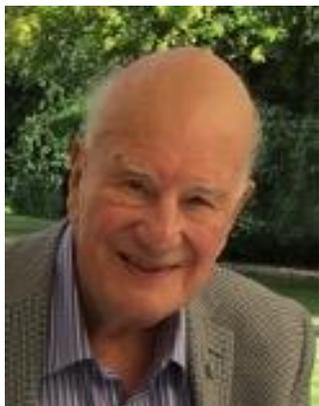


GEORGE BIRTLES



It is with great sadness that we share news of our long serving ex-chairman George Birtles who passed away on Christmas Day after a long battle with heart failure. He was 90 years old. George had been involved with the Project from the very beginning, fulfilling the post of committee chair from 1991 and only stepping down in 2014.

George's background in education (he had served as Chief Education Officer for Redbridge) coupled with his strong faith, inevitably made him a good fit in steering the Project through it's early days and as it

grew and established itself in serving Redbridge schools. Although to many his work with CEP was behind the scenes, George was integral to the mission of making Jesus known in the borough's schools and he will be missed.

A funeral service, followed by refreshments, was held at St Mary's Church, Chigwell on Friday 27th January. Please join with us in remembering George's family especially his wife Brenda and daughters, Katrina and Susan at this sad time.

'FRIENDS OF CEP'

For over 25 years CEP has been serving the schools of Redbridge offering our services free of charge – it is an amazing witness.

We have been able to do this because of the way we are funded by local churches and individuals. We want to be able to continue to do this long into the future and so we are aiming to recruit a fresh wave of people committed to regular (monthly) giving to the Project.

If you would like to find out more about how you can be a part of what God is doing in the local schools through giving to the work of CEP please visit our website or contact the office for more details

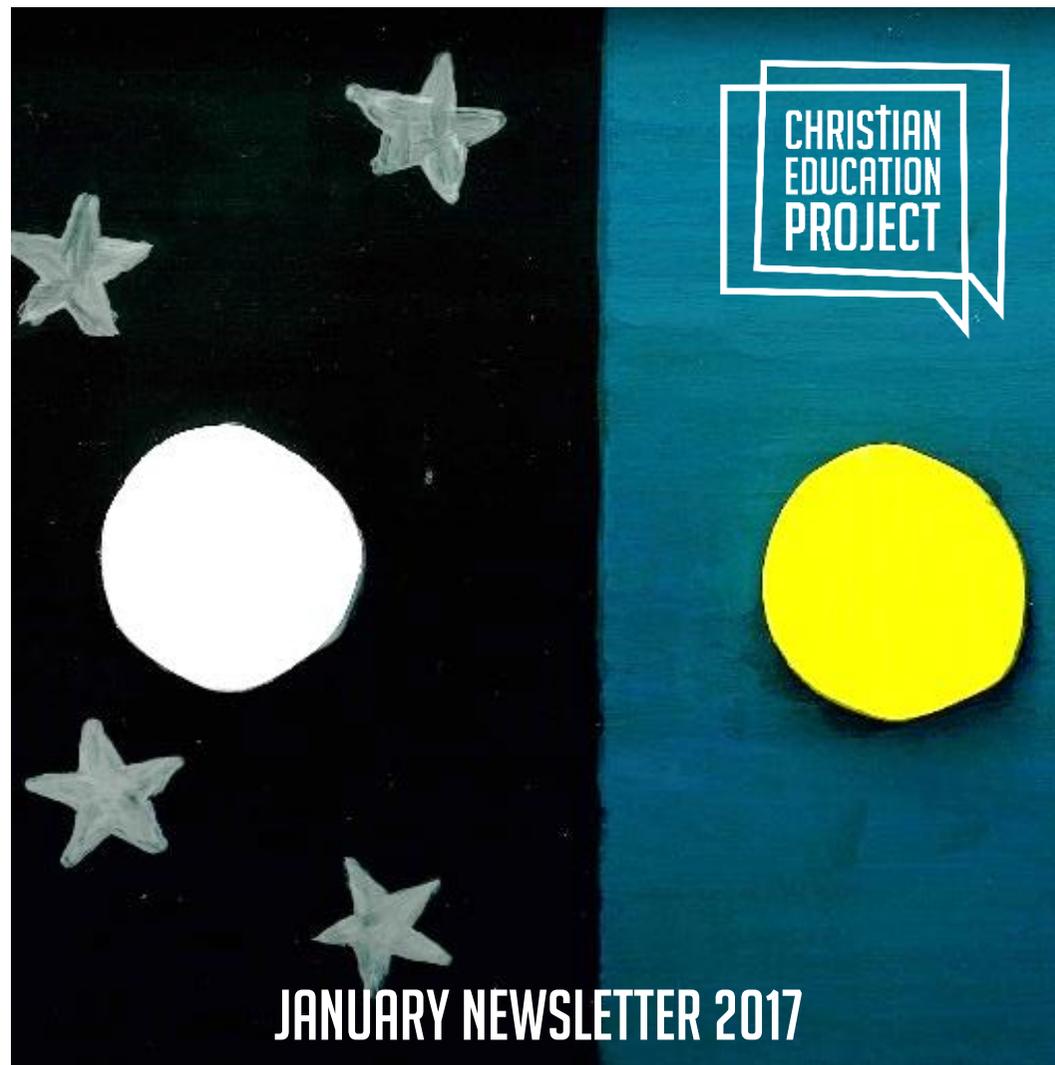
“SERVING SCHOOLS – SHARING FAITH”

