

HI!



Dear supporter,

As our team prays and prepares for yet another non-stop year of serving the schools of Leeds, I have been reflecting on all that enables us to be present in schools with the young people of our city. Again and again we see the faithfulness of God in the generations of supporters who contribute, prayerfully and practically, to all that we do. We are so grateful to all who stand with us, and as we look to the year ahead our prayer is that God will continue to be faithful and generous in enabling our work to grow into all the new schools, communities and aspects we feel led towards in this season.

The enclosed newsletter comes a little later than planned owing to some printing challenges at LFIS HQ, but it is packed as always with lots of news from the team, so we hope you enjoy reading and praying through our latest update.

We love sharing with you about our work however, we are also aware that our contact lists and mailing database are well overdue a refresh. If you would like to continue receiving our newsletter, be that via email or post, please let us know below as we are keen to ensure it gets to the right people, via the right medium.

Blessings from the LFIS team,

Ben - Charity Leader

STILL WANT OUR UPDATES?



If you'd still like to receive updates from the LFIS team please visit this weblink or scan the QR code. You'll be able to select email or post via the form.

Alternatively, feel free to contact our office to let us know your preference.



Thank you to those who have already done this and we look forward to continuing to update you on our work.

lfis.org/newsletter



LEEDS FAITH IN SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/
AUTUMN 2025

GOODBYE SUMMER...

And just like that, the 24/25 academic year is over! What a busy school year it has been: new team members, a new trustee, new partnerships, and as always lots of young people seeing light shine into their darkness. God is so good and we are so grateful for God's provision during this past year. As we prepare for another year of blessing schools grab yourself a drink and snack, and enjoy the joy some good news.



Ben Cordy



(Summer retreat fun with the team - mini golf!)

HUNGRY FOR MORE

Teenagers are always hungry (if you saw the students who consume our free toast at drop in you would understand what I mean!) ...but did you realise that the current generation is hungry for God? Two years ago at Garforth Academy, a Key Stage 4 student asked his head of year if he could lead a Bible study at school and we were asked to facilitate and oversee this. Now in it's second year we've regularly had around 15 young people attending, many of these teens with little or no experience of church whatsoever.



In another part of the city a church pastor told of a Christianity Explored course that they advertised and all the attendees were from the local secondary school! I'm really encouraged by the faith and the desire of this generation to find the truth. At LFIS we're looking for more ways to help those that are hungry to feed on the Bread of Life, Jesus, Himself. It seems as though there are many out there who are just waiting to hear the Gospel, so my question to you is, what could you do about it? Is there a vision at your church to welcome young people into your gathering? What would you do if 5 hungry teens turned up on a Sunday morning?



We love partnering with churches to help them understand and integrate with young people. If you're interested in finding out more email me at: mark@lfis.org



Mark Atkins

30TH CELEBRATION

Back in February, we celebrated 30 years of Leeds Faith in Schools with a wonderful evening of worship, giving thanks, and seeking God's future provision.

Ben highlighted many changes that had happened over the last 30 years: the team, the schools themselves, and the climate that young people find themselves in.

We also welcomed Bishop Arun Aurora as our Patron. He shared some excellent words about the importance of being Jesus' hands and feet and being continually filled with the Spirit to do His will.

We also made a plea: we want to reach our target of raising £30,000 to celebrate 30 years of LFIS in order to continue our work in the 25/26 academic year.

If you feel that you would like to contribute, please donate using the details at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you to all who attended, either in person or in spirit. It really was a glorious evening!



TEAM UPDATE

NEW

Beccy is delighted to have joined the LFIS team as a new schools worker! She is joining the team with experience of teaching in a Christian school for 7 years, as well as volunteering as a youth leader in her church for 6 years! Beccy is excited to bring her previous skills and experience into the new role, as well as her passion for seeing young people come to know Jesus, so that she can see them flourish! She is already enjoying being in Abbey Grange and Priesthorpe schools as well as supporting with a few of our local drop ins.



TEAM TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

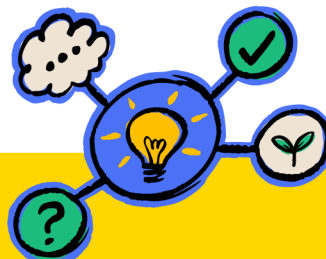
I have started a new training course run by Growing Faith called "Discovering Chaplaincy". It is an online course spread over three months and includes several online meetings, some really interesting learning content and a chance to meet with an experienced chaplains to ask questions from their experiences and grow my knowledge about chaplaincy work.



This half term, Beccy, Kim, and I spent a day hearing about & being trained to run the Kardia course, a course built around neuroscience to support young people with mental health issues. Each session of the Kardia course comes with an optional faith element so that it can be tailored appropriately to each group or young person. We look forward to letting you know how we get on with the course over the next academic year!



This term Hannah Dey came to visit us and delivered some training around trauma impact. She talked us through how children who are impacted by trauma are at risk of not having their needs met and therefore, why our job is so impactful and necessary. The team came away feeling encouraged and empowered. Thank you, Hannah!





SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



Molly Skaife

I'm really excited to be starting at Carr Manor alongside Ben. Back in 2018-2019 I completed my first year university placement with LFIS and Carr Manor was one of the schools I worked in weekly. I was able to do mentoring and run a lunch group alongside Ben, so getting the opportunity to go back there regularly is amazing.

