



Oxford Schools Chaplaincy

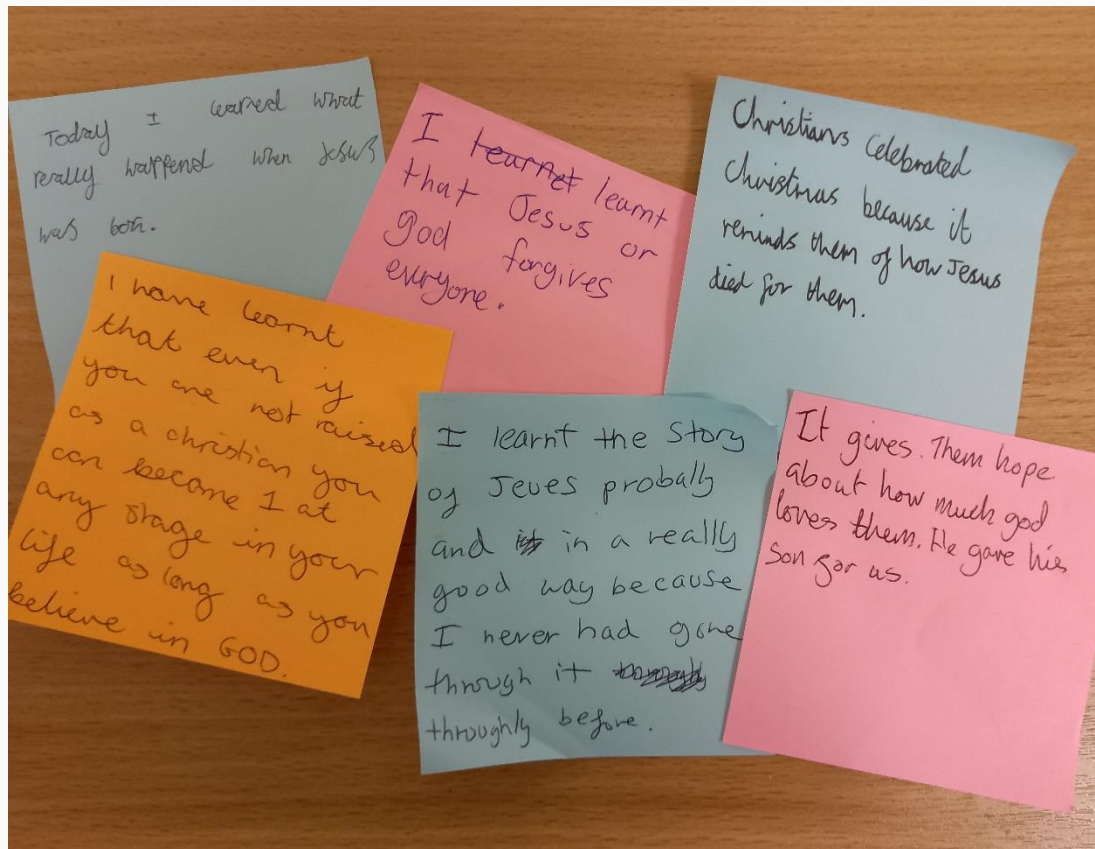
Newsletter, Christmas 2024

The seed sown in the good soil stand for those who hear the message and understand.
Matthew 13v23

"Why would Jesus die for me?"

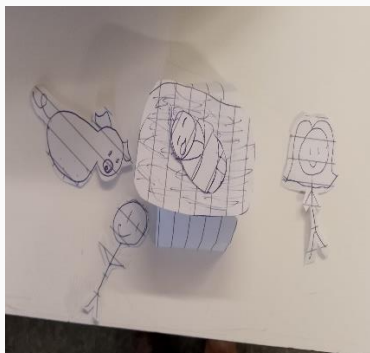
December found the OSC team dashing between schools delivering the lesson on 'Why do Christians Celebrate Christmas?'. The above was one of many probing and insightful questions asked as students took part in the Q&A session at the end.

Between the lessons as well as Christian Union events and assemblies, we have had the privilege this month of presenting the "good news of great joy" to nearly 1000 students in Secondary State schools.

