



LIVING VALUES  GROWING FAITH

Annual Review 2023



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS

Celebrating 30 Years in Schools!



www.cribsonline.org

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CRiBS - 30 Years of service



It was such an encouragement in 2023 to celebrate CRiBS 30th anniversary, and to be reminded of the goodwill and generosity of all those who support our work. Thank you to all those who took part in the celebrations and helped us exceed our fundraising target for the year – see page 11 for more about this.

At the same time, the 30-year milestone has served as a reminder of the speed of change, and events in the wider world over the last year have reinforced that. While children and young

people are growing up in a world that sometimes feels quite unstable, it is our privilege in schools, in a variety of ways, to point them to the one described by the prophet Isaiah thousands of years ago as “the sure foundation for your times” (Isaiah 33:6). I hope you are encouraged by what you read in this booklet, and that we are together able to draw on the “rich store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge”, that Isaiah goes on to talk about, as we navigate the challenges of the year ahead. **CRiBS CEO Mark Leveson**

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'CRiBS is really cool. There's nothing you can do better. The end.'
(Yr4 pupil)

Our Vision

CRiBS' work supports the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of children and young people as we seek to inspire **Growing Faith** and promote **Living Values**.

Our desire is that all children have the opportunity to explore and think through the values they live by and the beliefs that underpin them.

Our starting point is that the Christian message provides a compelling framework for doing this in a way that includes people of all backgrounds and provides space for growth and exploration.

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS



RE Lessons

REconnect

Teaching creative, interactive Christian RE lessons in primary schools has long been at the heart of our work, helping children consider faith in a fun, engaging and memorable way. While, following changes to the local syllabus, we are working in fewer schools than previously to deliver regular lessons, the team continue to be welcomed enthusiastically in 11 schools, including one that has come on board only this year. We have also launched 'Mini-explorers', aimed at pre-schools and nurseries, giving very young children the opportunity to hear Bible stories delivered in an interactive and engaging way.

'The lessons were very creative. The children were engaged throughout.'

Yr 1 Teacher

RE lessons remain an important opportunity for CRiBS to present the Christian faith and the hope that we have, sowing seeds that we trust will bear fruit in the future.

'These CRiBS lessons have helped me a lot and I know more about thinking about life.'

(Yr6 pupil)

Paul teaching an RE Lesson

11 schools, 1 pre-school, approximately 3475 children taught



Carole explaining how the Jesus lifebelt works in the Easter play

'The CRiBS team came in today to perform their show and it was lovely - kids loved it.'
(Headteacher)

'We enjoyed the production very much. It used much creativity which kept our children engaged and motivated to listen.'
(RE Coordinator)

CRiBS seasonal productions remain a great opportunity to bring to life the reasons for the Christian celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and have been a key part of CRiBS' annual delivery programme over more than 25 years. It has been a privilege this year to venture further afield with the productions, as 'word of mouth' recommendations have led to invites from as far afield as Vauxhall in London, and Snodland in Kent.

'Easter Unwrapped' was the play for Easter in 2023; while Christmas saw a brand new, specially written production involving shadow puppets as well as the usual puppets and actors, called 'A Place for You'.

Performing our Christmas Play 'A Place for You'



42 different schools, over 16,500 children



Our 10-week small group intervention programme is for those children in Years 2-6 who struggle to settle in the school environment. The core of the programme is small group sessions ('HeartSense') focusing on emotional well-being; sometimes this is supplemented by an after-school club to help with team play, social skills and confidence building, and sometimes it develops further into a longer-term programme of mentoring-type support for children with specific needs.

Andrew delivering a HeartSense session

There continues to be high demand for this part of our work – in 2023 we worked in 10 primary schools, some for the first time.

'She has definitely shown an improvement in her ability to cope with different emotions.'

(Teacher)

'It has helped and stopped me from worrying in class and helped me express my emotions.'

