



LEEDS FAITH IN SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

CHRISTMAS 2024



Throughout December 2024, we delivered 43 Christmas lessons across 5 schools! This year's lesson began with an activity and video of the nativity story. Building on this we explored 3 main themes: hope, peace and love. We looked at these themes through the lens of Christmas films and scripture.

Our first theme, hope, began with a clip from the firm Christmas favourite, Elf. We saw how Buddy the elf was let down by a fake Santa who didn't live up to his expectations. We shared that instead of having hope in things that let us down, Christians can put their hope in God who always keeps His promises. The team shared examples of where they have seen hope realised in Jesus.

After an enthusiastic game of Brussel sprout roulette, where students looked forward to a chocolate but may have received a sprout instead, we moved onto our next theme of Peace. This section began with a clip from Home Alone where Kevin was causing chaos and havoc for Harry and Marv. We highlighted that Christmas can all too often feel chaotic, but Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and we can ask for a gift of His peace in our hearts.

We finished with The Grinch exploring love and reflecting on how Christmas means a lot more than presents that come from a store. The students left knowing that the Christmas story and the reason Jesus came down to earth is all about love, to be with us and save us.

There was some brilliant engagement with this year's lesson and we received wonderful feedback from the staff. Now on to Easter planning...



Molly Skaife



HELLO!

Happy New Year! With Christmas now a distant memory and January fast coming to an end, 2025 is flying by. But in the coming weeks as we gather to mark 30 years of Leeds Faith in Schools, to pause and reflect on all God has done through LFIS, we hope you might join us in celebrating God and His faithfulness.

So grab a biscuit and a brew, sit back and let us share with you our good news!

Ben Cordy



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

In December, we created a "Sponsor a Christmas lesson" appeal, asking people to donate enough money to fund the delivery of one or more Christmas lessons over the Christmas period.

We estimated around £20 per lesson, scheduled in 37 lessons so were hoping for £740.

Our final total received was £810.31!

We are so thankful to the generosity of our sponsors. Please look out for future fundraising events where you can get involved and contribute to our life changing work!





SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



PRIESTHORPE ACADEMY

In September 2024, The Coop Academy Priesthorpe signed a partnership agreement with us. Ben has been going in one morning a week since September, and I completed the other half a day a week from October. Priesthorpe is a very diverse school, with students coming from a variety of backgrounds and environments. There is a high percentage of need and with a small team, the staff have been struggling to cover the overwhelming demand of pastoral support. Since Ben and I have been sharing a full day of mentoring and groups, the response has been incredible. We are already seeing students who barely attended school in previous years increase their attendance and participation. It really is a privilege to walk alongside students who are incredibly vulnerable, have very few examples of safe attachments with adults, and whose resilience is worn down by their very existence as opposed to their participation. As our presence and reputation in school has grown, teachers are now highlighting more and more high profile cases of students struggling with profound mental health issues, making the demand for our time and resources even more challenging. But we thank God for this opportunity to bring light to the darkness. Please pray for our finances to allow for more team to bless the students and staff at Priesthorpe, bringing gospel freedom where it is so greatly needed.

Emma Chadwick



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN OTLEY



churches together in Otley

As the summer holidays approached, Ben and I found ourselves in an unexpected situation. We sat down with a member of the senior leadership team from Prince Henry's Grammar School, who regretfully informed us that the school could not afford to contribute to our partnership agreement for the year. This meant our ability to support young people in Otley would be significantly reduced, if not put on hold entirely. To say we were devastated would be putting it mildly.

We shared the disappointing news with friends and prayer supporters in the area, many of whom were equally dismayed at the thought of our work in the school and the after-school drop-in potentially being disrupted.

Then, something extraordinary happened—one of the most inspiring moments of my career. We were informed that members of Churches Together in Otley (CTO), along with some generous individuals, had responded to our urgent need. They offered to cover the funds the school was unable to provide. What an incredible act of faith and support!

We want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the members of CTO and everyone who contributed, ensuring our work could continue into the new year! Thank you!!



Mark Atkins



RECRUITMENT

As you have already read in this newsletter we have lots of exciting new opportunities coming up for us as a team. As such, we have decided to take a leap of faith and employ a new schools worker. When we say we are employing this person in faith it's because, although we have plenty of work for them to step straight into, our budget currently doesn't cover another worker.

We would love for you to partner with us as we take this step of faith. And there are many ways in which you can do that:

- 1 Prayer: most importantly we would love you to pray: for us to find the right person for the job and also for the Lord to provide us with the funds
- 2 Giving: if you are able to give towards this new role you could make a huge difference. Whether this is by increasing your monthly giving or by a one off donation, we would really appreciate your financial support.
- 3 Do you know someone who would like to work with a fantastic, innovative and experienced team of youth workers, bringing the good news of Jesus to the schools of Leeds? If you do please let them know that we would love to hear from them!



Kim Lawrence

RETREAT DAY

At the start of term we braved the snowy weather & headed over to The Briery Retreat & Conference Centre in Ilkley for our team retreat day. We began with some sung worship in the chapel & opened ourselves to connect with God & put the term ahead before Him.

