

INTRODUCING MATT



Hello, my name is Matt Cooper, I have been working with CEP from October 2017, what an experience it has been. I got involved with CEP as a result of my previous Job and degree. My degree was in Youth work, communities and theology, at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. During my time there I had many opportunities to wrestle with and reflect on my faith and the impact that it has on both my life and my work with young people.

Alongside my degree I was working for Woodford Baptist church as a youth worker, my work fully enabled me to put into practise all that I was learning through my degree.

In the run up to starting my Job with CEP I had an incredibly busy month, I got married to my wife Jess, (who is a young women's project worker in Tower Hamlets) I moved into a new house, spent two weeks on honeymoon in Indonesia (violently ill) it was a bit of a roller coaster.

In my brief time at CEP I have already been involved with the delivery of over 50 school assemblies, delivered about 30 lessons and been into about 40 schools, the experience has been amazing and I am looking forward being part of whatever comes next for this project.



BE A PART OF IT! CEP is almost exclusively funded by the support of local churches and individuals. Such support has enabled us to make approx. 50,000 contacts a year for over 25 years! However, there are schools that we cannot visit and therefore children and young people we cannot reach with the current team of 2 – 'the harvest is great'. We would love to see the work grow, with your help it can! If you would like to support the ongoing work of this exciting Project please do contact us at the office or visit our website for details of how to become a 'Friend of CEP'

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...some highlights from last term!



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER 2018

Another term of changes. Rebecca left the team at the end of the academic year and committee chair, Neil Spencer, stepped down in early September so there have been (and continue to be) many challenges.

September saw us involved in a number of local primary schools facilitating teambuilding workshops with yr6s. Working alone for much of the time, Rob was particularly proud to have found a way to fit 24 car tyres in the back of a Ford Fiesta!

Other highlights in September included visits to Seven Kings High to work with the yr10s on 'The Trinity' and primary school assemblies on the theme of 'walking on water.' The assemblies included a balloon trick that didn't always go to plan...funny that it always worked when practising in the office.

Matt Cooper joined the team in October and hit the ground running as we had just begun our Harvest assembly season. Our theme this year was 'helping each other / the Good Samaritan story'. It was particularly good during this time to be invited into two new schools for us, Oakdale Infants and Aldborough Primary. We hope that these will be the first of many visits.

Also in October, the team were invited to be part of a faith panel at Q&A lessons with yr7s in West Hatch High School (Although outside of the borough a large percentage of the intake of this school comes from Redbridge primary schools – so we are a familiar face to many!)

It was a real privilege to be asked to represent Christianity in this context but also an amazing opportunity to sit, and hear and learn about other faiths – such dialogue is vital these days. Understanding people of other faiths gives us a better grasp of how to communicate more effectively the truths we hold.

Over the term there were several visits to Goodmayes Primary for lessons on themes such as 'Feeding 5,000', 'Peer pressure' and 'The Bible'. It is just one example of a school that really enjoys a good relationship with the project in classroom work as well as assemblies.

Another highlight was working again with Sonia Lynch of the Welcome Center and Monica Abdala of Redbridge Street Pastors, delivering a brilliant, creative presentation to Yr6s at Parkhill Jrs on 'Faith in Action.' It was also great to be able to facilitate a church visit for the children of Coppice Primary to St Paul's Church in Hainault. The Yr2 children learnt all about baptism, communion and what goes on inside the building – our thanks to Rev Ken Ashton and his team for making this possible.

Of course the last 3-4 weeks of term were spent telling the Christmas story to over 10,000 children through primary school lessons and assemblies. As always we were keen to tell the story in an accurate and engaging way, as for many it may be the only opportunity they have to hear it.

Please continue to pray for CEP. We know that as we stand at the threshold to a new year there are still changes and challenges ahead of us – but we know there is one who is faithful in walking with us.



CHRISTMAS 2017
48 lessons and assemblies in 23
local primary schools, reaching
over 10,000 children with the
Christmas story.



L to R:

- Team building in local Primary school
- Walking on Water assembly complete with balloon trick!
- Working with Sonia Lynch & Monica Abdala at Parkhill Jrs
- Matt & Rob delivering one of many Christmas assemblies