

**ICE Director
Revd Chantal Mason**

It's been just over a year since I returned to Exeter to be ordained. And I must admit that when I left secondary



education in Exeter in 2004 to work at Lee Abbey, I didn't expect to return to Exeter four years later as a Curate!

Working at Lee Abbey, an international ecumenical Christian Community and Conference Centre, on the North Devon coast, was a great privilege. It's often described as a 'thin place', a place where people can encounter God tangibly! Lee Abbey's vision 'to renew and serve the church' still speaks into our culture sixty years on, and aspires to be a place to equip and resource churches and leaders today. It was from this beautiful and inspiring place that I left to undertake theological study at Trinity College, Bristol.

At college, a group of us were involved in a pioneer scheme - Context-Based Training - and had opportunity to be involved in schools' ministry. Taking assemblies, providing INSET training and after school clubs presented significant opportunities for the gospel, and underline to me the tremendous work of ICE in Exeter schools.

I now minister in the benefice of Alphington, Ide and Shillingford, and amongst these three communities, but it has also been good to work in partnership with ICE as a Director. There are links close to home as Anne-Marie, who began working with ICE last year in primary schools, also took up the role as our

children's' and youth-worker at the same time. This has been a significant development and proved to be a very positive relationship.

Every day the ICE team are impacting young lives for Jesus because of you! Your prayer support is invaluable to us and we thank you for your financial support. Would you join us in praying that God will continue to bless and resource the work of ICE this coming year.

**Calendar of ICE events
2009-10**

**" We hope to bring you early
notice of our Key Services
ASAP.**

**At the moment we are
awaiting confirmation of
the May and September
celebration and
commissioning dates.**

**We will post them on the
website at the earliest
opportunity".**

**The Exeter ICE Office is at:-
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From the Chairman

**How beautiful on the
mountain are the
feet of those who
bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good
tidings, who
proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion "Your God reigns!"
(Isaiah 52 .7)**



This scripture was used at the recent ordination of our director Chantal as a sign of sending her out as God's messenger; it seemed relevant for me to hear those well-known words at this key moment in the year, when we send out our team to declare the Goods News of Jesus in our schools. What a privileged place for them to be. I know that in many of the schools the ICE team are welcomed and appreciated; they, however, would say that being in this position does not come without its challenges; that is why we ask for your continued prayer for Hannah, Rich, Ed and Ann-Marie and their fellow associate workers as they start afresh with their new timetables.

For those who were able to join us at their recent commissioning Service at Riverside I am sure you were encouraged and inspired from what has been happening and what is planned for the New Year. This newsletter is a combination of both aspects and I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Alongside this copy comes a letter from David, our treasurer. It is always difficult to ask people who already give to give

more but we firmly believe that the work of ICE is part of God's Plan here in Exeter and provision **will** be made for it to happen. Please do give serious consideration to our "Ask" and help us sustain the work into next year and beyond. We are happy to receive "one-off" amounts or commitments through regular giving; we have no other income except from those who believe in our mission, so it is our prayer that even in times of recession people will become a funding partner and encourage others to do the same.

While on the delicate subject of expense our faithful old car has been finally laid to rest in the scrap yard and we plan to replace it with a much newer model. We have had a replacement donated which will fill the gap temporarily but the directors feel it is vital that our team can get from A to B in reliable vehicles. If you think you can help with this please ring or e-mail one of the directors at the ICE office.

Last year saw many initiatives, which related to our schools' work- **GSUSLive, LIFE, FNX, Make Jesus Known** etc were all "value added" happenings to make Christianity relevant to our young people. We are pleased that already similar events are being planned across the city and ICE will be part of them.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter, which can also be found on the website. Meet one of our newest directors, Chantal Mason, who is now an ordained minister - congratulation from us all!

I would echo Richard's comment about Church visits - if you would like us to give

a ten minute slot at your church to inform and entertain your congregation please let us know; we want to get alongside churches as well as schools to strengthen the work we are all doing. My best wishes and blessings to you all

Sue.