(Child)

'Before HeartSense I stressed a lot and didn't know how to control it or calm the feeling down - I also often reacted quickly when I am angry. Since doing HeartSense I learned how to calm myself down (when I'm feeling) either stressed or angry because of the HeartSense exercise.' (Child)

'He has made SO much progress in this area this year. He has gone from shying away, only talking to adults, to actively seeking out friendships and wanting to get involved in games. He is so much (better at) dealing with emotions and can identify when he is getting angry, often avoiding the triggers.' (Teacher)

Primary intervention in 10 Schools, approximately 400 children

Money Workshop

100% of teachers agreed that, 'The workshop helped the pupils understand how money works and how to spend and save it'



Mark and Fiona receiving the Winners award for our CAP Money:Kids Course in Primary Schools



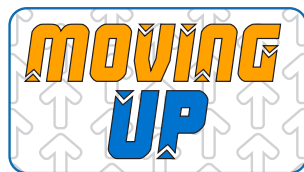
This is a two-session workshop created by 'Christians Against Poverty'. It is aimed at children in Years 5 and 6, who over the two sessions gain a basic understanding of income, expenditure, saving, giving, budgeting and the impact debt can have on families. The sessions trigger some fantastic discussions and have been widely appreciated by staff and pupils. This has now become an established part of CRIBS work in schools and we were delighted that it was recognised with the 'Successful Communities' award at the November 2023 London Borough of Bexley 'Faith in the Community' awards.

Teacher comments:

- 'The children have really enjoyed the sessions and have been excited by their learning. They have learned some valuable, lifelong skills. Thank you – a great workshop and well led with a good rapport with pupils. Very successful – thank you!'
- 'Everyone participated in the budget holiday activity, they all worked well together in their teams got the whole class thinking about how best to budget.'
- 'Activities were engaging and gave children lots of problem-solving opportunities to challenge their thinking.'
- 'I liked that you ended with Scripture. I can see why the staff in Year 5 last year said it was a good course.'

18 schools, 50 classes, 2388 children

School Transition



Once again in 2023 we delivered 'Moving Up', our transition support workshop for children in Year 6 to help them prepare for the move from primary to secondary school. The workshop uses a mix of media content, small-group activities and whole-class discussions to help children explore how they are feeling about some of the changes associated with going to a different school. We delivered 'Moving Up' in more schools than ever this year, and pupils and teachers expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to take time out both to reflect on the children's journey through primary school and to think through some of the ways secondary school might be different.



Thank you – a great workshop and well led with a good rapport with pupils. Very successful – thank you!'
Teacher

'Really great workshop, very engaging and insightful for the children.'
Teacher

24 schools, 42 classes, 1242 children



Secondary

CRiBS Unlimited mentoring for secondary school students provides a safe and non-judgemental space for a young person to sit and talk with a trained mentor about any concerns or difficulties they are facing. The last year saw our mentoring presence expand its reach into four secondary schools with opportunities for even more in the coming year. We also received funding to be part of the local social prescribing project, where young people may be referred for mentoring by, for example, their GP or other health professional and this in turn is opening doors for work in more schools.

Supporting Christian Unions has been the other major part of our work in secondary schools historically. While we supported CUs in two schools over the last year, giving students a space to discuss topics around faith, life and the Bible, it has been encouraging to be part of new CUs in two further schools as well.

'... an absolute asset to the Academy and we are so fortunate that your mentor is willing and able to support our students.'

Assistant Principal



Joel in a mentoring session

Student comments:

- 'Is really good with helping me with my emotions. Is able to help calm me down....'
- '...a very good mentor and always has your back.'

• 'I would like to thank you for all the guidance you have shown me on my journey, ever since I was in year 10. Thank you for taking the time to answer questions (I still have loadsss lol) and keeping me on track (*even* when I didn't want to hear what I needed to hear teehee.) I pray that God continues to guide you in all that you do.'

