

ICE NEWS

Exeter

www.icetrust.co.uk

February 2009

From the Chairman

Welcome to the second termly newsletter of this academic year.



Since September we have had a busy time; with one major event, Gsus live, now behind us, and another, LIFE, looming closer- there is never a dull or quiet moment with the ICE Trust.

I hope you are encouraged by the staff reports and their enthusiasm for their dedicated work in so many of our schools. Both Ed and Annemarie have settled in well and are gradually becoming accustomed to the pace of a schools' work programme. In addition to the four paid workers we are pleased to welcome Karis to the Primary team who joins the girls two days a week and really adds a further dimension- particularly in her passion for drama. Together with Hannah and AnneMarie they are a sparky trio!

Rich continues to help develop the chaplaincy work at St. Luke's and is also starting to be involved at Isca; while Ed is becoming well established at St. James. It's good to have a contribution from Dave Poulson, an associate worker from Riverside church, who with his team is doing great things at West Exe College.

We were sad to lose Simon Marshall as a director in January as he and Dorit left

for Prague to work in ministry at the International Church there. His presence on the board has been a real blessing to ICE for over two years in many practical and prayerful ways; his humour, hard work and great love of the Lord has really helped the work to grow in that time. Our thanks and love goes with them both as they enter a new phase of their life.

We have recently invited Reverend Chantal Mason to join the directors. She is curate at Alphington church and also worked in Exeter in secondary education before joining the ministry. I won't tell you much more as she will be writing her own profile in our next newsletter!

This term read all about director Martin and his part in the Ice organisation.

Do give some thought to the requests in the LIFE section- we really do need full support of you good people to make this a success.

Finally **Communication!** I urge you to use our website and blogs for up to date information and points for prayer. You can find out what the team are doing and focus specific prayers for them in their various situations. The enclosed calendar too will hopefully enable you to attend key events throughout the year.

Sue.

LIFE Exeter 2009



LIFE is an exciting exhibition designed by Counties (who also stage the Gsus Live trailer). LIFE targets Primary school children by presenting interactive material on the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus in an up to date way. A generous benefactor has funded the cost of bringing this to Exeter and Belmont Chapel has kindly offered to host it in their building from 23rd March to 2nd April.

We have invited a large number of local schools to bring along classes of Year 5 and 6 children for the sessions, which last for just over an hour. Our Primary ICE team and associate workers will be leading the children through the various zones of learning enabling them to use the various bits of technology like palm held computers. It all sounds really exciting and you can be involved too!

HOW?

We need:

- ☞ Stewards for the eight days to be on duty to guide the children and serve drinks in the Café zone
- ☞ On Monday 23rd March and Thursday 2nd April we require a team to put up and take down the Zones (about 8-10 folk)
- ☞ Financial help to fund a coach to bring children from distant schools
- ☞ Church groups (adults and children) to use the exhibition in the evenings
- ☞ Plenty of prayer to underpin the whole event and its organisation
- ☞ Your presence at the opening launch (invitation included or attached)

If you can help in any way please contact Hannah Richards on 01392 411116 or me on 01392 811905. We would be delighted to hear from you. We aim to involve over 1000 children in this event -do be part of that opportunity for outreach. To see more about **LIFE** and how it works visit the Counties website on <http://www.lifeexpo.co.uk/host-venues.html>

Primary Schools Update

It has been a busy term for us here in the primary schools but we really believe that we've seen the quality of our work increase as we've had more people on board this year! This term we've been able to reintroduce a lot more sketches into our assemblies because of more people and I personally feel that I have grown through working with more people – they've helped keep my creative juices flowing!

R.E. Lessons

We have been booked up for 4 different types of R.E. lessons this term from years 3-6. Our favourite which has been taken up by 3 schools is a year 4 lesson looking at how Jesus is inspirational, a really key topic, I'm sure you'll agree. For this lesson we've combined drama and testimony to give children an insight into what being a Christian is all about. We've had good responses from children and teachers alike, especially to our testimony slots. Another lesson this term was entitled how to express your faith through the arts. In this lesson after discussing with the children how we can communicate in different ways, we split children into groups and ask them to choreograph a part of a Christian pop song. At the end of the lesson series the teacher wanted to buy the album!

Assemblies

Our assemblies keep chugging along and we are doing a couple of special Christmas assemblies in 2 extra schools as a one off. We had been asked to make a regular commitment to one of them but unfortunately we are maxed out and can't take on any more schools. However if you know of anyone who could help Countess Wear School or Lady Seaward's then please do give me a ring at the ICE office 411116. We have resources here at the ICE office that we're willing to share!