Primary Schools Update

The end of another academic year! Time flies when you're having fun and we've been doing a lot of that in primary schools this year! It's been a bumper year with Ide and Alphington schools being taken on by Anne-Marie. Karis has joined us for the year on a two day a week basis and more associate workers have joined the team! Looking back we've also been able to offer schools much more this year, most notably being able to offer a lot more schools the MOUSE project for year 6 (Moving on Up to Secondary Education). Most importantly though we have all really seen children grow in their understanding of who Jesus is. We are really encouraged where this has happened and we really believe that prayer has been a huge part of that on several occasions. We've also seen several children interacting with each other better, where there have been tensions before. Here are just a few highlights from the year....

- Two children coming into an assembly, (we didn't recognise them from any clubs) one says to the other "Yessssss it's the ICE team, they've come to talk to us about Jesus!"
- At a lunch club on many occasions, children asking if they can lead the prayer.

- Children remembering a Christian song we'd talk them – and singing it – beyond the assembly time and into the next week!
- Being warmly introduced by teachers in assemblies with the frequent line...."You're in for a treat today, we've got the ICE team in, I hope you're listening carefully as they've always got something interesting and exciting to say!" *Cue the teacher then trying to guess the theme by looking at the random props!*
- The LIFE exhibition – working with associates, staff and children and seeing how their understanding of Jesus grew! (It's already been booked for March 2011!)
- Seeing a child who really struggles to fit into groups really growing and blossoming.
- Seeing children "get" the connections between the films/games/crafts that we use and God.
- A teacher taking the song that I'd used as background to a PowerPoint presentation and teaching the children sign language to it.

We have been very blessed in the primary schools with some great associate workers this year. Lydia Boehm, Josh Gudipati, Jon Miller, Sarah Cooke, Lucy Phillips, Katherine Lyddon and Simon D'Albertanson have all contributed immensely to the work, not to mention the many associate workers who helped us specifically for the LIFE

West Exe
Technology College
Dave Poulson
Lead Worker



We now run two regular groups at West Exe. Our Wednesday lunch club (*ICE West*) has moved forward, and now consists of 30 minutes of play stations, table football and table games (such as Uno). This has seen a dramatic increase in numbers (particularly through the autumn and spring terms), and we have often seen 50 students over the course of the break.

In addition, we also run *connect*, a second lunch club that allows a smaller group of students to ask questions about the Christian faith, and to discuss their own thoughts and ideas. This attracts a good combination of Riverside young people, and others (some of whom have used this group as a springboard into other youth projects around the city).

We have built an excellent relationship with Ben, the Head of RE, and have been invited in to take part in a number of lessons and other activities over the course of the year. With Y7 having their RE curriculum reduced to just four days, we were asked to lead the first day, looking at the meaning of Christmas to Christians. This allowed us to spend time with the whole year group over two separate days, and to share a 45 minute presentation about our beliefs.

In December, West Exe hosted the autumn FNX event, and we were invited to take lessons and stage a lunchtime gig in the week running up to the event. The GSUS project (a truck trailer fitted out to allow exploration of key aspects of the Christian faith via interactive media) visited for a fortnight. We provided the staffing for this through our intern team, and were able to meet with almost every

student in the school over the course of two weeks.

After Easter, Ryan and I hosted 3-on-3 basketball tournaments with Y8 and Y9 over the period of a half term. This proved popular, and introduced us to a number of students we'd previously had no contact with. It also allowed us to continue to build our positive relationship with the PE department (following on from last year's five-a-side).

In June, visiting band MJK provided the catalyst for a week of lessons with Y8 and Y9, including a lunchtime gig on the bridge, music lessons with the band, and a series of grill-a-Christian lessons (alongside both Martin Thompson and Dave Pegg). The week culminated in the summer FNX event, at which MJK again performed live, sharing the gospel in song and word with around 300 young people, many from West Exe.

Monthly Prayer Meetings 2009/10

Tuesday 6th October
Tuesday 3rd November
Tuesday 1st December
Tuesday 5th January

These meetings are opened to all from 12 noon to 1.00p.m at the ICE Office.

Please do join us as prayer **does** make a difference.

Please consult the website for any additions or changes

to events such as FNX with Make Jesus Known, the 1100 event at the Cathedral and DCYC.

Assemblies... We've had lots of assemblies this term and in every one there's an opportunity to invite people to consider Jesus and we've had lots of positive feedback from students and staff about these.

RE lessons... There's also been a string of RE lessons where we've been invited to answer student's questions around faith and ethics. These have been very well received and as always, the students show just how hungry they are to get to the bottom of spiritual matters and find the truth.

