



Dates for your diary

Monthly ICE Prayer Meetings

These will take place at Bethesda Rogerstone the first Thursday of each month.

Life exhibition

Monmouth Baptist | 16th - 26th September
Bethesda Baptist Rogerstone | 13th - 18th May
Malpas Rd Newport | 20th - 24th May

Christmas Event | November 26th - December 17th



Have you visited our website yet?



www.icewales.co.uk



Serving schools and churches throughout Wales

Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes all things grow... For we are God's fellow workers: you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3 v 7 & 9

Another school year begins bringing new opportunities, new children and new challenges for Ice Wales. The vision is the same: to teach the next generation the wonderful deeds of the Lord. (Ps 78 v 4).

In our Thanksgiving service in January the Rev Jonathan Greaves, who represents Ice in and around Monmouth, encouraged us in our task of reaching children. From Ezekiel, whose name means "God strengthens" he reminded us of the following points. God gives the prophet His Word to take to the rebellious people he lives amongst. We must always remember to take God's word into the schools not promote ourselves. Ezekiel is told to speak God's message whether the people listen to him or not. He is not to be afraid but to speak boldly. The school environment is often not overly sympathetic to our work but we must deliver our message with boldness and without compromise. To this end God gives us His Spirit to fulfil the mission He has given us. We must be faithful in what we have been called to do and leave the results of it to God. We do our part and the outcome lies with Him.

This year has seen some changes in the Trust. Alan Petersen stepped down from the chair after many years and Sheila Kelly stepped down from the trustees. We are so grateful to them for their contribution since Ice Wales came into being in 2002. John Hobbs and Stuart Linton also left the Trust and the Trustee board now consists of Vera Davies, Kathryn Kemp, Christine Powell, Laura Toomer and Mark Thomas. We thank both John and Stuart for their contributions during the time they were with us. Sadly we also lost three very active volunteers during the year. Patricia Pratt, a founder trustee, went to be with the Lord in September last year and Mary Jones and Anita Richards, both faithful volunteers passed into the Lord's presence this year.

The regular work of Ice has continued during this year. God has blessed us with some new volunteers and there have been openings re-established in some areas. September 2017 saw the GSUS LIVE trailer visiting Newport and spending two weeks with us in Risca Comprehensive and Newport High School.

The ICE Wales Trust
91 Ruskin Avenue
Rogerstone
NP10 0BD

01633 662997
info@icewales.co.uk
www.icewales.co.uk

Twitter: @ICEWales

Contact details
Christine Thomas
01633 662997
chris.thomas9@ntlworld.com

To donate to the work please contact our treasurer
Vera Davies
01495 245065
veradavies1@hotmail.co.uk

Registered Charity: 110897



The assembly work has grown and new teams established.

In the monthly prayer meeting numbers have increased slightly and we have enjoyed some great times together.

The Christmas and Easter programmes have again been well accepted by the schools.

700 copies of the Scripture Union Book "It's Your Move" were distributed to children before their move to secondary school. We are grateful to the churches who support their local school through us in this outreach.

An exciting development for Ice Wales this year has been a link with The Village Hope Trust. We are joining with them to employ a schools' worker for rural SE Wales. We are grateful to those churches, organisations and individuals who have given financial support for this work and we hope to have someone in position by January 2019. Please pray that God is already leading that person to us and that a successful appointment will be made for the next two years. Pray too for churches and schools in rural areas to open their doors to this work. We will be contacting schools and churches around Monmouth, the Wye valley and along the M4 corridor from Chepstow to Newport.

The coming academic year will see the everyday work of Ice continuing along with Christmas and Easter events and also the Life exhibition at one venue in the Autumn and two venues in May. Please hold all this work before the Lord and feel free to join us at our monthly prayer meeting at Bethesda on the first Thursday of each month. Two regular attenders at the prayer meeting write the following:



We are not able to go into the schools but we come to the monthly ICE Wales prayer meeting. What an encouragement the prayer meetings are as we hear about the opportunities in the schools that are still open to Bible teaching, and hear answers to our previous prayers. If you, like us, are not able to physically go into the schools, come and join us in the prayer meeting. We get to meet those who do go into the schools and gain fresh fuel for our prayers. Prayer changes things!

Reports from the areas

Please join us in thanking God for all the children reached this year and pray for a work of God's grace in each heart.

Janet from Swansea writes:

I have remembered a little blessing in Reception class that confirms our hope that children we meet will know for evermore the importance of the Bible! I always underline to them how vitally important the Bible as God's message to us is and ask them to always check that I have mine with me when I come into their classroom. And I do get lots of 'Have you got your Bible with you Miss Price?' On one or two occasions I have bumped into one of them in Sainsburys etc and been asked the same question!!! In Treuchaf Primary recently while rummaging in my bag for my Bible I heard "Hey up. The Bible is coming!!!".

Once again I thank the Lord for giving me opportunities to take Assemblies and share Bible stories mainly with Infant and Nursery children.

The ministry of planting seeds of God's Word in impressionable young minds is such a vital one especially when it's in the Hands of the One who gives the growth. Let's pray Isaiah 55:10-11 and claim the promise that's there. And the Lord's commandments to us when we step out in faith never lack His equipping and His enabling. Family responsibilities have made this school year a difficult one for me. Please pray that with a major one of those removed I will be able to rethink and renegotiate my commitment to local schools in September.