Lunch clubs

We restarted our Pinhoe lunch club this term and we have seen many regular attendants, which is very encouraging. Over this past term we ran 2 series in our lunch clubs. The first looked at the life of Jesus in a Mission Impossible style way with drama and the latter has centred around the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe DVD. Each week we watch a clip from the film and then relate it through talk quizzes and games to the Christian life. We've seen many children come week after week and it's great to see them making the links between Aslan and Jesus in a culturally relevant way. One child in one of our clubs said "I want to be on Aslan's side...I want to be on God's side". By the end of the club all 10 children had asked us about being on God's side and then prayed the prayer, unprompted by us.

After school clubs

Our Club at Rockbeare School has doubled in number since September, which means we are seeing a wide variety of children that we can build relationships with week after week. My after school club at St Margaret's is also building good relationships. The girls took their own assembly recently, using material I'd prepared for them. They did really well!



LIFE Exhibition Belmont Chapel, Exeter

Letters have gone out to all head teachers that we have contact with (and some that we don't) and we have already had 2 bookings after just 2 weeks! Our associate workers are getting excited by this so please pray that all the practicalities will come together. For more information about LIFE visit their new website www.LifeExpo.co.uk where you can walk through the exhibition!

And lastly please pray for the primary schools team. It's a busy job working in 16 schools and you can imagine how much coming and going we do throughout the day, carrying around lots of heavy resources. We know that prayer works so we really thank you for your prayers that enable us to do the work and also ask you to pray for our continued safety, encouragement and creativity. Thank you.

Hello!

I'm Karis and I started volunteering part time for ICE in September. I've just graduated from Exeter University with a degree in Drama and I am currently at Frontiers Church. Over the summer I felt a strong calling from God to give up two days of my week to volunteer with ICE and I am so happy that I followed it through! I prayed that God would put me with whichever team he



An Update From Anne-Marie

wanted, and so here I am on the Primary Schools team. I have had the most wonderful time so far, and after being here now for a few months I have such a heart for the children I meet each week. It is an incredible privilege to take the gospel of Jesus into these schools and I am continually astounded by how eager these children are to hear about Jesus, especially those without any Christian background.

My main prayer points would be for more energy and good health, particularly through the winter months - I suffer from Rheumatoid Arthritis and wintry seasons can be hard! Also that God will keep on keeping me financially stable, God has blown me away by how he is giving me just what I need to live on, and not once has he left me without. Somehow, the money for bills and rent has always come along at the right time. Thank you to everyone for all your prayers and support so far.

Working with ICE is a wonderful experience and God has increased my heart for his little children so much. Please pray that we keep seeing them through His eyes, and not just our own. Some of the children we meet come from such difficult backgrounds and they desperately need to know the love of God in their lives. It is so important for children to learn early on in life that Jesus *is* real and relevant, that he loves them dearly and that the Christian faith *can* be 'cool'! They are so much fun to work with and to be around. Please keep praying for all of them.

Recently during an after school club one seven year old said to me, "God's got the whole world in his hands, hasn't he?" I replied, "Yes he does, that's right." She smiled and then her face fell. "What happens if he drops us...?" she said, "Would we roll?"



Where to begin?! So much has happened in such a short time! A brief introduction might be in order to begin with. I've lived in Exeter for about fifteen years now; I enjoy quite a varied

selection of activities ranging from Judo, horse - riding, sketching, reading and riding my bike everywhere. I am very fond of history and usually spend holidays seeking out castles and other historical sites. I am also a huge geek and enjoy all things sci-fi and fantasy. I attended College here, studying English Literature, Theatre studies and Psychology. I also read Theology at the University here in Exeter, which was amazing fun as well as amazingly hard work.

I consider St. Thomas Baptist Church my home; I began worshipping there at a young age as part of the Girls Brigade and have been a regular member of the congregation for six years. During that time I have been very involved with the youth work and continue to co-lead the 11-16 aged midweek group as well.

I had never really settled on a particular career plan. But I did know a couple of things I would never be; 1) A Celebrity, 2) A Psychologist and 3) A youth worker. I remember looking up to my old youth worker with a mixed sense of admiration of her daily struggles and a firm resolution that I would never be as daft as to follow in her footsteps. My life serves as an illustration of God's sense of irony and humour. Having said that, it's clear that this is where God wants me right now and that this is the sort of thing I was designed to do. Since joining ICE in September I can see how it has helped me grow so much already. My

particular position as being shared with St. Michaels and All Angels Church in Alphington has also given me a great opportunity to develop in a different church background. A particular highlight of this link has been the establishment of the after school clubs in Alphington and Ide Primary schools. Both of which are going very well with a small but lively and enthusiastic attendance! It's a testimony to the presence of God working in this area that the doors have been so open and we have been so warmly welcomed!

