



LIVING VALUES  GROWING FAITH



Annual review 2021



CEO Mark Leveson

The strangest of times!

At the end of another eventful year, when restrictions to reduce the spread of Covid-19 have formed the backdrop to all of our lives, it is good to be able to reflect on all that we have been able to do as CRiBS. Despite the restrictions, many schools welcomed us back as soon as they were able, and our online delivery has grown in both quality and quantity.

In whatever way, it remains a great joy to be able to bear witness to Jesus in schools, the ultimate source of stability and hope in these strangest of times. Thank you for your interest in our work. I hope you find the pages that follow informative and, above all, encouraging. Through all the uncertainties, children and young people have been supported, and have heard about Jesus. To that extent at least, may 2022 bring more of the same!

Contents

Message from CEO	2	Community - Lark/Summer School	9
Our vision	3	Secondary work - Unlimited	10
RE Lessons - REconnect	4	Online Assemblies	11
Seasonal Productions - CRiBS Plays	5	Volunteers - Koru	12
Intervention - Boys Noise & b:You	6	Supporting CRiBS	13
CAP Money	7	Finance Snapshot 2020-21	14
School Transition - Moving Up	8	How can you help?	15

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.

"CRiBS are part of our life and we are so grateful for their input."

Headteacher

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS



Jason teaching in the classroom

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. It has been a privilege this year to be able to go back into many schools once they re-opened fully to carry on this work.

"All lessons were relevant to children's age and development. The children were all highly motivated and looked forward to their sessions."

Teacher

To add to the challenges posed by Covid restrictions this year, a new syllabus for RE has been introduced in Bexley. Due to the way this is structured, it has been more challenging as to how our offer as CRIBS fits in for schools. However, the primary team have had good opportunities to work in schools, delivering both 'old' and 'new' material, and have been working hard to write new lessons – and workshops – to support the new syllabus and continue our promotion of living values and growing faith. The next year, as schools get used to the new ways of working, looks set to provide more scope for CRIBS to be versatile and adapt to new circumstances while continuing to share the Christian faith.

"The fact that the stories from the Bible include songs, prompts, pictures and puppets, helps the experience to be more memorable."

Teacher



Carole and Barry Bear teaching Reception class

91.8% of Teachers gave our lessons their highest rating



The professor sends his assistant back to the 1st Century in our online Easter Film 'Timeless'

More than 200 classes watched the Easter 2021 Film

"The children were mesmerised and there were several 'pin-drop' moments of silence as they watched."

Teacher

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 the last 20 plus years.

Easter 2021 saw our second online film, 'Timeless', building on the success of our Christmas film last year. Once again we had a very positive response from schools who showed the film.

For Christmas 2021, despite some limitations due to the new Coronavirus variant, it was back to live performances in schools, giving children the full CRIBS Christmas experience, and pointing to the hope that inspires us. Those schools that couldn't have us in were able to watch a recording of the play or rewatch the Christmas 2020 film which was widely appreciated.

"Very well presented and linked to modern life to show that the birth of Jesus is still very important today."

Teacher



CRIBS Play team on the road!

Christmas Play taken to 18 Schools for 35 Performances



Intervention



James and Adam lead a Boys Noise session

Boys Noise and b:You are our 10-week intervention programmes, for boys and girls respectively, designed to help those children in Years 2-6 who are struggling to settle in the school environment. They both involve

small group sessions (Heartsense) focusing on emotional well-being, and often include an after-school club to help with team play, social skills and confidence building.



Abigail and Shannon lead a b:You session

This year we have been working in seven schools with Boys Noise; in one of these we ran a joint Boys Noise and b:You programme with an entire class. This included four new schools that joined the programme, and more than 100 different children

were supported. The feedback we received from children, parents and teaching staff was very encouraging.

Of these schools three continue to see the benefit of booking for the entire year and, during these very difficult times, the children have benefitted from having regular and ongoing support.

"He has really benefitted from BN this term. He has a better sense of self-worth and his self esteem and confidence have improved."
Teacher

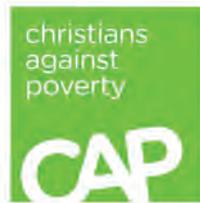
10 Intervention Programmes in 7 Schools



Dan and team lead an after-school club

"I am very grateful for the input you have given to my daughter, the intervention sessions have really helped and she is a lot happier."
Parent

Money Course



We are always looking for new ideas and programmes to deliver in schools. Earlier this year an opportunity arose to deliver the 'CAP Money Course for Kids' in primary schools for Years 5 and 6, and also in secondary schools. This course has been created and developed by Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

always hope.

Dan, Abigail, Paul and Joel were all trained (virtually!) by CAP, and Dan had the opportunity to watch The Family Trust (another Christian schoolswork charity) deliver the workshop. So we were in a good place to start courses in September.

Since then we have been able to deliver the two-part course, comprising two 90-minute sessions, in 10 classes across 5 primary schools. That's around 300 children who now have a basic understanding of income, expenditure, saving, giving, budgeting and the impact debt can have on families. The workshop triggers some fantastic discussion between the children and the sessions are so much fun to deliver.

