

GOODBYE ROB!



After 13 years of serving churches and schools in Redbridge with the Christian Education Project I have made the decision to step down from the end of this term. Although this may seem sudden to some, it is something I have been considering for some time and the Committee has been aware since January that I would leaving this summer.

God is leading our family into a new adventure. Some of you may be aware that my wife Jacqui was recently ordained in the Church of England and we will be moving to Bristol this summer for her to serve her curacy there.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve the Project for the last thirteen years and I am proud of all that we have achieved in 'serving schools and sharing faith'. I take with me many happy memories and stories of God at work in the schools of Redbridge. It is now time for someone else to enjoy the ride! I am so excited to see what the future holds for CEP.

Thank you for all the support you, and the churches represented, have given me personally. I would of course like to thank many of you in person - I hope I get the chance at some point.

As my family and I relocate to Bristol I would be pleased if you would continue to pray for us in our new season as we will continue to pray for the churches of Redbridge and the vital work of CEP.

HELLO HELEN!



I became a Christian at 16 whilst at Caterham High School and after leaving Redbridge to do a BTh in Theology and a PGCE in RE, I returned to the school teaching for 8 years.

Again, I had contact with CEP when Rob and Neil did lessons in our RE department so having seen CEP in action from different sides I know what a great legacy I'm stepping into! Please pray for me as I settle into the new role and I look forward to meeting you all soon.

"We have been asked several times about the third worker role that was advertised along with the Project Leader.

It is worth noting here that the committee felt unable to appoint a third worker to the team at this point. It is still our plan to grow the team and we will revisit this is due course...watch this space!

"SERVING SCHOOLS – SHARING FAITH"

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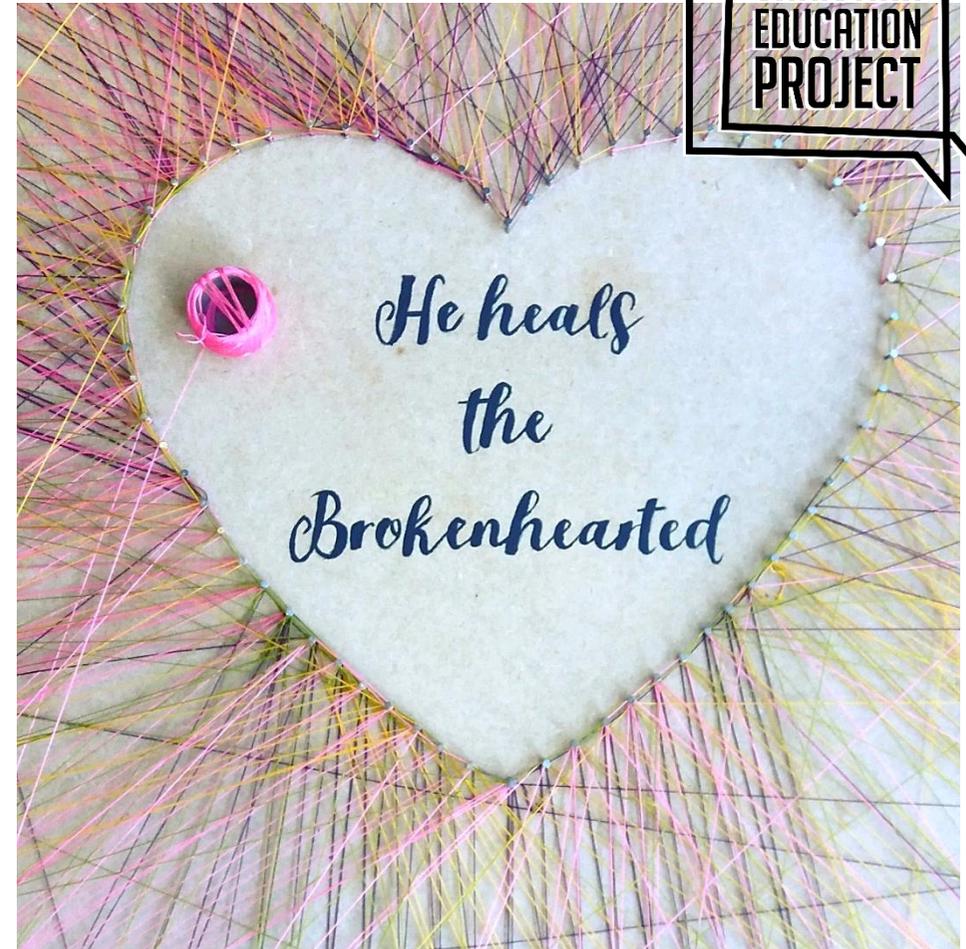
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CHRISTIAN
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String Art created by students at Ursuline Academy during our recent prayer space.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds"
[Psalm 147:3]

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018

It has been an emotional last term not just of 2017-18 but for Rob personally as he moves on, after 13 years...and who knows how many assemblies?