I'm looking forward to seeing where God is going to take me from here. I've had to get used to a whole lot of new things, new ways to work, worship and communicate, its been a lot to take in but with God all things are indeed possible!

Yours in Christ, AM

Secondary Schools Report

Hello again everyone. It only seems like a short while since our last letter went out, when I introduced Ed Bird, our new Lead Worker in Secondary schools. You will hear from him below, but I wanted to say how well he has fitted into all aspects of our ICE work. He has related well to staff and students from the beginning and he has become part of both St James and St Luke's very quickly. It has also been a great pleasure for me to work with him and I look forward to the remainder of the year!

One key thing that Ed and our other Associate Workers have done is adopt a 'community' type response to the needs of their schools. This has meant building a broader base of relationships throughout their schools, linking into the different support networks of the whole community.

Ben Lias (Head of RE at West Exe) commented on the impact the team has made, especially with the students. A "community" response does entail a lot more work as time needs to be invested into people; it recognises that we are there as Christians accepting each person exactly as they are. We also must show that we not only have a concern just about the Religious Education of a student, but an awareness of the whole person (i.e. Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Health) regardless of his or her background.

GSUS Live

Last term saw the tour of the GSUS Live trailer, which visited six schools and catered for well over a thousand students. This gave students and some staff the chance to explore three themes through the eyes of three different characters: the themes were Rejection, Fear, and Forgiveness. As a resource, it not only helped students to engage in these subjects in an exciting and relevant way, but helped to promote the development of good life values.

There was a variety of responses from both staff and students, and for the most part was received very enthusiastically. Some of the comments made by students included:

"Before going through this topic of forgiveness, I would not have forgiven anything. Now I realize that forgiveness is important to everyone!"

Year 11 student

"I really enjoyed listening to the video, music, and everything. It made it easier for me to think about my topic and to relate to my character."

Year 9 student

Another student who at first did not like being part of the lesson became so engaged with the lesson that she not only returned to complete the other

topics during lunchtime, but also brought four of her friends as well. Watch the ICE website for updates on its progress

St Peters CofE Aided School

Last term also Dave Atallah (Exeter ICE Contact Worker for St Peter's, *St Leonard's Church*) took on responsibility for the Christian Union at St Peter's CofE Aided School replacing Sam Tagg who has moved up to London. It seemed a natural progression, as Dave is the Contact Worker for ICE in this school. The group has welcomed Dave and his team with open arms and at last saw a group of lads joining it as well. St Peter's was the launch school for GSUS Live and students enjoyed being challenged by its resources. I was grateful to Mark Perry, Head Teacher for St Peter's, for encouraging all the Head Teachers from our City's Secondary schools that this was a resource to look forward to and to use fully. Watch the ICE website for updates on its progress.



St Luke's Science and Sports College

The chaplaincy continues to grow and have an impact on the work and relationships within St Luke's College. A confirmation class has now been set up as a result of a student wanting to know more about what it means to become a Christian. We have also begun a group that helps Christian students to develop their relationship with Jesus, and to seek to integrate it into all parts of their lives. We have had 4 students take this up, and while we have only been able meet a couple of times last term, it has been warmly received.

The "Listening Ear" service that the chaplains provide has continued to be a success with students who appreciate an opportunity to get support and a friendly ear to help them through their challenges. Also support is available to the parents who are encouraged by the a staff to be part of the process.

ISCA College of Media Arts

Dave Poulson and his team have been doing amazing things at West Exe College and as a result are focussing their work entirely on the one school which has given me the opportunity to build a new team in ISCA College of Media Arts. The past couple of weeks have seen just under 200 students split over 9 lessons, with students from years 7, 9, and 11. Subjects included "The Christian view on Money, Wealth and Poverty", and "Belief in God: The Christian Response". Watch the ICE website for updates on its progress.

If you're interested in being involved in the Secondary Schools, or would like more information about a particular school, then please do not hesitate to contact me via email. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Rich

(Secondary Schools Coordinator)

Email: rbellamy@blueyonder.co.uk



St. James' School

After a slow start in September, my work at St James' is now starting to take shape. My first port of call was to meet with the new RE head to see what ICE could do for them; she was very keen on starting a new project and soon had me sitting in on lessons. I soon became familiar with how things work, the lay of the land and what the students were like... It is very different to what I was used to back in Cambridge, where the schools are more like the ones found in Harry Potter!