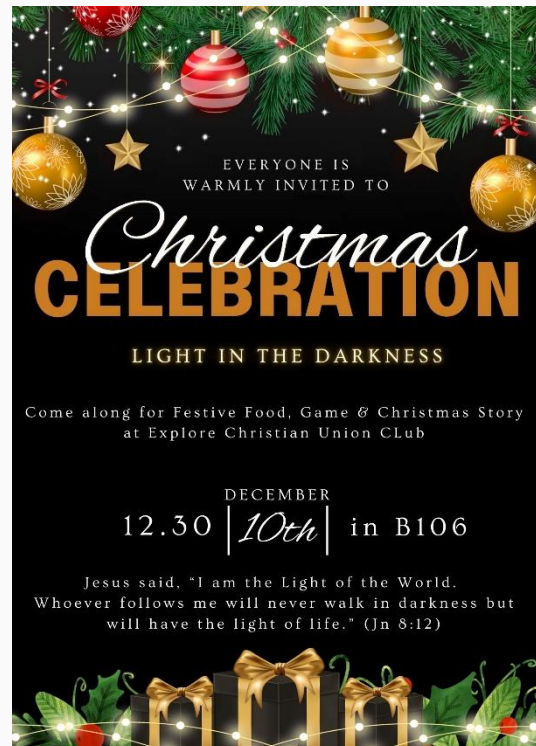


Lesson feedback from students!

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer. As practical logistics repeatedly fell into place, last minute glitches were overcome and an extra burst of energy was found to deliver a more demanding lesson - we knew it was thanks to your prayers. How humbling to witness both eagerly raised hands as well as furrowed brows as students interacted and wrestled with what they were learning.



"The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, God with us" (Isaiah 7:14). The students had much indeed to ponder. (*Art work created by student who I thought had been fidgeting all lesson - clearly they had been listening!).



Christian Union Event Posters - please pray for all who came along!



We are very thankful for CU guest speakers from the **Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics**, seen here at Gosford Hill School ...



and at The Swan School. They fielded some soul-searching questions from students!

We would love to organise further talks and outreach events for our secondary schools. Could you sponsor a speaker to ensure that all 6 of our secondary schools are able to have a speaker before Easter? £25 will help to launch another event in a school near you, providing posters, snacks and expenses for our speakers, to bring in up to 50 youngsters to be challenged by relevant and exciting teaching of the gospel. If you would like to support this outreach work, please do use the bank details at the end of this newsletter, using the reference 'Outreach' so that we can set those funds aside for organising these special events, and the fantastic teaching that our speakers bring into schools.

Much seed has been sown ... but we need you to keep watering it with your prayers. We long for students to not only have heard of Jesus' birth, but to understand (Matthew 13v23) and take hold of the gift of God – eternal life in Him (Romans 6v23).

OSC



PRAYER
DIARY 2024

1 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' (Isaiah 9:2) Pray that God would prepare hearts and minds to hear His Word this month in schools.	6 Pray for Christian students to be bold in inviting friends to Christmas outreach events.	11 Christmas Assembly at GHS Christmas Lesson at TOA, period 5.	16 Christmas Lessons at MAS periods 3, 4 & 5.	21 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' (John 1:14)
2 4-5pm Swan School outreach event.	7 Give thanks for all the volunteers and OSC staff who are delivering Christmas lessons this year.	12 Christmas Assembly at GHS Christmas Lessons MAS P 1, 2 & 5 TOA P 1 & 5. 1.30-2pm Cheney CU Outreach.	17 Christmas Lessons at GHS* periods 1, 4 & 5 and MAS period 5. 1.20-1.50pm: GHS CU Outreach event.	22 Pray that new supporters OSC will come forward to regular monthly donors.
3 Lunchtime: Carols in the Canteen at City of Oxford College.	8 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:14,16)	13 Christmas Lessons at MAS TOA period 5.	18 Christmas Lessons at GHS periods 2 & 5 and MAS period 4. 12.20-1pm Cherwell North Site CU Outreach event.	23 Give thanks and pray for a teachers in our schools – that they would find rest and refreshment over the holidays.
4 Pray for Christian Union Student leaders as they plan outreach events for Christmas	9 Christmas Lesson at TOA*, period 1.	14 Pray for the future of OSC, that sufficient funding will be found to secure and increase our work.	19 Christmas Lessons at MAS periods 1, 3 & 4.	24 Give thanks and pray for a Christian Union students in our area—that God would continue to teach them and encourage them in Him.
5 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)	10 Christmas Assembly at GHS Christmas Lessons MAS* P 1 & 2. Lunchtime: Christmas Celebration outreach at CQC*, & Christmas Party at Cherwell South site. Christmas Lessons TOA P 4 & 5.	15 Pray for new volunteers to come forward to support lessons in local schools.	20 Give thanks for all the lessons and other events that have taken place this Christmas. Pray that the seeds of the gospel sown will come to fruition.	25 'Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2:11) 'To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!' (Revelation 5:13)