We already have bookings in place for another 9 schools in 2022.

"Great workshop – children really engaged. Adult personal experiences made the subject 'real' to the children."
Teacher

"I learnt that wants are not that important and that needs need to be spent before wants"
Pupil



5 Schools, 10 Classes, 300 Children

School Transition



Our two-hour workshop to help prepare Year 6 pupils for the move from primary to secondary school has experienced its own transitions over the last few years! Following a few years of our 'Taking Off' face-to-face workshop, delivered to entire year groups, we went virtual last year with 'Moving Up', and this year saw another change in how we delivered our workshop. In consideration of the ever-changing

Covid guidance, and needs of the schools, we set about redesigning the workshop.

"I learnt that there's no need to be nervous because everyone else is in the same situation."

Pupil

We developed a 90-minute session for one person to deliver in the classroom to one class at a time. Using a mix of media content, small group or pairs activities and discussions we saw around 1000 children join in enthusiastically to help them feel more prepared for their move to secondary schools.

With the cancellation of open evenings and taster days, many pupils were facing secondary school having never seen their school or met any of their new teachers or peers. We were able to help answer their questions and concerns to put their minds at rest about what secondary school would be like.



Adam and Fiona discuss memories from primary school

19 Schools, 38 Classes, over 1000 Pupils

Community Events

Over the summer the team had the opportunity to be involved in two very different activities.

Lark in the Park

Having created an online programme last year it was really good to be back together in person. Lark was very different with a scaled back affair and all activities were in the open. Once again the CRiBS team led a programme for children aged between 4 and 7. However, the format meant that our audience ranged from babies to grandparents, as families watched together.

We delivered a magazine programme full of stories, puppets, challenges, games and incredibly funny jokes. The feedback was very good and one parent commented "it was a bit like watching children's tv". We will take that as a compliment.



St Columba's Summer School

Meanwhile, like many secondary schools, St Columba's, where our offices are based, were running a 'summer school' for new students about to join from primary school in the September. CRiBS ran two activities, one based around preparing the boys for the transition to secondary school and one based around singing. Hearing 100 plus boys singing 'Amazing Grace' together at their finale session will live long in the memory of all those present.

Secondary



UNLIMITED

"Throughout my sessions my mentor has helped me massively with many things from in school to out of school issues."
Student

Our secondary age work has been particularly hit by Covid restrictions, but towards the end of the year, Christian Unions had re-started in two schools, and we were able to support them. While we have been unable to send volunteer mentors into schools to support young people, our relationship with the school at St Columba's, where our offices are based, has enabled members of the team to be involved in mentoring a number of students in recent months.

We have also started to mentor in one other school in the Borough, and another school, where we had started to work with some success before the pandemic, looks to be re-starting in Spring 2022. What is clear is that the level of need among young people is unprecedented and we want to play our part in meeting it.

"My mentor has helped by checking if I'm ok, giving me advice with sport and school issues. It has had a huge effect with my mood and attitude overall." Student

Joel mentoring a secondary school student



13 Students mentored in 2 schools

"We are delighted to hear that CRIBS will be continuing with online worship next year - the children have absolutely loved them!"
Headteacher

Online Assemblies

Another way that we have been able to support schools and help children to see the relevance of the Christian message over the last year has been by producing weekly recorded assemblies that we have made available to schools online via our YouTube channel.

We are grateful for the use of 'studio' space at Dartford Community Church and Bexley Christian Life Centre to record these, and while we have made good use of 'green screen' technology more recently, one of the highlights for the team was filming assemblies on location at the beach in Herne Bay. A purple puppet floating on the sea in a dinghy is a sight to remember!

It was particularly encouraging to see an increase in viewing figures during the January lockdown, suggesting that some of the assemblies were being viewed by children at home. We decided to keep producing these assemblies from September when school life returned to more like normal – and they have still been viewed and appreciated in a number of schools. This has definitely been an area where the Covid restrictions have opened up new opportunities for us.



Mark, Bubble and Squeak discuss the sense of smell

15 schools requested links for our assemblies this year

**WHAT'S
IN THE
BOX**

Volunteers



Despite the continuing pandemic, we have been blessed with two Koru Gap-Year students. Up to July we had Shannon, our first student from the UK, completing her year with us, and in September we were joined by Simone, a student from Germany. This is the 8th year of our Koru Gap-Year programme. This has been an excellent arrangement where we have offered each student a host family, a host church, training and experience in our programmes.



Koru Gap-Year students contribute hugely to all our projects and activities and are a tremendous support to us.

Due to the pandemic we have sadly not been able to involve our other volunteers. However, as the situation is ever-changing, we look ahead to a time when we are able to have them join with us once more.

If you know a young person who would be interested in joining the Koru programme visit our website for more details.