4 schools, 71 students mentored

Community Events



"CRiBS support to Spark in the Park was wonderful in 2023. With such a remarkable gift for story-telling and engaging children at all levels, even in the rain, they got fully stuck in across all of our various activities. Having CRiBS on board this year, demonstrating how to present Jesus in such a straight forward and attention grabbing way, was invaluable."



During the summer period the team are always in demand at local events providing teaching, stories, games, music, entertainment and opportunities for prayer. This year, the team helped lead a lively, varied programme for children from the main stage at 'Lark in the Park' in Sidcup, including retelling three amazing stories from the Bible (The Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus and Jesus walking on the water). The villainous 'Stinker Malone', nemesis to 'Scoopa' (our beloved puppet), was listening in and his life changed forever.

CRiBS team members also joined the team at 'Spark in the Park' in Danson Park, where they were involved in telling Bible stories - including Noah's Ark, and the story of Jesus' death and resurrection as part of the daily 'Hotspot'.





'30 for 30'



To celebrate CRiBS' thirtieth anniversary, we set out at the beginning of the year with the goal of raising £30,000, in a special birthday campaign '30for30'. There were CRiBS-run events, such as the celebratory summer tea party and our online amateur photography competition. In a joint effort with Sidcup Baptist Church there was a fundraising 'Songs of Praise' concert put together. We were also very impressed by the fundraising activities of our supporters who organised a plant sale, an open garden event and challenge events including walks and runs. We are so thankful to all of you who helped to mark our anniversary by contributing financially and in many other ways, to show your support. We couldn't have done it without you.

We're very pleased to let you know that we didn't just hit our target, but we exceeded it by raising a total of £31,299! Happy 30th Birthday CRiBS!



Volunteers



In September we were joined by Sarah and Marie from Germany (followed by Stella in December). They immediately threw themselves into CRiBS work, quickly becoming valued members of our team.



Stella, Marie, Sarah

In addition to working alongside the CRiBS team, each Gap Year student is assigned to a church as part of their placement. This enables them to participate in the life of the church, including supporting the running of various children's groups. In 2023 St John's Welling, Bexley Christian Life Centre and Albany Park Baptist hosted Koru.

Interviews for our next cohort of 'Koru' Gap Year students happen throughout the year. If you are interested in having a Gap Year with CRiBS, or know someone who might be, please do get in touch.

"I learned to take over responsibility; got challenged in areas that were a bit out of my normal comfort zone; it helped me grow in confidence"

Previous CRiBS 'Koru' Student

The Koru team operating the silhouettes behind the scenes for the Christmas play



"The whole year has been very positive for me and helped me to grow in many different areas. I feel really inspired now!"

