



Oxford Schools Chaplaincy

**Newsletter,
Easter Update 2025**

*"Where, O death is your victory?
Where, O death is your sting?"*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:55-57

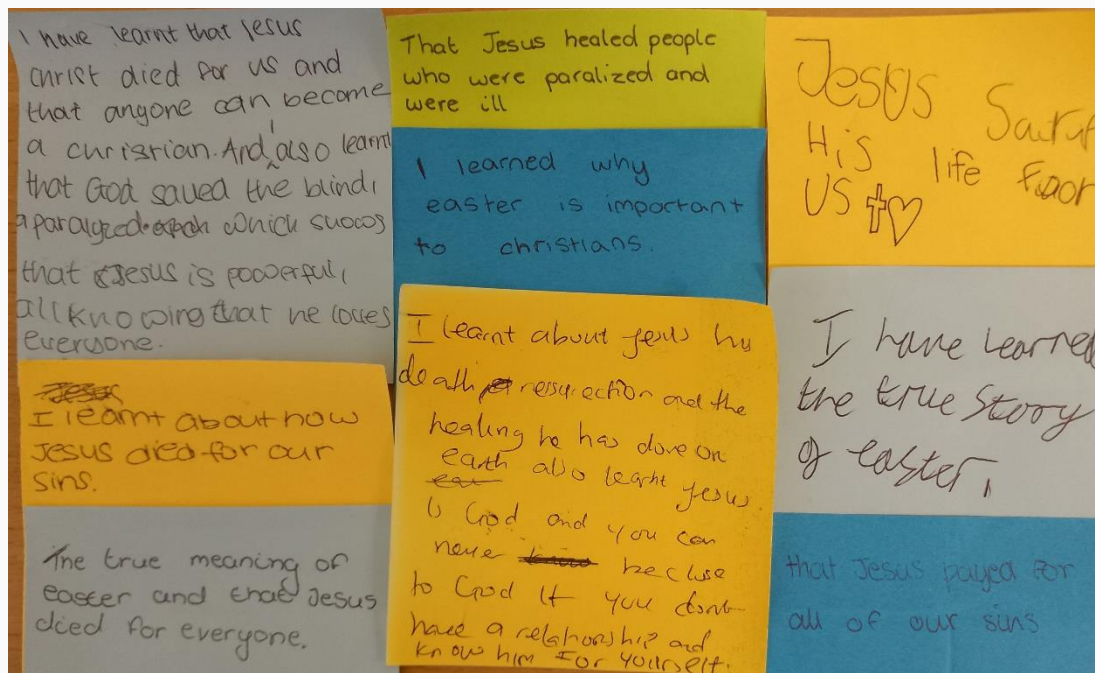
"A farmer went out to sow his seed ..."

What a privilege for the OSC staff and volunteers to have been able to make the most of myriad opportunities to sow the seed of God's word, the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection, in secondary schools across the city in the run up to Easter.

... where did it land?

26 lessons
8 events
7 schools
nearly 1000 students

... and that's only the measurables!
We praise the Lord that He is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine!



Students' Feedback on Easter lessons

Lesson Leader report:

I wish I could have bottled up the atmosphere in the lessons today and sent it to you!

I could hardly proceed through the material for the barrage of questions coming at us. And these weren't 'silly' or 'red herring' questions – they were genuine, deeply thoughtful and clearly in response to what had just been said.

If Jesus is so powerful, why didn't he just make everything right straight away?

Why can't God just turn a blind eye to sin?

If Jesus can do miracles, why didn't he just make himself rich and have a happy life?

How can God be good if he allows brutal acts of racism to happen?

Why do so many pictures of Jesus show him as a white man with blonde hair if he was from Israel?

Why do churches have crosses on them if it's a form of torture? Jesus did so many kind things – why don't you have a picture of that instead? (*great segue to explain that dying on the cross for us is the kindest possible thing Jesus could have done!)

The lesson flew by ... we could have easily kept going for another hour with all the questions!

March 2025

Only God gives the growth!