During the summer term, I supported and lead girls group weekly, I've also helped with the local drop in at Stainbeck Church next to the school, and I have just recently picked up a couple of mentees to support. I am looking forward to spending more time in Carr Manor and building relationships with the lovely community of teenagers there.

Please pray for Ben and I as we continue to try and bring hope and compassion to this school community.

+ EASTER LESSONS + ESCAPE THE TOMB

"Could the resurrection of Jesus possibly have been real?"

This was the focus in our Easter lessons this year. We used 5 different types of evidence to talk to year 7 classes across the city about Jesus rising from the dead. We looked at the physicality of a roman crucifixion to show there was no way Jesus had just passed out. We looked at historical sources (including those outside of the biblical context) to show that Jesus really lived, died, and was resurrected; we looked at the psychology of whether the disciples would have died for a cause they had simply made up; we looked at the Bible to see the evidence of who God is and whether we can trust Him. Finally, we used our own testimony to speak of the power of the resurrection in our lives today.

It has been such a powerful privilege to share this with hundreds of students, and this year we were very excited to be able to take our lessons into Guiseley School for the first time in many years!

As we enter a new year of opportunity, please join us in thanksgiving for everything we were able to do this Easter and for the students and staff who heard what we shared, that it would be a catalyst for them to turn to Jesus. And as we look to a new year, for all that he might do through our lesson programme this year.



Kim Lawrence

PRAYER SPACES

MARCH 25 – ABBEY GRANGE



420 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH PRAYER SPACES



"GOOD TO
THINK OF
OTHERS"

"CALMING FOR
PEOPLE UNDER
STRESS"

"IT HELPED SHOW ME
DIFFERENT WAYS TO
TALK TO GOD"

"INCLUSIVE"

"I LIKE HOW I COULD LET ALL
MY WORRIES GO"

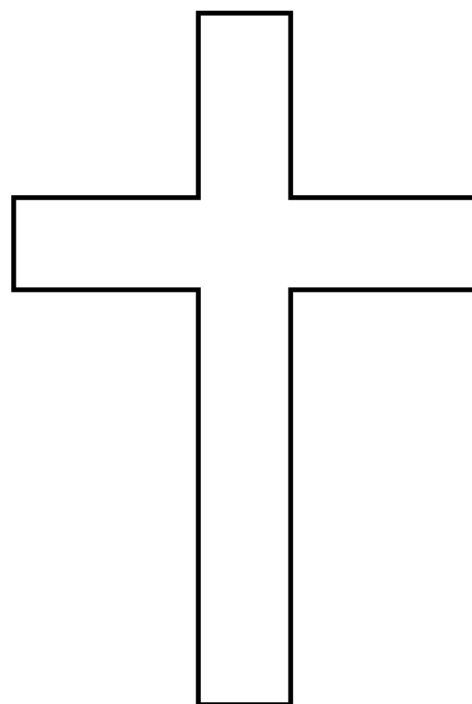
"IT MADE ME
FEEL HEARD"

"I FELT
SAFE"

"A GOOD WAY
TO SELF
REFLECT"

"I FOUND IT
RELAXING"

"I LIKE THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AND
HOW THEY ALLOWED ME TO CONNECT
WITH GOD IN DIFFERENT WAYS"



"BRING YOUR CONCERNS TO THE CROSS" STATION

- "MY ANXIETY KEEPS GETTING WORSE"
- "PLEASE HELP ME WITH MY MENTAL HEALTH"
- "MY AUNT DIED AND I'M REALLY TRAUMATISED"
- "STRESS OF BEING BUSY"
- "PLEASE HELP ME FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SUPPORT MY FRIENDS WHO EXPERIENCE LOSS"
- "HELP ME TO STOP DOING SILLY THINGS AND STOP GETTING INTO TROUBLE"
- "BURDENS FROM SCHOOL"
- "HAVEN'T SEEN MY DAD IN AGES"
- "HOW DO I BE HAPPY?"
- "TO FIND FRIENDS"
- "I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW YOUR TRUTH"

GOOD NEWS TO THE HIGH SCHOOLS OF LEEDS



TEAM DEPLOYMENT 2025/2026

Ben Cordy



Charity Leader



Molly Skaife



Schools Worker



Louisa Lawrence



Mentoring Lead



Maternity Leave:

Emma Chadwick



Operations Lead

Beccy Pont



Schools Worker



Mark Atkins



Schools Worker



Kim Lawrence



Schools Work Lead



NEW SCHOOL YEAR PRAYER REQUESTS



The LFIS team are back in the office after a summer of varying breaks, from getting some much needed rest to joining youth camps and working on resource admin. We are so thankful to God for a new school year and to be returning to our partnered schools, seeing what God will do in the lives of the young people we meet this year.

We ask for your continued prayers over the team as they go into schools, praying for wisdom and understanding as they work alongside vulnerable young people, supporting their wellbeing. Going into this year pray that further growth can be made in schools with RE lessons, lunch groups and drop ins. We are really hoping to make a wider impact on schools in the way we work with them.

We are reminded that we serve a God who can do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine and we can't wait to see God's abundant work throughout the next year.