into a life-long faith that they own and treasure and pass on to the next generation.

You are encouraged to spend some time looking through the webpages, as they are there to equip you to reach and keep new generations. As you navigate through the pages they will help you to find ideas, hear about experiences of other parishes and explore the resources that will help young people have a faith life-long.

By answering a few simple questions you will be taken through to various resources, quick ideas, case studies, training opportunities, events and advice about furthering your work with young people.

### How can I find out more?

Reverend Sue Mayo

Visit the website: [http://www.chester.anglican.org/page\\_youth.asp?Page=805](http://www.chester.anglican.org/page_youth.asp?Page=805)



## St. Peter's Church, Elworth, Schools Project

### What's it all about?

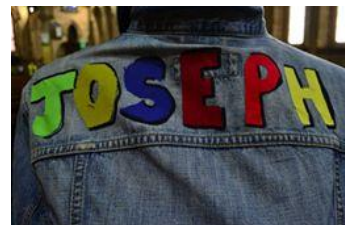
The aim was to engage local primary schools in a bible based project which would bring together children, staff and helpers and members of our own church community. The vision was to present a vibrant and fun day celebrating the great bible story of 'Joseph and his Amazing Bible Adventures'.

Three local primary schools brought their Year 3 children (7 and 8 year olds) to the church hall. Through a range of creative experiences, the children learned all about Joseph and his adventures through an interactive story session delivered by Elizabeth Morris, our story teller from 'A Tale to Tell', they also created souvenirs of the day and enjoyed outdoor games. They also worked with a local artist, Sue Guildford from 'Junk Art Creations', and used recyclable materials to create Joseph's coat.

The day culminated in a time of celebration when the three schools showcased work which they had prepared back at school, including songs, drama and art. Members of the local pre-school and care home became our audience for the celebration thus giving the whole day a real community feel and also broadening the opportunity to share the bible with local people.

### How can I find out more?

Contact: Cathryn Houghton at [katie.houghton@talktalk.net](mailto:katie.houghton@talktalk.net)



## School Chaplaincy

### What's it all about?

Jenny writes, "I am one of the Chaplains at a joint Church of England and Roman Catholic in Runcorn. Chaplaincy brings together all the skills I have learnt in over 30 years in education.

"In education "speak" I oversee and facilitate collective worship, support the pastoral team and work with local churches. In reality, I have the best job in the world, setting up projects so that students and church groups can work together to make a difference. I have the privilege of being alongside pupils and staff in sadness and celebration, both of which involve cake or chocolate!

"I listen a lot and smile all the time and follow a simple rule 'if you cannot make something better, make sure you are not making it worse'. I also work alongside School Pastors."

Could you offer your local school a chaplaincy?

### How can I find out more?

If you'd like to know more, please contact Jenny Owen at [jenny.owen@st-chads.halton.sch.uk](mailto:jenny.owen@st-chads.halton.sch.uk) or Sue at [sue.mayo@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.mayo@chester.anglican.org).



## Scripture Union Northwest Team

### What's it all about?

We are the North West Regional Team; an amazing team of volunteers, associates, affiliates and staff, working together towards God's purpose for Scripture Union in the region.

Our aims for 2014 are:

- Working to reach the unreached generation which would change the next generation
- Reaching the next generation in schools
- Making disciples through volunteer events
- Equipping churches to make disciples of the next generation
- Helping Christians engage with the Bible
- Enthusing church leaders with our passions

### How can I find out more?

Visit our website:

<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/YourCommunity/RegionalTeams/NorthWestTeam/145499.id>





## Storytelling

### What's it all about?

Elizabeth Morris is a professionally trained actor and writer, and spends her time performing! As a performance storyteller, actor and drama coach, she is able to bring to life many different story genres - fairytales, fables, legends, history and the classics.

An Anglican Lay Reader and children's worker, Elizabeth is passionate about connecting people of all ages with God's BIG Story. To do this (and because she loves to dress up), she finds telling Bible stories in character and interactively with props, etc., is most effective.

Elizabeth is also a Godly Play Storyteller, and incorporates this model into her unique telling.

Most recently, Elizabeth has performed Mary Magdalene's Story to over 400 children during Boteler's Big Bible Event, and told Joseph's Story through his wife, Asenath's eyes, to three schools in Elworth's Joseph Day.

As a professional, Elizabeth asks a fee for her storytelling and workshops, which can be negotiable.

### How can I find out more?

Elizabeth Morris

For further details, please visit her website - [www.ataletotell.org.uk](http://www.ataletotell.org.uk)



## The Message Trust

### What's it all about?

Since 1992, the Message Trust has been working in schools across greater Manchester to demonstrate authentic Christian faith in the real world.

Our teams of CRB-checked professional musicians, actors and dancers are trained communicators in sharing the Christian message in ways that are relevant to young people today. Our teams aim to create a positive atmosphere for learning, bringing real focus and attention to contact time with students. All our lesson delivery adheres to National Curriculum Key Stage 3 and 4 learning objectives, helping to enhance learning, solidify understanding of PE, PSHE, Music, Dance and RE concepts and develop responsibility and citizenship. Our commitment to pupils extends beyond taking assemblies and class teaching. We are experienced in delivering successful workshops and concerts which can contribute to building awareness and understanding of self. Our teams do not proselytise but bring authentic, first-hand experience of living out the Christian faith and relating it to life today.

Could you bless your local high school with a visit from the Message Trust?