So will you please commit to pray? We know well that the gospel seed is vulnerable to being snatched away, desiccated or smothered. We long instead for all the students who were in lessons and outreach activities to not just have heard the word, but retain, understand, accept it and so produce a crop (Matt 13, Mark 4, Luke 8). Would you choose one (or more) of the activities in the Easter Prayer Diary (below) and pray specifically for the young people who attended that session, that their curiosity in lessons and events will lead them to further engage with their school Christian Union, to find those who can walk alongside them and teach them wisely, to read the scriptures for themselves, and to further kingdom growth.

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Prayer Diary
22 March - 6 April 2025

Oxford Schools Chaplaincy

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) Pray that God would prepare hearts and minds to hear His Word in schools during the weeks before Easter.	Easter lessons at MAS period 1 and TOA periods 3&4. Lunchtime: TOA 6th-form CU event, and Cherwell North site CU. BeSpace at TOA period 5. Gosford Kintsugi after school.	"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26)	Easter lesson at MAS period 1 Lunchtime: Cheney CU event.
Give thanks and pray for all the volunteers and OSC staff who are delivering Easter lessons this year.	Easter lessons at TOA periods 1&3. Lunchtime: Cheney CU BeSpace at TOA periods 1&5.	Easter lesson at TOA period 4 Lunchtime: TOA CU After school: TOA CU, Swan Kintsugi and Swan CU event. BeSpace at TOA period 4.	Easter lessons at MAS period 3 and GHS period 4.
Pray for TOA* and Swan Christian Unions, and Swan Kintsugi meeting after school today.	Easter lessons at MAS period 1 and TOA period 2. Lunchtime: Wheatley Park Kintsugi. BeSpace at TOA period 5.	Easter lessons at MAS period 1 and GHS periods 1&5. Lunchtime: COC and GHS CU events. After school: Cherwell South site CU event.	Please pray for the next Easter lesson at MAS: period 3 on Wednesday 23 April.
Easter lesson at TOA period 1 Lunchtime: COC and GHS CUs BeSpace** at TOA periods 4&5. Cherwell South Site CU after school.	Pray for the future of OSC, that sufficient funding will be found to secure and increase our work.	Easter lessons at GHS periods 2&5 and MAS period 5. Lunchtime: Cherwell North site CU event. 2pm Gosford Kintsugi.	Give thanks for all the lessons and other events that have taken place this Easter. Pray that the seeds of the gospel sown will come to fruition.

*COC: City of Oxford College
MAS: Matthew Arnold School
GHS: Gosford Hill School
TOA: The Oxford Academy
Kintsugi = mental health and wellbeing course

** BeSpace is an interactive resource, with activities provided for students to learn about the events of the first Easter, with the assistance of volunteers to explain the significance of these events for Christians.

