

January 2018

# CRIBS News

## RElaunch 25

### 25 years young!

If you have been at any of our events recently or seen any of our other recent mailings, it won't have escaped your attention that this year marks CRIBS 25th birthday. We are pulling all our celebrations and aspirations for this year together under the heading RElaunch25:

- **RE** relating to the fact that our main area of work is providing quality, Christian, Religious Education.
- **Launch**, to remind us that this is a launchpad to the future, emerging from all of God's work in the past.
- **25**, reflecting how many years we've been running, and a nod to the next 25 years.

You will read quite a lot about some of our plans for this year in the rest of this newsletter.

I guess the age of 25 suggests different things for each of us...for some it may be a distant memory, while for others it is still quite recent, or maybe you're not even there yet! For us at CRIBS, we want this to be a year of looking forward as much as looking back. In terms of an average lifespan, the age of 25 represents a blend of youth and material. Hopefully we have learnt a little from all that God has taken us through over the last 25 years, but are still full of energy and enthusiasm for all that the coming years will bring. It is sometimes said that age is just a number. We don't want to get hung up on the number itself, but to see it as a reason to celebrate all that God has done through this organisation. And to challenge ourselves at the same time to keep a youthful, flexible, outlook, keen to follow where God is leading us. We may not have reached Caleb's age, but may we, like him be, "just as vigorous to go out to battle now as...then" (Joshua 14:12).

Thank you for all your support and prayers. I hope you enjoy reading about all that has been happening and is planned for the next year or so.

Mark

*Taking Off*  
Last year we created the new project, 'Taking Off' which helped primary pupils prepare for the move to secondary school. If you know of a school that might be interested please tell us and we can be in touch with them.

**"I like everything about CRIBS"** Pupil

### Christmas Celebration

Every Christmas and Easter friends, supporters and those interested in finding out more about the work of CRIBS, can attend our free Celebration event. During December over 100 visitors, including a representative of the queen, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Bexley, accompanied by his wife, joined us at the Iona Theatre, St Columba's school and heard all the latest CRIBS' news and saw a performance of our Christmas play.

The drama went down very well, both at the celebration event and more importantly to the 15,000 or so primary school children that we performed to across 43 schools. We are again staggered and delighted at the number of children that we can reach in just a nine day period. It was also very encouraging that we were able to visit four new schools.



Major David Hewer, The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Bexley and his wife Diane (centre) attend the Christmas with CRIBS' Celebration

### 25 Miles walk - fancy it?

January, the time of new year's resolutions. If you are hoping to get fit this year, why not sign up to our **25** mile walk?

As part of our **RElaunch 25** celebrations we are looking for people to join all, or part of, our route around the perimeter of the Bexley Borough. The entrance fee is £25 and includes some refreshments at our stop-off points and a T-shirt. You can choose whether or not to be sponsored to raise funds for CRIBS.



Last year we had lots of fun and laughs on the **Joyful in Hope Walk** around the Borough.



INSPIRED \* CREATIVE \* RELEVANT

Registered Charity no. 1122295

## 25 Ways to celebrate

Here are the 25 ways that we are hoping to celebrate this year. From goals to build our work in schools directly, to fundraising to support the work practically and targets to bless - they are all ways that we are celebrating. Each way to celebrate will be marked in our communications with a 25 in a red circle like this. **25**

Please get in touch if you think you can help.

- 1) One van for **Boys Noise** and **b:You**
- 2) New secondary programme '**Unlimited**' launched
- 3) Three New Prayer events (see upcoming events panel)
- 4) **25** old mobile phones collected to raise funds
- 5) **25** young people mentored at secondary schools
- 6) **25** miles walked (see upcoming events panel)
- 7) **25** kg of old stamps and other collectables sent off to raise funds for us.
- 8) Refresh Christian lessons booked in **25** schools
- 9) £2,500 raised from supporter events (eg coffee mornings)
- 10) **25** new regular donors
- 11) **25** people giving £**25** a month
- 12) Relaunch **25** tour to churches
- 13) To raise £2,525.25 in a single sponsored event
- 14) Competition for the best 'CRIBS in **25** words' poster
- 15) To run a family celebration event
- 16) To bless local schools with an Easter Gift
- 17) **25** fundraising events initiated by supporters
- 18) **25** memories from teachers, pupils and supporters
- 19) A desktop calendar available to all supporters to bless them (please request one on 01322 330730)
- 20) **25** highlights from **25** years
- 21) To provide **25** assemblies (please tell us of local schools who would like to take up our free assemblies)
- 22) A bookmark for every child we work with
- 23) Newsletter special with a **25** year timeline
- 24) TBC A space to add new ways to celebrate
- 25) TBC A space to add new ways to celebrate

**You'll notice the last two slots are TBC 'to be confirmed' - this is your opportunity to tell us any great ideas you may have, so please do get in touch.**

**"I want longer CRIBS Lessons"** Pupil



## CRIBS new mentoring programme

Recently, there have been a number of well publicised reports about the emotional well-being of young people and the pressures they face. One report locally said that 57% of secondary school age young people in Bexley reported feeling anxious or depressed at some point. At the same time, we in CRIBS have been reviewing our strategy for work in Secondary schools. Out of this has come Unlimited.