Special events... And there's been Make Jesus Known and the Lacey Theatre Company in school this term where we've had opportunity to help students engage with the message of Jesus.

What next? So lots of really positive and exciting opportunities to serve the school and introduce people to the good news too. Next term there will be lots more of the same plus some RE lessons on biblical archaeology, chances to ask big questions and some new student leadership in the CU.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

St. James' School
Ed Bird
Lead Worker



I started work in St James' in January. Since then I have taught the whole school twice over in various topics, War and Peace, Animal Welfare, Religion and Media and Religion and Science to name just a few. All the lessons are taught through the RE

department and are all from a Christian perspective. I have received positive feedback from the lessons and have been asked to carry on the teaching program through next year. I have also taking whole school assemblies. Every six weeks we'll talk to the whole school – one-year group per day over a week. Some of the topics covered in assemblies have been Significance, Image and Role Models. The school has again been very impressed with the work and asked that it continue on a regular basis next year.



To finish this is what The RE head had to say...

Ed began work at St James as a support in the classroom, allowing him to get to know the pupils and vice versa (Ed has an enviable ability to remember names!). Since then Ed has taken responsibility for teaching full lessons.

Ed has taught a range of topics, year groups and abilities throughout the last few months, including a few very challenging Y9 groups. He has successfully planned and taught these lessons, using a range of teaching methods that both engage and challenge the pupils. Ed has also made adjustments very quickly where suggestions have been made.

The pupils have been given an insight into the views a Christian would hold regarding relevant and current issues and have been encouraged to explore these beliefs. His teaching has made a valuable contribution to the pupils learning.

Overall Ed has made a great contribution and I hope this will continue in the future.

Sarah Smyth. (St James' RE Head)

exhibition. This last term has seen us specifically linking up with secondary school associates to deliver the MOUSE project – Moving On Up to Secondary Education. At the time of writing 5 schools had booked us up. The lessons are a great way of equipping year 6 socially, emotionally and spiritually for their move up to secondary school and meeting their secondary school ICE worker is a great bridge that allows the relationships we've developed to continue! We've had great feedback on how useful the project is.

The future...

Next year (and continuing) the vision is to mobilise more associate workers to take on a lead role in the primary schools, particularly in the schools that we're not in at the moment. We're really excited that country wide more children's workers are being employed and we really feel that this will add to the primary schools work in the future, specifically here in Exeter!

Thank you for your continuing prayers. We are well aware that many people stand with us and their prayers help get the work done! Please pray over the summer that more associate workers will come forward for September so that we can continue this vital work. Maybe you know someone who could volunteer? Please do get in touch with me on 01392 411116 or hannah@icetrust.co.uk Don't forget to visit the primary schools blog www.exetericetrust.blogspot.com You can sign up to receive an email alert every time I update.

I blog at least once a week updating our timetable and any other news or prayer requests from the primary team.

Many thanks
Hannah
Primary Schools Coordinator

Thoughts of the year from Anne-Marie

At the end of term it's considered a good idea to throw together some thoughts on how the past year has gone. I believe I can sum it up in one word, quickly. It is shocking how fast time can go, I'm sure it was only September not long ago!

There have been so many highlights and challenges over the year, it would take up far too much room to recite them all here, but I will name a few;

The Life Exhibition! I think that everyone involved with the Primary work of ICE will list this on their favourite highlights. Everything about it was amazing, the set up, the visitor's reactions, parent and teacher's comments, the message of the exhibition and the amount of people who pulled together to make it happen! It was a glorious two weeks for the kingdom and for us as individuals.

The opportunity to be involved in different activities within the schools. As ICE we've had invites to talent shows, Christmas carol services and field trips. I loved my time with one primary school on their field trip to the National Marine Aquarium. It was an opportunity for relationships to be further built upon, and for the kids to see me in a different context and realise that I'm just as enthusiastic about Jesus outside of clubs!

I've also enjoyed seeing how I've grown and developed my skills and talents over the year. I wouldn't have imagined myself planning Sunday school series' or assemblies or setting up after school clubs and running them. It's been a wonderful opportunity for me to learn and to teach all at once.

The main challenges I have faced have been to keep going with all the enthusiasm and energy people expect right till the end of term. To trust that

what is said one week is still remembered the next time I go in, that each time I teach it builds upon what I spoke about before.