### How can I find out more?

The website for The Message has a wealth of information about the full range of projects they operate, including work in schools: [www.themessage.org.uk](http://www.themessage.org.uk)



## Transforming Lives Together (TLT)

### What's it all about?

Transforming Lives Together is an exciting new venture which hopes to encourage and enable churches to make a greater contribution to the spiritual and social transformation of their communities. Our vision is to transform lives and communities, through every person in every church in every community tackling poverty. Our aim is to inspire churches to engage with their local communities in order to tackle poverty through prayer, action and giving, and enable a cross-diocese resource and idea sharing movement. We want to partner churches, Christians, local authorities and any agency or individual working alongside people profoundly affected by poverty, and use the diversity within the diocese to connect church communities to encounter each other and work collaboratively together. The development worker, Rev. Jenny Mayo-Lythall, would love to come and hear your stories and talk to your church, P.C.C., chapter meeting, WI, men's prayer breakfast, Mother's Union, youth group, home-group, social action group, or wherever two or three are gathered together.

TLT could be a great way to partner with your local school.

### How can I find out more?

Contact Rev Jenny Mayo-Lythall on 01928 718 834 ext 261

Email: [jenny@transforminglives-together.org](mailto:jenny@transforminglives-together.org).

You can also find TLT on the web: [www.cuf.org.uk/transforming-lives-together](http://www.cuf.org.uk/transforming-lives-together), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/transforminglives-together](https://www.facebook.com/transforminglives-together) and Twitter (@TLTChester)



# Using commemorative events to bring people together

What's it all about?

**War Memories**

Family Remembrance Service

*Why we remember?*

Silent Night Community Carols

## Remembrance Day in School

DIG FOR VICTORY

poems/art/drama

Parsnip marmalade and eggless cake???

Art Displays & Wartime Songs

## Stories Behind the War Memorial Names

Jill Elston ran an amazing day at her church to help her local primary schools commemorate World War 1. She'd be happy to share her experience and possibly t some wartime cake! Could remembrance be a way for you to engage with schools and the wider community?

## How can I find out more?

Contact Jill from St Michaels Bramhall at [timandjill@ntlworld.com](mailto:timandjill@ntlworld.com)



## Youth For Christ (YFC)

### What's it all about?

Especially helpful in reaching secondary schools, Wirral *Youth for Christ* exists to share good news with the young people of the Wirral and to have a positive influence on young people's lives. They say, "We work together with people from all walks of life, the young and the elderly, the rich and the poor and people of all faiths or none... and together we make a difference.

"What is our ethos? We believe that:

- People are special and significant – you mean something.
- God loves people and is concerned about us and about our lives.
- God wants to build people up and see them reach their potential.
- God wants to have a relationship with us; so much so that he sent Jesus to address the problems that separate us from him.

"How does our ethos influence our work? We believe that:

- *People are special and significant* and so we want to honour young people and celebrate them as significant and powerful members of our communities.
- *God is concerned about us and about our lives* so we want to work with others in our community to combat things that destroy potential, things like poor self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse and unhealthy relationships.
- *God loves people* and so we want to love young people. We're not talking about feelings here but about choosing to really love and value young people.
- *God wants to build people up and have a relationship with them*, and so this is what we say. We are not confrontational in this and we never force these beliefs, but neither do we shy away from them.

"What we actually do?

"We're involved in lots of different things which all dovetail under a clear vision and distinct strategic aims; everything we do fits together. A look around our site will give a flavour of what we do but we value the importance of personal contact."

### How can I find out more?

Martin, Zoe or Jonny

Look at our website: [www.wirralyfc.org.uk/](http://www.wirralyfc.org.uk/)



## Helpful Websites

<http://www.yoyotrust.org.uk/index.php?Itemid=57> Many excellent resources from the York based YoYo Trust.

<http://www.yfcschoolsconnection.co.uk/> Ready made assemblies, lesson plans and school club resources from the excellent YFC

<http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/49490.id> Make your own custom built resources for a school club with the Schools Live pages of Scripture Union

[http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/kidsource\\_full\\_music\\_edition\\_super\\_songs\\_for\\_church\\_and\\_school\\_36961.html](http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/kidsource_full_music_edition_super_songs_for_church_and_school_36961.html) for good songs for school and church

## Places to find good assemblies

<http://www.theassemblyline.co.uk/#/assemblies/4547992691>  
Primary and secondary

<http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/TeachersResources/Default.aspx>  
Assemblies and resources with an emphasis on social justice

<http://www.damaris.org/assemblies>  
Primary and secondary assemblies

<http://www.yfcschoolsconnection.co.uk/home>  
Secondary assemblies

[http://www.prayerscapes.com/Links/copyright\\_free\\_images\\_and\\_photos.html](http://www.prayerscapes.com/Links/copyright_free_images_and_photos.html)  
For really good sites offering free photos and images

<http://www.schoolswork.co.uk/>  
Inspirational resources for preparing assemblies

[www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)

[www.shambles.net/pages/staff/assembly](http://www.shambles.net/pages/staff/assembly)

[www.school-assemblies.co.uk/](http://www.school-assemblies.co.uk/)

## Places to find good assemblies (cont.)

<http://www.primaryworks.co.uk/products/assemblies/18>

- some good PowerPoint displays for worship

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/more/assemblies/contents.htm>

[www.primaryresources.co.uk](http://www.primaryresources.co.uk)

[www.cafod.org.uk/primary/assemblies](http://www.cafod.org.uk/primary/assemblies)

[www.myschoolassembly.co.uk](http://www.myschoolassembly.co.uk) (a small charge is made on this site)

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-appeals/christingle>

<http://www.going4growth.org.uk/>

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/CCE/148>

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/worship/children-s-liturgy>

<http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/>

<http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/collectiveworship>

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/pages/2626.htm>

<http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/education/collective-worship-resources.php>

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/collective-worship/diaries-of-reflection>

