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# Faith in Scarborough Schools

January  
2017

*Newsletter*

Thank you for your generous and valued support over the years. I thought it might be good to share all the good things that by God's grace FISS has been doing in the schools and also some of the events planned for next year. It has been a privilege over the years to be serving schools and I always believe that, thanks to the prayers and kind thoughts of others something of God's love is imparted to children and staff as I "do the rounds!" Indeed Jesus said "Let the little children come to me for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven" and my greatest sense of God's presence is whenever I am with children. Their honesty and unconditional acceptance is always a tangible confirmation that God is with me in this work.

## Assemblies



It is always a great encouragement to me that there is possibly no greater catchment in terms of sharing the teaching of the Bible than the school assembly. The Education Reform Act requires predominant Christian teaching in assemblies and I ask myself where else will you find 300 people on a weekday obligated to hear about the teachings of Jesus? Consequently I would say well over a thousand teachers and children a week are hearing the Good News of God's love! On my list every term are at least 26 schools which have assemblies at various times in the day. I visit these at least once a month. The format most of the time consists of something for the young people to be involved in such as a quiz or a game related to the theme, a story from the Bible with visual aids—usually PowerPoint and then I finish with a song and a prayer. Often the prayer is a very spiritual time as I give the children some quiet space to reflect on God's presence.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**January 19th  
7:00pm  
St James Church  
Seamer Road  
The Upper Room  
All Welcome!**

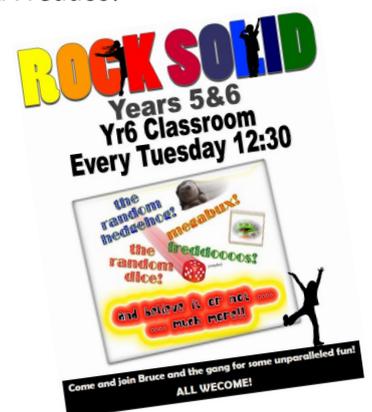
## New Office



As you can see from our letter head we have moved from St James. Having spent at least 10 years there it was a great wrench. A big **thank you** to the wonderful people of at James for supporting us in this way. Steve Blower (Sidewalk) and myself have moved to our new space lavishly decorated with orange walls! You are welcome to pop in and visit us but let us know in advance.

## Rock Solid

Originally this lunchtime club was held in senior schools but the majority of them reduced their lunchtime breaks so we were unable to continue. We are hoping to continue at Graham Lower School who have not been able to accommodate us this last year. However we have continued to take Rock Solid with Newby year 6's. This has proved very popular and at the end of last term we had to turn young people away! A big thanks to Jo Charlesworth, St Laurence's children's worker who comes in every Tuesday lunchtime to help. The format is the same as ever - much fun and team games with Christian teaching around a chosen subject .... And Freddos!



## Lessons

The schools format with respect to RE and PSHE is ever changing and it is hard to keep up with requirements. We are in the process of revamping lesson material. Catherine Dufton and myself are sticking close to the secondary curriculum and preparing 9 weekly lessons under the heading "**LOVED UP**". Thanks to Catherine's hard work we have nearly completed this and will be advertising it to secondary schools early next year. The subject matter will deal with self esteem, assertiveness, friendship and all levels of relationship as well as dealing with modern day issues such as pornography and "sexting". I have enjoyed taking very informal lessons for whole mornings at Woodhead school and also monthly sessions at the Cambian trust in Eastfield. I am occasionally asked to take lessons elsewhere.

## Fizzbang!



Every half term for two mornings in the week we take FIZZBANG at St Laurence's Church. A big thanks to Jo Charlesworth and her team for making this possible. With worship, teaching, team games and craft sessions we are able to engage with the children and communicate the Good News of God's Love. Very little advertisement is needed before FIZZBANG gets fully booked. It's great to see the club still going strong 15 years after its inception.

## Assembly Rota

We have over the years managed to provide a rota of weekly assembly takers in four of the local Junior schools every term. These have been much appreciated by the schools. However the list has dwindled considerably over the past couple of years. I would love to keep this service going so if you know anyone who feels they have the time and necessary gifts to take assemblies please get them to contact me. A big thanks to Joe Coates, Geoff Bowell, Richard Costin, and others over the years who have helped.

## Sidewalk

Every month I do two or three 3 hour sessions for Sidewalk detached youth project which complements the work I do in schools. It's a great feeling when a group of young people recognise me from my work in schools. The young people always seem welcoming and appreciative.

## Support

I am very grateful to my Trustees over the years who have been always there to support me: Rev Peter Cross (Chairman); Steve Slade (Treasurer); Keith Revell; Peter Robinson; Barbara Archer (and John); Sharon Stone; and recent additions Steve Blower and Catherine Dufton. If you would like to support financially you can find details on the website: <http://fiss-scarborough.org.uk/support>. But finally what you could do is ...

## After School Clubs

Thanks to Barbara Archer and her team from St Peter's church Staxton we are able to take **RAINBOW CLUB** every term at Hertford Vale for four or five consecutive weeks. We take a theme and then each Wednesday after school we build the session around one aspect of it. This time we took the theme of Jesus relationship with the poor. We have fun, games, singing and teaching. The clubs are very popular and always over subscribed.



The other after school club we take is **FRUITLOOP**. This is not restricted to one school and still in its experimental stage. Catherine Dufton is the brains behind this. With her dancing skills she wanted to take the idea of the "Fruits Of The Spirit" with children working with them to create dance moves related to subjects such as love, peace, kindness, faithfulness and patience etc. Meanwhile I designed activities and discussions around each theme. Our first 6 week series was taken at Seamer and Irton School. It was very successful and the young people who participated wanted us to come back. However we are looking forward to be taking sessions at be Bramcote School this coming term.

*... pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18*

There are so many ways to pray and opportunities to do so! First of all petitionary prayer: Peter Robinson's prayer paper for all youth work comes out each month. If you would like a copy you might like to contact him: [p.robinson280@btinternet.com](mailto:p.robinson280@btinternet.com). Furthermore you may be interested in meeting every Thursday at the Solid Rock Café at 7am in the morning. Details of this and other monthly prayer events can be found on the CTIS website. Here at our office every Monday we meet at 10am for 20 minutes of Silent Prayer and you are very welcome to join us! We are all part of God's loving purpose and I pray that you discover the great potential that God has in your life this coming year. God bless Bruce