The three most important things I have learned this year are probably these:

- *God is faithful. He provides everything from the time to plan to the courage and the words to preach on Easter day to an unknown number of people!*
- *Schools/ Youth work is demanding, time consuming and tiring, but so needed in a world full of hurting.*
- *Children actually do say the most random things. Usually just after you've made a really seriously holy and spiritual point.*

I look forward to what God has in store for the new term and the new academic year.

Secondary Schools Report



St Luke's Science and Sports College
Richard Bellamy

It is amazing to think another year has passed and a new one is beginning!

In RE lessons we have continued to look at a wide variety of subjects, such as Life after Death, Euthanasia, Believing in God and many others. I was able also to support GCSE students with their revision programmes, which led to opportunities to have some great conversations, which often spilled over into break times.

Though the GSUS Live event was way back at the end of 2008, ideas and things remembered from it have continued to spark off more conversations; some students have made their own links with the subjects from GSUS Live in subsequent assemblies and lessons, which indicates their relevance to them.

As Franklin House Chaplain I have managed to deliver the majority of our fortnightly assemblies - these are such key times for developing a Christian ethos, which are appreciated by my Head of House.

There have been a couple of key changes in staff this year. Sarah Tierney has moved to be head of RE up country - I wish her every success in her new post. Maeve Sweeney has taken up Sarah's mantle and has been supportive of my role from the very beginning. I am looking forward to working with her and developing lesson work during the coming year.

The school also said "Good-bye" to Terry Hammond who has retired as their long-serving Headteacher. It has been inspirational to work under his leadership. I would value your prayers that God will help the staff and students to make the transition as the school seeks to replace him. Not an easy task!

One piece of great news was that one of the students I have come to know very well has just returned from DCYC Boys' camp and enjoyed it very much. It is good to see him searching to learn more about the Lord.

There is so much to be grateful for. I would appreciate your continued prayer.

Thanks for everything.

ISCA College of Media Arts Richard Bellamy

During the past few months I have also begun to work at ISCA College as the sole ICE worker in RE lessons, alongside Ivan Chrisene, Head of RE and his team. I have taken various topics with classes from all the year groups. As one exciting venture I was interviewed by Ivan on a variety of subjects from the GCSE syllabus, which was videoed and then put on the school's intranet for students to use as a revision aid. Technology is really making an impact in RE. Ivan now has plans for other multi-media ideas to develop the teaching. I look forward to being part of those developments this year.

Please pray for more associate workers to come forward to help here, as I am keen to develop a more stable and long-term presence in the college.

Other news in general Richard Bellamy

For two years I have been privileged to be part of major developments at St. Luke's, concentrating a lot of my effort into Christian work there. The majority of my time has been developing relationships with the staff and students, through my chaplaincy and bringing the presence of ICE into focus there. In the coming year I shall be gradually reducing my hours here to allow me time to support and develop work done by other associate workers in the other colleges/schools. This will enable me to network with more teachers and students and be more aware of the wider needs across the city. Though my role will become more strategic I will, of course, maintain the important contact through assemblies, lessons and clubs which schools have come to value and expect.

There are so many new opportunities to bring the Christian Gospel to young people in Exeter I hope to develop the role of ICE in its fullest sense.

Keep an eye on the Secondary Schools website as this will be updated during the next few months into a new format for students, school staff, and supporters alike. If you have any questions to ask of Ed or myself do not hesitate to contact us at the ICE office.

Church Visits

The team are all keen for you to hear first hand of what we are doing so if you would like a church visit for us to come and talk to your congregation please ring 07812 524240 or email **Rich**
Secondary Schools Coordinator
Email: rbellamy@blueyonder.co.uk

St Peters CofE Aided School Dave Pegg Lead Worker St Peters

It's been a busy and exciting term at St Peter's and it seems like that's what we can expect every term. It's a privilege to be serving in a school that is so open to the good news of Jesus.

CU... We've been supporting the student-led CU every Tuesday lunchtime and it's thriving with 20-25 people from all year groups attending every week and taking part.

JAM club... On Friday's we've been running JAM Club for anyone in the younger end of the school who's interested in finding out more about God in the Bible and having some fun at the same time.

Detached work... As the weather's improved, we've also been doing detached youth work in the grounds of the school at lunchtimes, inviting people