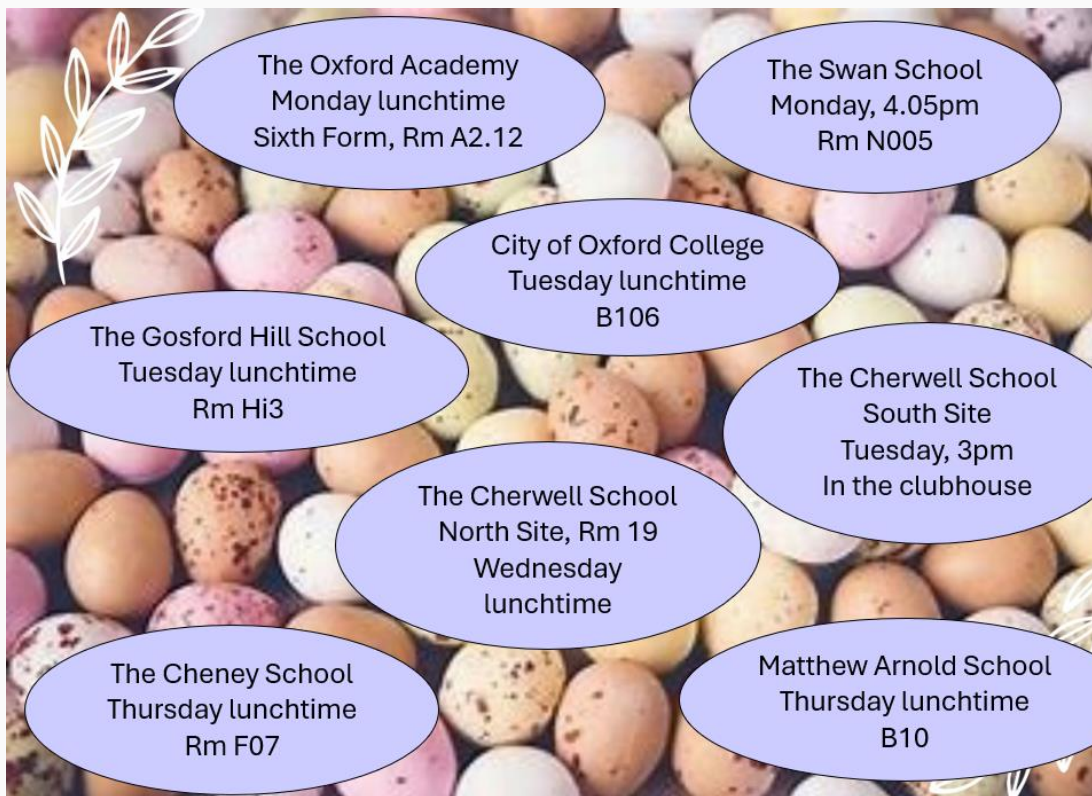
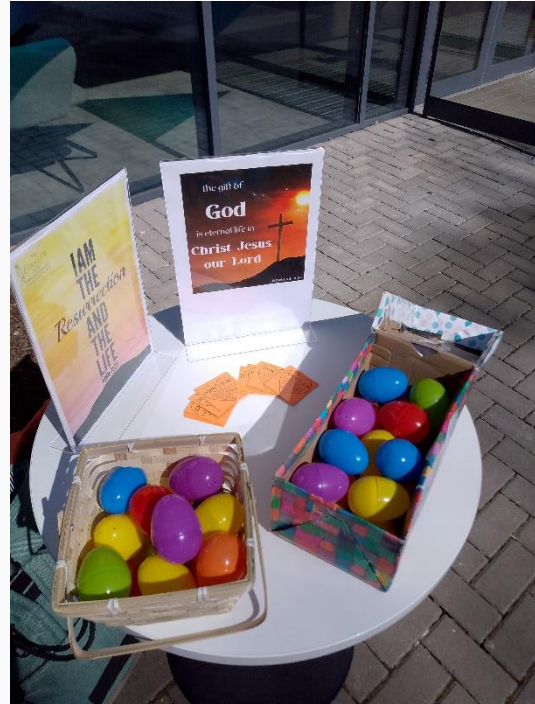
If you would like to find out more about donating to OSC, or for general info, please scan this code or visit www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org

Setting a new record for Christian Union outreach events:

8 events

in 7 schools

in the space of 4 days



Please continue to pray for each of these Christian Unions as they meet weekly. Pray that students who came along to the Easter outreach events will start coming along regularly and bring their friends.



It was a joy for OSC to take part in the Youth Conference, Nightlife Festival organised by St Aldate's church on 29th March. Praise God for so many teenagers willing to give up a Saturday to come and be encouraged in their faith in Christ and equipped to proclaim the gospel to their peers.



Pray for the upcoming Education Revolution Conference. OSC will be contributing to a seminar alongside ACT (Association of Christian Teachers) to inspire and equip Christian teachers to be a gospel influence in their schools.

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:

- the many students who heard the good news of Jesus through the Easter lessons
- the Christian Unions to continue to grow and thrive
- all the volunteers who supported us with Easter activities

Please pray for:

- Upcoming Year 6 Transition to Secondary school lessons
- 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***

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Office and Volunteers' Administrator: Jo Curtis

**If you would like to give financially to the work of OSC, please contact:
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