*COC: City of Oxford College
GHS: Gosford Hill School

MAS: Matthew Arnold School
TOA: The Oxford Academy

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If you would like to find out more about donating to OSC, or for general info, please scan this code or visit
www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org



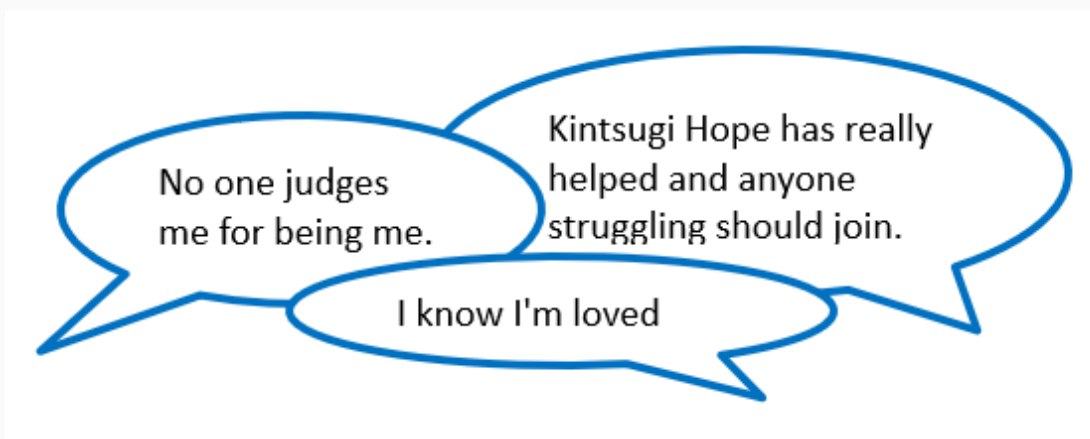
We would hugely appreciate if you could take a moment to look over the OSC Advent Prayer Diary and choose a couple of lessons or events and pray

specifically for the Lord's on-going work in the hearts and lives of all those present at those sessions.



Paul on Mentoring and Kintsugi Hope:

"I have been recently reminded how important this area of support work is with young people. Some, unfortunately feel that they are simply unable to talk about their problems with others, including parents, however, they do feel able to talk to me, which is a huge privilege."



Feedback from Year 7 and Year 8 students who have completed the latest Kintsugi Hope course at Gosford Hill School

We are really excited to be continuing a group at Wheatley Park School and planning to run another new group at Gosford Hill School, and also at The Swan School in the new year. I am so grateful to all our wonderful volunteers who kindly give their time in assisting with the Kintsugi Hope Youth Wellbeing groups. Thank you for continuing to pray for this area of work - it is absolutely vital so that we can continue to be available and effective in partnering with God in this!

It's been a sprint finish for 2024. We are really excited for all that's in store and look forward to partnering with you in all the Lord has prepared for schools work in 2025.

Giving to OSC

As you know, the work of OSC is completely reliant on financial donations from individuals and churches. If you already support our work, thank you! And if you have recently increased your gift to us, thank you so much too. If not, we would be so grateful if you would prayerfully consider a gift to allow our work to continue and grow. The need is now becoming urgent. Could you consider a fundraising activity? A sponsored bake or cycle ride? Making a donation to OSC as part of your will? Holding a coffee morning now for friends and neighbours? We would be very happy to come along and meet your neighbours and share what is happening in the local schools, to see if they would like to partner with us, or to meet with you if you have ideas to raise the profile of this important work.

As ever, donations can be made by bank transfer, to CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00021506 , or follow the link to our website for details of other ways to give at www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org/support

This work cannot happen without you. Thank you for your support and prayers.

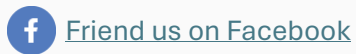
Prayer points

Please do join us in giving thanks for:

- all the CUs and Bible Clubs that have started and grown around the city
- Christmas lesson opportunities, especially in new schools
- new volunteers who have joined us recently, and those who have served faithfully for a number of years

Please pray for:

- Every child who has attended OSC lessons or outreach events this term, that the seeds of the gospel will be rooted in hearts and minds
- Students for whom the Christmas holidays are a time of hunger, financial hardship, loneliness or other challenge
- The OSC 2025 funding challenge - we need to attract new, regular donors who are prepared to commit to support this work, in order to see it continue, and grow into the future



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***Clearly communicating Christian beliefs, equipping young people
to make informed decisions about faith and lifestyle***

Co-directors: Paul Sparrey and Hemara Earl
Office and Volunteers' Administrator: Jo Curtis

**If you would like to give financially to the work of OSC, please contact:
info@oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org**

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