This term started with a bang! The first day back I was teaching a class; Baptism was the topic. This was to be the first of many lessons; others to come include - The Afterlife, Worship and Creation. As well as teaching in RE, by half term I hope to be taking assemblies for the whole school, and starting a new

project in the music department. This will mean helping with school bands, one on one mentoring and hopefully taking some lessons on popular music and the music industry.

Although things are still moving quite slowly, the ICE work is building something solid, trustworthy and reliable – it also gives me the time to prep new lessons and coordinate with the associate workers for the school, finding them roles which are well suited to them. I am amazed at how open the school is to ICE and my ideas. Please pray that the doors continue to open, that we chose the right doors and we continue to be a blessing in the school. Many Thanks.

Ed Bird Secondary Schools Lead Worker



West Exe Technology College

Things at West Exe are going well. Last term, we had GSUS Live for two weeks, and we spent two days working with Y7 students, talking about the meaning of Christmas to Christians – this covered the whole year group over the two days. We also hosted the autumn FNX event. In the week prior to this, we went into several Y8/9 lessons to talk about faith (and took Simon d'Albertanson with us on one day); we also staged a gig in the hall using our intern team – this was well attended by many students from all years, most of them took flyers for FNX, and this was reflected in the good turn out on the night.

This term is usually quieter, as Ben Lias (Head of RE) uses it to teach the other religions. However, both Wednesdays and Fridays will continue to run, and we are looking to lead a 5-a-side football tournament in conjunction with the PE department (as a follow-on from a similar event last year) – I'm currently

waiting on a response. I'd also like to establish a good relationship with Student Services (responsible for SEN and EBD issues), and would appreciate prayer for this; especially on receiving the green light from the Head of Department.

Currently, ICE West is attracting anywhere between 20 and 40 students (mostly KS3, 11 – 14yrs) with a combination of activities using play stations, quizzes, origami, table football and chat. We've also been able to establish a good relationship with the maths department, as we use one of their rooms, and they store the table football for us during the week (and occasionally make use of it!). Connect – a Christian Union type group – began last week with five students, and we expect a few more during the coming weeks.

It looks likely that we will be staging the summer FNX at West (I know Ben is keen to have it back), and this will again open up opportunities during the preceding week(s), including a day with the team from MJK.

Dave Poulson - ICE Contact Worker Riverside Church

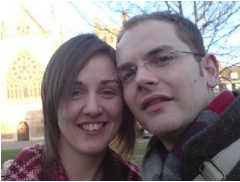
Monthly Prayer Meetings 2009

**Tuesday 3rd March
Tuesday 7th April
Tuesday 5th May
Tuesday 2nd June**

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

ICE Director - Martin Thompson



My name is Martin, and I think I might just be the youngest ICE Director! I'm married to the wonderful Kay

who teaches English at St Luke's Science and Sports College here in Exeter. We're just about to become parents for the first time – due in mid to late May! Very exciting times for us...we're trying to get as much sleep as possible now!

I work for the Diocese of Exeter (Church of England) as their Youth Work Adviser. This is something of a grand title for someone who is passionate about ministry with young people and seeing them released into the mission of God where they are. I have the very real privilege of travelling around the area encouraging and challenging churches in their work with young people (11-25ish). I get to see so many exciting things that fill me with huge enthusiasm for what God is up to in this emerging generation.

I'm an incomer to Exeter, having been born in the North East of England (Geordie and proud, although you'd never tell from the accent...but please don't mention Newcastle United's current form!) and lived all over the place. I grew up mostly on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire. Prior to working with the Diocese I worked for the Careers Service and local authority as a Youth Worker, then became an ordained Salvation Army Officer (Captain Thompson, if you please!) but felt very strongly a calling from God to move into this brave new world where we find ourselves now. Kay and I are part of Exeter Network Church and

currently lead the work with 11-14s, although will soon be giving this up as the 'bump' becomes a baby.

As well as being an ICE Director I work alongside Richard Bellamy as an Associate Worker as part of St Luke's Chaplaincy team. Schools work is something that I believe in passionately – a ripe mission field that the church should be investing hugely in. Thank you for all you do to support ICE – thousands of young lives are being transformed by our team 'being' Jesus in all that they do.

Calendar of ICE events 2009-10

LIFE launch at Belmont Chapel

7.00pm Monday 23rd March 2009

Exhibition opening dates

24th March- 2nd April

(check availability for public use)

Celebrating 20 years of ICE

St. Leonard's Church

6.30 pm Tuesday 19th May

Commissioning Service

Riverside Christian Centre

7.00 pm Tuesday 22nd September

Open Day at the office (YMCA)

Tuesday 15th September 2009

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