The idea is that the Christian church can become part of the solution to the issues facing young people, as volunteers from local churches go into schools to act as mentors for students



## Christmas on the shelf'



This was our 2017 Christmas drama, and we are happy to report that we had a wonderful tour, with two CRIBS teams presenting the play across the Borough. An added dimension to the tour this year was the opportunity to visit four new schools outside of the Bexley Borough in the Dartford and Swanley area – the first signs of expansion, in a geographical sense and we didn't even need visas!

Our presentation was in fact more of a puppet show than a drama. The basic plot revolved around a Nativity Set that had been 'shelved' as unwanted, and it was the characters' quest to reach the highest shelf in order to be seen and tell their story. We aimed high too, technically speaking, because marionette puppets aren't the easiest to use and although we first presented the play in 2011, they took some getting used to again even though we used them in a relatively basic way. All of the characters got into a few tangles on several occasions but perhaps 'Joseph' was a bit highly strung anyway, so maybe it was to be expected (sorry!). Incidentally, the word 'marionette' means 'Little Mary', as it seems they were traditionally used for telling the Nativity and so this classical form of puppetry was just perfect for our needs.

We are grateful for our wonderful Koru team who bravely 'stepped out of the boat' and joined the teams for the first time on tour, despite a little apprehension on their part.



nominated by the schools themselves. We are currently recruiting a new Secondary Schools Work co-ordinator, and a significant part of their job will be to oversee this project, liaising with schools and with volunteer mentors and matching them up.

We held a launch event for Unlimited on Thursday 11th January at Christ Church, Sidcup. Around 45-50 people were there, hearing from a teacher at a local secondary school, as well as from members of the team, about both the needs and the opportunities in secondary schools. We were delighted that 20 people signed up to find out more about becoming mentors – but there is still room for more! If you think you could be part of this exciting new initiative, then please get in touch with Mark at mark@cribsonline.org. And please pray that God will use Unlimited to bring hope to the lives of some of our young people. Mark



Craig and Paul wonder who keeps moving the set of nativity characters around in 'Christmas on the shelf'

They were truly inspiring in the way they learned and delivered their lines and brought their characters to life as well as weathering the rigours of such an intense programme; one of the girls almost lost her voice half way through, but it was a blessing to have had the use of radio microphones to lessen the strain and ensure she could be heard.

We remain grateful too, for the small group of women who hand-made the marionettes 7 years ago - they produced 14 beautiful puppets in under two weeks – once again, thank you so much. Above all, we are thankful to God for yet another amazing opportunity to tell children across the Borough (and some outside of the borough) something of what we believe to be the Story of all stories and the Love of all loves, incarnated and wrapped in swaddling cloths. Wow. Jason.



## Creative RE Lessons

The Autumn term was yet another very busy period. The primary team were mainly engaged in teaching lessons all about Christmas to children aged 4-11 yrs old. However, I personally was allocated for a day a week preparing all the resources required for the Christmas Play, which was really needed!!

One highlight for me was when talking to a Teaching Assistant in a year 5 class (10 yr olds). She had made some very 'interesting' comments in class. Then we met in the staff room and she opened the conversation by commenting how she, and the class, loved the CRIBS lessons and how she was disappointed when the five weeks were up. I asked her if she would consider herself a Christian. She replied "yes I think so, I pray a lot in my car". I asked if she went to church, to which she said no, she had been once but didn't like it. I was able to say that she would know when the right time to try again came, as God would let her know somehow. She agreed and I asked if I could pray with her. Unfortunately she had to leave for lessons, but I promised to pray for her later anyway.

How great is our God that he engineered this conversation. I love teaching children the good news of Jesus, but also love how He uses us in ways we don't see coming. Please join me in praying that this lady is richly blessed, and that He continues to use our hands, mouths and feet in ways that we cannot foresee, but advance His kingdom.

Over the last term we've improved the way that we find out what children think of Refresh and we have been bowled over by the results. Some of the comments are dotted through this newsletter. We asked children to rate us against different smiley or sad faces (called emojis) and an initial look through suggests that children love what we do and that it helps them to think about their own beliefs, values and actions. Craig

**"I loved learning about Jesus"** Pupil

## 25 Memories

Here are just some of the **25** memories we'll be covering over this year. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (search 'CRIBS Charitable Trust') if you want to read more or add your own.

Your memories of CRIBS...

"As a mother of three boys who had the benefit of Gordon's teaching in the early days and as a primary school teacher. I wish to thank Gordon for his vision in founding CRIBS and developing it with the staff and resources it has now. The children love CRIBS coming into schools and teaching them about the Bible in fun and exciting ways."

"Watching the children's faces during CRIBS plays; seeing the 'penny drop' as they got revelation of Jesus wanting a relationship with them"

"I love all the plays. Even my husband has too- he wasn't a Christian."

We're looking forward to gathering even more great memories of God's faithfulness.

## 25 One Van for Boys Noise & b:You

Thanks to funds raised at some of our events and from the Co-op, we have some money towards buying a van for Boys Noise and b:You. It's a much needed resource that will help us to get all of the African drums, sports and other equipment to the clubs much more efficiently and with a more environmentally friendly vehicle.