Previous CRiBS 'Koru' Student

Koru gap year running since 2014, hosting a total of 28 students

Trustees



David Linley, Anne Wood, Martin Andrews
Tom Parsons, Bola Ojo, Steve Burnett

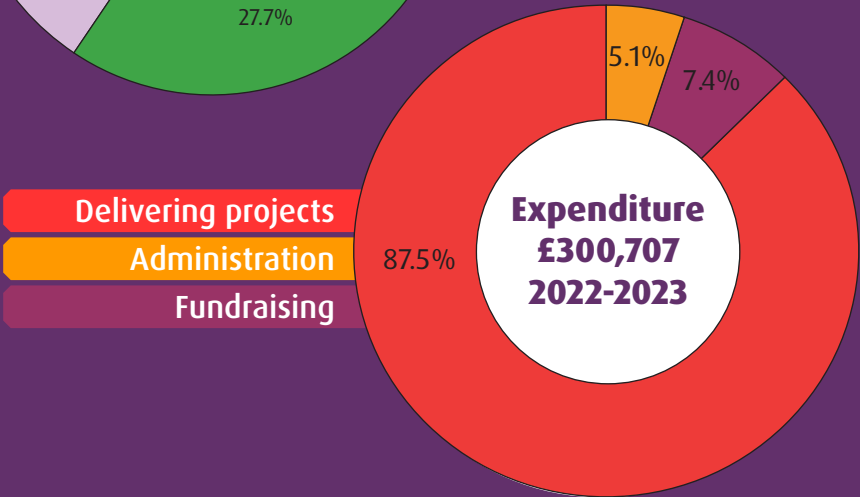
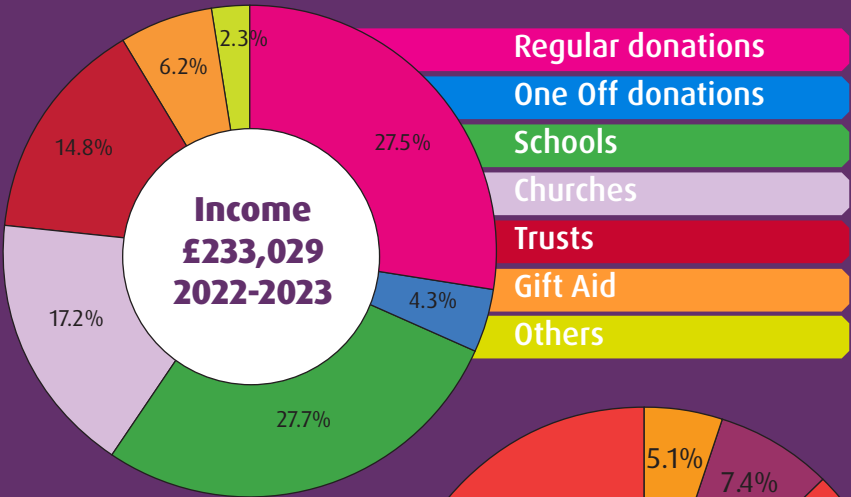
CRiBS has a team of six Trustees; all respected Christian people who draw on a wide range of skills and experience, and we could not function without them. Amongst other things, they are responsible to The Charity Commission for the sound financial management of CRiBS as a charity, and to donors and supporters for the efficient use of resources.

You will see on page 14 that for the latest financial year, incoming resources amounted to £233,029 and resources expended £300,707 giving rise to a significant deficit of £74,647 for the year. The Trustees have been aware of the challenges facing many individuals, churches, schools and trusts all of which have been the mainstay of the income received into the trust year-by-year. Although typically income and expenditure have largely matched year by year, there have always been historic reserves (as with any well-run Charity) and a further financial surplus was created during the pandemic.

Cognisant for some time of the pressure on finances though, the Trustees felt it was acceptable to use up some of the additional reserves built up over last year. This cannot continue indefinitely, hence the Trustees are actively looking at trying to widen the financial support base as well as reviewing delivery against our key mission focus with an aim to achieve longer-term sustainability of this Kingdom-centred work for the next 30 years and beyond.

The CRiBS Trustees and team would like to say a huge thank you to all our loyal supporters.

Finance 2022-23



Your support has kept us going over the last 30 years!

You are helping us change lives and positively impact the future of thousands of children and young people.

How can you help?

Did you know?

- £10** a month could pay for resources for a session in a school
- £37** could provide for an Unlimited 'Heartsense' session in one school
- £100** will pay for one school performance of our Easter or Christmas play
- £220** could help us teach RE in one school for a whole term



To donate to CRiBS scan the QR code or visit www.cribsonline.org/donate



In 2023 CRiBS celebrated thirty years serving children and young people in our local communities! Thanks to our generous supporters.

- ☐ I am returning this response form with a cheque for £_____ payable to CRiBS Charitable Trust.
- ☐ I have set up a regular bank transfer to CRiBS Charitable Trust.
Bank Account: 65293438 Sort Code 08-92-99.
- ☐ I would like information about leaving a gift to CRiBS in my will.

Contact Details

Title: First Name: Surname:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email Address: Telephone:

Contact preferences: ☐ email ☐ mail ☐ phone ☐ do not contact me

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to CRiBS Charitable Trust

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to CRiBS Charitable Trust.

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify CRiBS if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS

REconnect

