



# LEEDS FAITH IN SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



## FROM THE TEAM LEADER...

What a term!! Life at Leeds Faith in Schools is always busy, but it would be fair to say this past term has been busier than ever. In the last couple of months we've taught 88 classes across 5 schools about the gift of God's grace at Easter, we've facilitated a week of creative prayer experiences for years 7 & 8, gathered our supporters to celebrate another year of serving the schools and churches of Leeds, taken part in 'grill a Christian' lessons, local authority syllabus planning, assisted with a Christ-centred residential for 30 students, led over 30 assemblies bringing Christian perspectives to various topics and all this while continuing to mentor nearly 90 young people on a weekly basis, supporting a further 60+ weekly through boys and girls groups, plus supporting 3 after school drop-in clubs and weekly lunch clubs in 7 of our schools. Phew!

At the heart of each and every one of the activities listed above are young people, thousands of them, individuals precious to the heart of God. As we work to make known to them the Good News of the Gospel through word and deed, I'm struck by the immense blessing of God's continual provision through opportunity. As opportunities continues to grow we now, more than ever, need your help to reach this next generation with hope, love and the compassion of God.

As always, the coming pages are packed with the stories behind these brilliant opportunities and the work of our fantastic team. Thank you for your ongoing support of our work and I trust you will be encouraged by another term of being 'Good News' to the high schools of Leeds.

by Ben Cordy (Team Leader)







# NEW BEGINNINGS



**Leeds City Academy**

## LEEDS CITY ACADEMY

In the final weeks before Easter, we had the privilege of visiting Leeds City Academy as part of their year 7 faith day. Having historically had weekly work in the school, it was great to make a return and we hope the beginning of a new opportunity to engage with this school's brilliant young people. Our visit was supported by two local churches who joined us for the day's sessions. We hope that this is the beginning of a partnership that can impact this community in a new way. Good News UK also supported our visit by providing 50 New Testaments to give away invitationally to the classes we met. The desire for these was so great we ran out of Bibles part way through the day, with students tracking us down during break time to make sure their friends got a copy. With desire from the school for a lunchtime Christian Union group we hope this is the start of an exciting new start here. Please do pray for and support us as we look to build some capacity specifically to continue this new beginning in the months ahead.

## GARFORTH DEVELOPMENTS

In the past few weeks there have been new projects starting in Garforth that we are really thrilled about and have been in the works for a while. Firstly, a year 7 girls group. The aim of this group is to help with the transition of joining a new school, by encouraging friendships and teaching important skills and topics that will help them in their teenage years.

We are very excited about the second project because it is student led. We were approached by a year 10 student who was very keen to start a Christian Union for himself, his friends and others in his year. The idea is to create a space for existing Christians to talk about their faith, and room for potential new Christians to learn about the Christian faith. The student will be leading Bible studies every week, with the support of LFIS.

## RALPH THORESBY

After much prayer, it is my pleasure to report that we have made a really positive start, working at Ralph Thoresby School. Mark has been leading a boys group, while Kim, with Lori - the youth worker from St Paul's Church, Ireland Wood - has been leading her fourth(!) 'I'm the Girl' course.

We would like to thank everyone who prayed for us to establish links with the school. We would love your ongoing prayers for our school connections and knowing how to best bless the local community, alongside the great work St Paul's are already doing.





# It's EASTER LESSONS

## WHAT IS GRACE?

This year we made grace our focus in our Easter lessons. It was fantastic to be able to explain the gospel of grace multiple times in one lesson: through games, presentations, storytelling, and our own testimonies. We had great fun telling the Easter story with props, which included the usual things you would expect, like palm leaves and nails, but also had some curveballs like a rubber ear!

We have had lots of great feedback from students and teachers about this year's lesson. Students have enjoyed the games and the competitive elements while staff like that it fits in so closely with their curriculum.