To raise funds we are holding two prize draws at our upcoming events. Thanks to some generous donations we have great prizes including a Survival Party for children over the age of 7 with 'Ben Bullen Adventures' worth over £200. We have also had some talented volunteers offer to run a Folk Night for us in April (see upcoming events panel →).

Please support them by booking tickets at [info@cribsonline.org](mailto:info@cribsonline.org) or by calling us on 01322 330730.

## 25 Kgs of stamps and collectables

Have you got one of those drawers or cupboards that are full of all that kind of stuff that you just don't know what to do with? Old broken watches, old jewellery, out of date money, foreign currency, medals, stamps (old and new), stamp collections - you know the sort of thing. Well, CRiBS raises funds by collecting all of those kind of things. We can send them off to organisations who give us money in return which we can use for the kingdom. If you'd like to free up that space in your home please bring along any such items to events or call to arrange a drop off at our office.

## 25 Old mobile phones collected

We discovered that most members of the CRiBS team had old mobile phones at home sitting around doing nothing and were unlikely to be used again so we've started collecting those too!

We're hopeful of being able to smash the target of getting 25 old mobile phones quite quickly. Can you help? Pass your old phones to a team member or call us to arrange dropping them off.

## 25 Words Competition - what is CRiBS?

We're looking for the best description of CRiBS in up to 25 words. Email or post them to Fiona ([fiona@cribsonline.org](mailto:fiona@cribsonline.org)). Descriptions may be used in our publicity material (emails/web etc) and the winner will receive a delicious hamper.

(Terms and conditions on our Facebook page or on request)

## 25 Desktop calendars

One of the ways we are celebrating is to bless supporters with a 2018 desktop calendar designed and produced in-house by Simon and our volunteers. We hope you enjoy using it!

If you no longer wish to receive information from us please let us know by email or telephone.

The CRiBS Team invite you to the Moghul Tandoori Restaurant in Sidcup for another

**Fabulous Curry Night!**  
99 Main Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6ND  
Tuesday 27th February 2018  
Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start

The Moghul provides absolutely delicious, mouth watering, high quality Indian cuisine.

The 'CRiBS Special' a great selection of Starters & Main Courses for just £20 per person (Includes donation to CRiBS)

Book your tables now for what will be a very pleasant, relaxing, unpressured evening of just great food, good company and perhaps a bit of fun!

We'd really love to fill the restaurant with just CRiBS team and our guests for the evening so we're aiming for 100 people to do just that.

So do come along for a great midweek treat!  
Bring along a little extra money for your drinks.

To book email: [info@cribsonline.org](mailto:info@cribsonline.org) or call 01322 330730

CRiBS is a UK Registered Charity no 1122295

**PRISE DRAW**

**CRiBS Folk Night**  
Boys Noise Fundraiser  
Quality local bands and soloists  
Saturday 21st April  
7.30pm - 10pm

**St Lawrence's Hall**  
Hamilton Rd, Sidcup DA14 7HB  
Car park nearby in Main Rd, DA14 7TD

A mixture of seating and standing areas  
Please bring cash for raffle and licensed bar

To book contact:  
CRiBS Office 01322 330730 [karen@cribsonline.org](mailto:karen@cribsonline.org)  
Terry West 07839 821060 [twest52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twest52@hotmail.co.uk)  
Jerry Nelson 07967 43442 [jerry@cribsonline.com](mailto:jerry@cribsonline.com)  
[www.cribsonline.org.uk](http://www.cribsonline.org.uk)

**Tickets just £10**

CRiBS is a UK registered charity no 1122295

## Upcoming events - book today

Do join us for more fun at one or all of our future events.

**CRiBS Curry Night** - Tuesday 27th February - 7 for 7.30pm start.  
Moghul Restaurant, High Street, Sidcup, DA14 6ND

**Open prayer with CRiBS team** - Monday 12th March 9.30am  
Team Headquarters - St Columba's Boys' School, Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, DA6 7QB.

**CRiBS Easter Celebration** - Monday 26th March - 6.30 for 7pm  
Iona Theatre, St Columba's Boys' School, Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, DA6 7QB.

**CRiBS Folk Night** - Saturday 21st April - 7.30 - 10.00pm  
St Lawrence's Hall, Hamilton Road, Sidcup DA14 7HB.

**25 mile walk** - Saturday 19th May - all day  
Full details to be confirmed.

**To keep updated with events you may also want to sign up for our monthly emails and to 'Like', and keep an eye on, our Facebook page and Twitter pages. See addresses below.**

*"I love CRiBS because it's fun"* Pupil

## Just a tick! Data Protection

Last year we wrote to everyone on our mailing list and if we didn't hear back we may not be able to write to you after May. Charities are preparing for the new change in the law which supersedes the Data Protection laws. For this reason we need you to contact us if you'd like to continue to receive mailings like this one. To ensure you receive our news updates and invites to special events please visit our website and click on the simple sign-up form on our home page? Alternatively, you can just call Fiona at the CRiBS office and let us know your preferences.