"It is a great privilege to be part of such a wonderful team, and seeing smiling children who are waving at you from far away and shouting "hello CRIBS" shows how valuable the work of CRIBS is." Simone

**Koru Programme
now in its 8th year!**

Supporting CRiBS

As the CRiBS team has gone back into schools after lockdown, we have seen first hand how important school can be for children's well-being and social skills. Sadly, the loss not only of learning time, but of social interaction has been difficult for many children. At the same time, we are aware that the overwhelming majority of children and young people in the UK have no contact with the Christian church – that is estimated to apply to 95% of children and young people. The motivation behind CRiBS work remains wanting to ensure schools can be places where children and young people who otherwise would have no contact with church can meet Christians with a living faith, and ultimately be introduced to Jesus and the full, rich life that He offers.

While we are fortunate as an organisation to be able to raise funds from a range of sources, it remains the case that the support of so many individuals and churches is vital, especially for our core work of introducing children and young people to Jesus. Thank you to all who stand with us in this way!

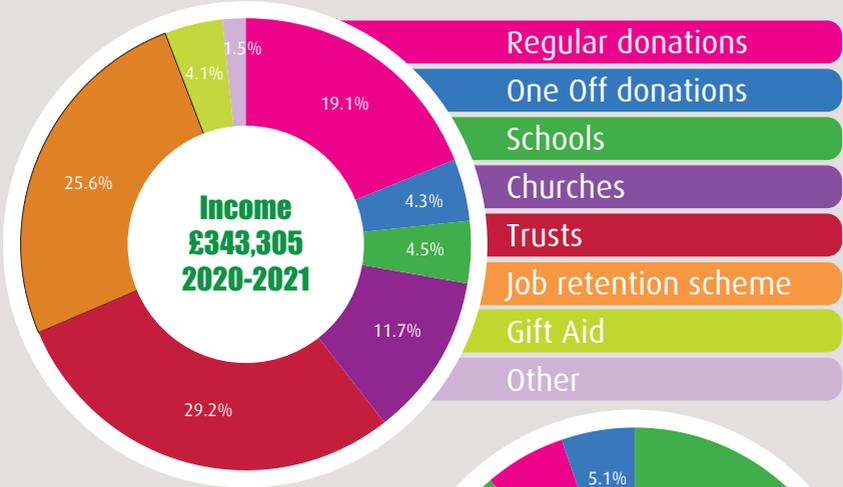
Thank you for supporting us through another challenging year. We hope you will continue to journey with us as we share the love of Jesus any way we can!



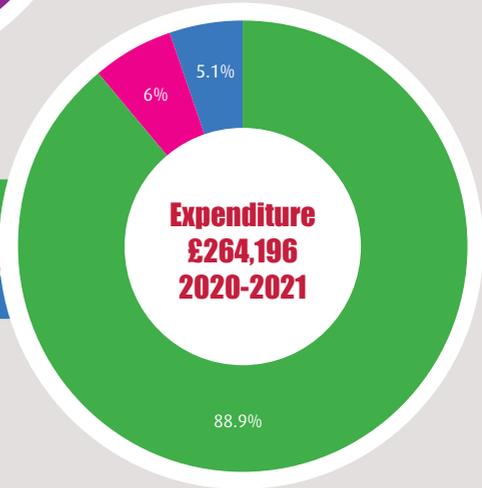
We wish you a very happy new year and a joyful 2022

Finance Snapshot

2020-21



- Delivering projects
- Administration
- Fundraising



Your support has kept CRiBS going for 28 years. Thank you so much!

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

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



How can you help?



Title: Mr Mrs Miss Other:

First Name:..... Surname:.....

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:.....

..... Postcode:.....

Email Address: Telephone:

By providing the details above you are allowing us to contact you in these ways. You can stop updates at any time.

I want to help (Please tick where appropriate)

We will not share your details with third parties

- I am returning this response form with a cheque for £ made payable to 'CRiBS'.
- I want to give aid my donation to CRiBS Charitable Trust. [See declaration below*](#).
- I want to Gift Aid my donation, and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to CRiBS Charitable Trust.
- Please send me a standing order form to set up a regular donation.
- I intend setting up a regular bank transfer direct from my bank to CRiBS Cooperative bank account 65293438 Sort Code 08-92-99.
- Please treat as a gift-aided donation to CRiBS Charitable Trust. [See declaration below*](#).
- Please send me your newsletters and updates.
- I'd like to do a sponsored activity to support CRiBS.
- Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will.
- I would like to discuss having a speaker come and talk about the work of CRiBS.



CRiBS Charitable Trust



@CRiBS1

*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.

CRiBS Charitable Trust,
CRiBS Office, St Columba's Boys' School,
Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QB

Registered Charity no. 1122295
Company no. 05947379



LIVING VALUES  GROWING FAITH

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS
FOR OVER 28 YEARS

REconnect
CHRISTIAN RE



SEASONAL DRAMA



GIRLS INTERVENTION



BOYS INTERVENTION



UNLIMITED

MENTORING IN SECONDARY &
CHRISTIAN UNION SUPPORT



YEAR 6 TRANSITION