## ABBEY GRANGE PRAYER SPACES

Once again, Year 7 and 8 students from Abbey Grange were invited to engage in prayer spaces at Abbey Grange. It has become a staple in their school year, offering diverse ways to connect with their faith. Students have 50 minutes to visit various stations offering them different ways to engage with prayer. From praying for the worldwide persecuted church to posting 'letters to God' as a way of praying for their respective local communities, the students engaged with the 13 different stations.

One particularly thought-provoking station encouraged them to reflect on the 'masks' they wear in their daily lives - a metaphor for the personas we adopt. This led to some insightful discussions about authenticity and acceptance amongst peers.

It was a moment of pause amid the busyness of school life, allowing them to connect with something deeper and some of their contributions blew us away.



# SUMMER FUNDRAISER

## SPONSOR OUR TEAM!!

This summer the LFIS team will be taking on the immense challenge of walking across the city to each of our partner schools.

At a distance of around 35 miles, this massive challenge will take the team 2 days in which we will be not only walking, but also taking time to pray, pausing at each school, to gather with local supporters and celebrate God's blessing on our fantastic work.

We'd love to invite you to consider joining our team for this challenge and/or to consider sponsoring our team via the link below:

**BIT.LY/LFIS24**



## FUNDING PROGRESS

**FUNDRAISING TARGET  
FOR THE YEAR:  
£88,000**

**LEFT TO RAISE:  
£15,000**

As we enter the final term of the year we are so grateful for your ongoing and faithful support. However, we still have a substantial sum to raise before the summer in order to ensure the continuation of our work in its current form.

Not only this, but at this time we have a number of new schools desperate for the support of our team, schools that we currently lack the capacity to engage with. Each and every bit of giving we receive makes a positive difference to our ability to serve the young people of Leeds.

If you don't already regularly support our work then please consider if you could do so. And if you already give to LFIS could you consider increasing your gift to support us in this season?

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



LEEDS FAITH  
IN SCHOOLS

THE COTTAGE, ST PAUL'S CHURCH, RAYNEL DRIVE, LS16 6BS  
SPRING | 2024



# PRAY FOR OUR TEAM:



**SCHOOLS WORKER:**  
**ABBEY GRANGE, PRINCE HENRY'S,**  
**GARFORTH, RALPH THORSEBY**



**TEAM LEADER:**  
**CARR MANOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL,**  
**BENTON PARK**



**SENIOR SCHOOLS WORKER:**  
**ABBEY GRANGE, BENTON PARK,**  
**WETHERBY HIGH**



**SCHOOLS WORKER:**  
**GARFORTH DELTA ACADEMY,**  
**BRIGSHAW HIGH SCHOOL**



**SENIOR SCHOOLS WORKER:**  
**GUISELEY SCHOOL**



**CHARITY ADMINISTRATOR & SCHOOLS WORKER:**  
**GUISELEY SCHOOL**





**Am I a good person?**

**Will life get easier?**

**Why do people have to die?**

**I want peace in Beeston.**

**I'm socially anxious.**

**I force myself to keep anger in.**

**Is God real?**

**Does God love everyone?**

**Can you forgive me?**

**Please stop the gangs in Chapeltown.**

**How do I get closer to God?**

**Is there space for me in heaven?**

**What will happen in my future?**

**Could you actually remove sin?**

**I pray that Headingley would be safe.**

**Inside it's unimaginable pain...**

**How did God create us?**

**How is God three in one?**

**I'm not good enough.**

**Sad & lonely.**

**Could you bring peace to the world?**

**Inside, I'm hurting.**

**Will you come and save us in the future?**

**Please give me more Christian friends.**

**Please stop drug dealing in Armley.**

**Stop drug abuse in Hawksworth.**

**Please end the violence in Kirkstall.**



These statements reflect real-life responses from young people at various stations during our prayer spaces this year. We were astounded by the depth and thoughtfulness of the prayers, questions, and statements about mental health, from students aged 11-13. There is a hunger amongst young people to hear the good news of the Gospel. Please use this insert to pray for and with young people in our city, and for the work of Leeds Faith in Schools as we reach out to young people in need of hope.