Rev Jonathan Greaves, Monmouth writes:

It's a privilege to be able to work in local schools in partnership with ICE. It is our aim to give every child and young person an opportunity to hear truth from the Bible and consider the claims of Jesus for themselves, at least once a year, through clubs and assemblies. This is approximately 4000 children in 10-12 different schools.

One of the highlights for us was hearing from staff at one local school who told us this year that in student questionnaires, our assemblies and Bible clubs are highly valued by pupils for religious and spiritual reflection, and for some they spontaneously mention our contact as one of the best things for them in school life in general. We are so thankful that God has helped us to find ways of connecting children with the Bible, and supporting the schools in this area.

I have the opportunity to lead ad-hoc School Assemblies in local Primary Schools and I am usually asked to lead the Comprehensive School end of term assemblies. I have a great relationship with the Haberdasher's independent Schools' chaplain, and pray for and support his work, as well as, at his invitation, leading services in the schools. Working for ICE has made my involvement much easier for this contact especially, and it has also opened the door for local schools to readily book up visits for the Life Exhibition which we will host in the Autumn.

"We will tell the next generation the trustworthy deeds of the Lord and the wonders he has done"

Psalm 78:4

Newport News: Sheila writes

In Glasllwch Primary School Newport on Thursday 1st February, seven children had brought back signed consent forms from their parents so that they could come along to lunch-time Bible Discovery Club. The children were very excited about the Club and told Kath and myself that they didn't know anything about the Bible. For us this was a big challenge and all seven continued to come each week, even if slightly late on occasions! Thursday, 1st March, was World Book Day and we decided that, as this is quite an event at Glasllwch, I would do a Bible presentation to mark the occasion. This included a display of different versions of the Bible, stories the children had learnt at Bible Discovery Club, display of Mary Jones and her Bible etc. Unfortunately, on the 1st March, due to the deep snow, Glasllwch was closed! However, the snow had all gone by the next week and so we were able to do the presentation. By the following week, the teacher had put the presentation up in a very prominent position. When the Spring term ended just before Easter, we made a prayerful decision to ask the school could we come back at the start of the Summer term and we were told "yes please"! The children were still keen to learn about the Bible and we finished at the half-term. We give thanks for this time at Glasllwch and to all those prayer warriors who support us.

Helen working at Mt Pleasant infants where she and Simon have trialed the SU computer game "Guardians of Ancora" writes of her joy at experiencing the enthusiasm and wonder the children express when they hear the Bible stories. Chris Powell working at High Cross records enjoyable sessions with Year 3 children and great enthusiasm even though the club did not start until Easter.

A long running club at St Woolos school often attracts as many as 25 Muslim children. This is a great encouragement to Amanda and Kath who have worked at the school for many years and enjoy good relationships with the staff.

The Malpas Road Church team reports a busy year with monthly assemblies at Crindau with the possibilities of closer contact being developed with the Church in the future. Four Bible Explorer sessions have been held. One of these was in a school with a Christian Head and Deputy which was a great encouragement. The Christmas and Easter events along with the GSUS LIVE bus were enthusiastically supported by the Church.



One of our prayer needs is for people who are able to join the work as there are more opportunities than workers, which is true of many of our situations. We also pray that God will do a work in hearts, as a result of the clubs and groups, that will cause them to open and seek the Lord.

Ann Ford working in the Heads of the Valley area writes:

Ebbw Vale area: It's been lovely to work with Kath Phillips who joined Ice Wales last September. Together we have been running the lunchtime club at Ebbw Fawr Community School. Usually about 20 pupils attend from years 1 & 2 and we have helpers from years 5 & 6.

Tredegar area: We are also grateful for the help we have received from Chris Thomas, Louise and Shirley in setting up the assemblies at Deighton Primary School which commenced on Feb 1st. The school children and staff have enjoyed the stories from the Bible and have been very welcoming in accommodating us. God willing, we hope to return in September. Our prayer is that we will get more volunteers from local churches. Please pray for Tredegar schools that God will open more doors to us. I also worked for a few weeks in Cwm Primary during the Autumn term where I worked alternate weeks with 23 pupils from year 1 and 32 pupils from year 2.

Sheila from Merthyr writes:

The work has been going on for about 17 years in Merthyr and 15 in Willottown, Ebbw Vale. We have three teams in Merthyr and I work alongside a teacher in Willottown.

The Willottown numbers are static - 100 children per week. The lunchtime Discovery clubs vary in number but one week in April this year we spoke to 153 children. We have covered stories from the Old Testament. 12 lessons from the Gospel of Mark and 8 from the parables of Jesus. We had a very sad experience when the youngest member of our teams passed away in April this year. Anita had been involved for many years on the Twynrodyn team from where she is greatly missed.

Trinant

A warm welcome is always extended to the assembly team in Trinant. Assemblies take place fortnightly and are eagerly awaited by both staff and pupils. The children love to take part in the assembly for which they receive an Ice badge. We are surprised by how much the children remember from assembly to assembly. Not long ago a quite young child remembered the name of the king in the story two weeks earlier. It was Hezekiah!!!

At the request of the children a Discovery club will be starting at the school this term. The Ice team has been invited to Christmas events at the school and even a Royal Wedding party!

Newbridge

Three schools in Newbridge are part of the assembly initiative. Vera and Pat work at Panside and the Tabernacle team led by Rev Peter Cho at Tynwydd and Crumlin High level. In all the schools the assemblies are popular and eagerly anticipated. One Head, on the second visit, made bookings for the rest of the year!!