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We always say that each new term brings new opportunities and challenges – well this term brought a whole new syllabus of them! Many of the schools we work with have begun to implement the new Redbridge and Havering joint syllabus, which has meant that we have spent quite a bit of this term planning new lessons and assemblies. The term has also seen us venture into new schools and re-establish links with some seldom visited. The run in to Christmas that saw us deliver 54 Christmas themed lessons and assemblies was a great way to finish what has been an incredible Jubilee year for the Project.

The Autumn term saw us begin in what has become the traditional way – delivering teambuilding sessions with Yr6 students in the borough's primary schools. This year though, we started on the first day of term doing the same activity with teachers at Oakdale Jrs as part of an inset day. Despite it being one of the hottest days of the year the staff really responded well to the activity!

As the term progressed we moved into our harvest season – in 13 days Rob & Rebecca delivered 30 assemblies in 18 schools! This year we used the story of Joseph the theme being 'Blessed to be a Blessing'.

One of the new lessons we have been working on this term has been a Creation session for Yr1s that includes a telling of the Genesis account using Godly Play resources led by Rebecca. (Cover shows day 4 prop) The sessions have been warmly received especially by staff at Cranbrook Primary who commented on the effective teaching methods employed!

Other highlights from this term have come from opportunities in our local High Schools. A new head of RE at Seven Kings High School has been keen to establish links with the Project and in November we were invited to take lessons on 'The Trinity' and 'Heaven, Hell and Salvation' with Yr10s and Yr13s respectively. We also had an opportunity to help host a visit for two of their classes to nearby, St John's Church.

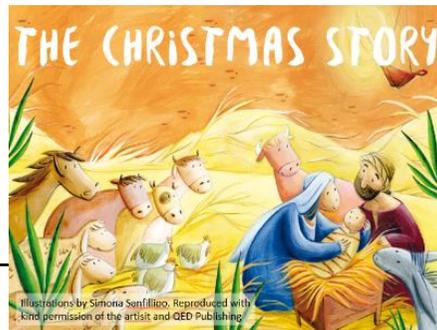
November also saw the team invited to work in a new school. Isaac Newton Academy (in place of the old swimming pool on Ilford High Road) is an all through school with both a primary and secondary section sharing the same site. The team were invited into the primary section to deliver lessons on 'Christianity' and then later in the month in the secondary school to do advent assemblies and lessons with their Yr10s and Yr11s. The format of these lessons were student lead discussions on 'creation', 'evidence of God' and 'evil & suffering'.

They were an amazing opportunity for the team to share testimony and personal experiences of God.

This term at Woodbridge High School the Christian Union team has been responding to questions posed by the students. We spent several lunchtimes in September in the school playground asking 'If you could ask God one question...?' Since the half term we have been working through some of the collated questions dealing with aspects of God's character and Creation.

Obviously December was given over to Christmas lessons and assemblies and it was great to be back in schools such as Coppice, Highlands, Redbridge and Churchfields Infants. With permission from both publisher and artist we were able to use the amazing illustrations of Simona Sanfilippo (see below) to augment a straightforward telling of the story – albeit with some added humour...oh, and a song! It was great during this busy time to have Dawn & David from the Bridge Church supporting the team in some of the local schools as we reached out to nearly 14,000 children and young people across the borough.

As always thank you all for your continued prayers and support.



CHRISTMAS 2016
54 Lessons & Assemblies
28 Schools
Over 13,000 Children / Young People reached



L to R:

- Rob & Rebecca deliver a Christmas assembly at Goodmayes Primary
- Thank you card from Yr2 students at Isaac Newton Academy
- Questions posed by Woodbridge High School students in response to "If you could ask God one question....?"
- Rob & Rebecca after finishing 52nd Christmas themed appointment at Cranbrook Primary