The lovely Revd Lottie Jones joined us in the morning & led us through some reflection on our individual strengths & weaknesses within the Leeds Faith in Schools team. We were able to be vulnerable in sharing what we think we each bring to the LFIS team ourselves, as well as hearing from other members of the team about the strengths that they see in us.

In the afternoon we spent time in personal reflection about where we make time & space for spiritual disciplines in our day to day lives & considered what we might like to change or adjust. It was great to start the term off this way & be reminded that our focus should be on God from the very start of all we do.

We also enjoyed being catered for with a delicious lunch cooked by the team at the Briery. They also kept us going with significant quantities of tea & cake!



Louisa Lawrence

30TH CELEBRATION



This academic year marks 30 years since Leeds Faith in Schools began!
What a faithful God we have!



Join us for an evening of celebration:

RSVP options

28th February 2025 at 7.30pm

St Paul's Church, Raynel Drive, Leeds LS16 6BS

1. COMPLETE THE GOOGLE FORMS LINK:

[BIT.LY/LFIS30TH](https://bit.ly/LFIS30TH)

2.FOLLOW THE QR CODE:



3. EMAIL EMMA CHADWICK, EMMA@LFIS.ORG

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

We will be looking back on the last 30 years of Leeds Faith in Schools, whilst also sharing our renewed vision and plans for the next 30 years.

Please do come and join us for what will be a truly wonderful evening!



OPT IN FOR PAPER!

For nearly 30 years LFIS has produced a printed newsletter telling the story of our work, and we appreciate that a lot of our faithful supporters enjoy a physical copy of our news. However, with ever increasing costs, we'd like to reduce the number of printed newsletters we send, moving instead to a digitised newsletter sent straight to your email inbox unless you specifically OPT IN for a paper version.

We love sharing our team's news with you so please can you complete the form below or contact our office to confirm your preferences.

You can complete the form via bit.ly/lfisnews or follow the QR code. Alternatively you can contact the office via email, phone or in writing.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continuing to share our good news updates with you whatever the medium!



Support Our Work:



Thank you for your ongoing support of Leeds Faith in Schools.

If you'd like to give financially to the work of Leeds Faith in Schools you can do so using one of the following options:

1.

Scan this QR :



2.

Visit our giving page:

bit.ly/lfisgift

3.

Give directly:

Please see the information on the back of this slip

Leeds Faith in Schools **Direct Giving**

Regular Giving - Standing Orders

Giving directly to LFIS ensures every penny of your donation can be used towards our work in the schools of Leeds.

The easiest way to give is via a standing order with your bank.

To access the details to do this or for help in setting up a standing order, please contact our team via the information below:



Email - info@lfis.org



Phone - 07828 264542

lfis STORIES FROM THE SCHOOLS

To say mentoring can be a roller-coaster would be the understatement of the century. At times it can be a deep joy, seeing change in young people's lives and standing with them through a struggle. At other times it can be deeply frustrating, watching on as young people wrestle with the world around them, seemingly powerless in the face of their circumstance.

I was reminded recently that for all the amazing skills, techniques and resources our team work hard to develop and hone, it is our presence, and our compassion which truly makes an impact.















For much of this school year I've supported a mentee called Alex. Having overcome a period of serious mental ill health, a family breakdown, the loss of their friendship group, and facing into the build up to GCSEs, it would be fair to say life has been hard. Our conversations have spanned all these areas and yet faith, prayer and the search for real peace, has become a consistent running theme.

In years to come I don't suppose Alex will remember my carefully crafted resources or my top tips for effective revision. But I am confident they'll remember that in hard times it was a follower of Jesus who was there, and it was in moments of exploring faith that they found a sense of peace.



Ben Cordy

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>TEAM DAY</p>	<p>Abbey Grange - Drop in at break time for year 8 (Kim)</p> 	<p>Guiseley School - Afterschool Christian Union for years 7-13 (Louisa)</p> 	<p>Benton Park - Rock Solid lunch club for years 7-8 (Kim)</p> 	<p>Wetherby High - Rock Solid at break time for year 7-8 (Kim)</p> 
<p>If you have any questions about the drop ins, Rock Solids or CUs, or would like to help, please email the relevant staff member</p> 	<p>Abbey Grange - Rock Solid lunch club for year 7 (Kim)</p> 	<p>St Paul's Church, Ireland Wood - Afterschool drop in, years 5-7 (3.15pm- 4.30pm) years 8-11 (4.45pm-6pm) (Mark)</p> 	<p>Garforth Academy- Lunchtime Christian Union for year 11 (Mark & Molly)</p>  	<p>Abbey Grange - Horizon lunch group for year 9- 11 (Mark)</p> 
<p>Ben - ben@lfis.org Kim - kim@lfis.org Louisa - louisa@lfis.org Mark - mark@lfis.org Molly - molly@lfis.org</p>	<p>Prince Henry's - Rock Solid lunch club for years 7-8 (Mark)</p> 		<p>Garforth Methodist Church - Afterschool drop in for year 7-9 (Mark & Molly)</p>  	
	<p>Otley Bridge Church (near Prince Henry's) - Afterschool drop in for years 7-9 (Mark)</p> 		<p>Stainbeck (near Carr Manor) - Afterschool drop in for year 7-8 (Ben)</p> 