We began the term working in Ursuline Academy hosting a Prayer Space with their chaplaincy team on the theme 'Do not worry about anything - pray about everything' (Philippians 4:6). Over the course of the week over 400 students passed through the space. Stations included one on the theme of 'mourning' where the students were encouraged to contribute to a piece of string art with the phrase 'He heals the broken hearted' - as featured on the cover. The team returned to the school later in the term as part of a panel answering some challenging questions from their yr9s. We are really encouraged by the relationship we are building with the school and the opportunities it affords us.

The second half of this term also saw a return to Seven Kings High School delivering lessons on the subject of Euthanasia to Yr10 students. We have also had appointments in 3 other local high schools this term with lessons in Chadwell Academy (Creation theories) and Isaac Newton as well as our weekly visits to Woodbridge for the CU. Further contact with these schools leads us to be hopeful of more opportunities next year.

A particular highlight of this term has been the day we spent facilitating another Prayer Space - this time in Glade Primary School. Our Primary Prayer space is more general in nature giving the students space to consider praying about, amongst other things; healing, anger, 'thank yous' and 'sorries'. It was brilliant to see yr3s and yr5s engaging with the space and the creative ways of praying.

It was also really good to be invited into Ray Lodge Primary to answer questions from their Yr4s. It was also great to have Steve Ball from CEF and Woodford Evangelical Church with us on the day. The invitation came as a result of positive recommendations from other schools - such an encouragement that we are fulfilling our remit to 'serve the schools' and share faith.

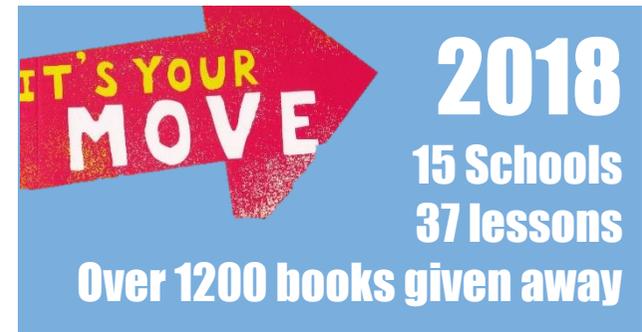
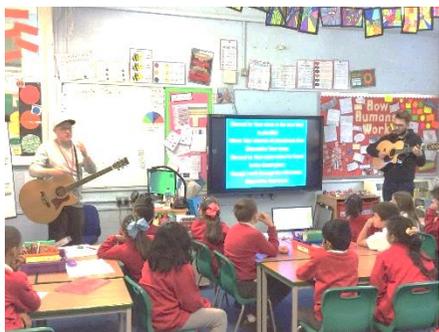
Similarly, it was good to be invited into Roding Primary towards the end of term to deliver Yr3 lessons on 'The Prodigal Son' by a teacher who had worked with us on these in another school. Again, this is a real encouragement.

During the last few weeks of term the team delivered 'It's Your Move' workshops in 15 local Primary Schools, distributing over 1,200 books to yr6 children transitioning to secondary school. The session we have now been delivering for a number of years begins with a game about strange phobias. We then use this as a springboard to get the students reflecting on the positives and negatives associated with moving on. As we discuss, we help them to think of strategies for dealing with their negatives. As ever the feedback we have received from these sessions has been really encouraging. We are thankful for generous contributions that enabled us to once again distribute the books free of charge.

There have been opportunities in the last few weeks for some schools to say goodbye to Rob - we hope there will be an opportunity later in the year for a more coordinated celebration involving the local churches and supporters along with the schools. (We will keep you informed!) Our assemblies have been based around the story of Joshua and Caleb, encouraging the children to not be fearful of facing giants, especially for those moving on to new schools. It is a story that was particularly significant in Rob's journey to joining CEP 13 years ago and takes on significance once again as he moves on.

Over the course of the year Matt has settled well into the team and proved to be a real asset. We are pleased therefore that he has committed to extend his one year contract to join CEP permanently.

Obviously, as ever, this is just a snapshot of what we have been doing. Whilst this year has not been without its challenges we have so much to give thanks for, and to look forward to, as the Project begins a new chapter in the coming academic year. We thank you as always for your continued prayerful support. To Him be the Glory!



L-R : Rob & Matt Q&A at Ray Lodge, Praying for the World at Glade Primary, Q&A Panel at Ursuline Academy, Some 'Goodbye Rob' cards!