



Big News for 2021...

Exeter ICE partnership with Scripture Union



Message from our Chairperson Brian Murray

ICE was started 30 years ago by churches in Exeter so they could work together on mission to schools. Today we continue to drive forward the mission to reach the young people of our city with the good news of Jesus.

An exciting new development is that we are now partnering with Scripture Union (SU). SU are focussed on a desire to reach the 95% of young people in our country who have no church connection, and to take the gospel to them, wherever they are. The schools work that ICE is engaged in is a perfect fit for partnering with SU.

SU seek to support established ministries, bringing specific benefits in the areas of training, governance, network, and wider ministry possibilities.

There are around 60 charities around the country like ICE - engaged in schools ministry - who already partner with SU, so this is a well established programme. A key factor that SU look for in partnering is that the local churches are all behind the mission to reach into schools, and

Exeter is a great example of that. It is a great tribute to the work of ICE - and the partnership with local churches - that SU see us as natural partners in gospel mission.

It is so important, as we take these steps to develop this vital work, that the whole community of Christians in the city recognise the importance of reaching the young people in Exeter. ICE exists only with the support of the Christians and churches in the city, so we are so thankful for the blessings of that support and partnership over many years, and look forward to seeing how God uses us all for his purposes in Exeter.



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This term our primary schools team have been able to return to some work on site by delivering the MOUSE course in primary schools.

The MOUSE course is designed to help primary school pupils make the



transition to secondary schools by thinking about the choices, challenges and changes that pupils could face. The schools were very glad to have our team back onsite. It was very encouraging for Sally & Anne-Marie that pupils recognised them from the video assemblies that have been available to schools.

The team have continued to produce video assemblies and other video content for primary schools. During this term, they found out that this content has been used by a group of Devon Schools that up until now we have had no direct contact with.

The RE Coordinator of this group of schools was looking for material online which she could use as part of their curriculum. After some online searches she found the ICE YouTube Channel and recognised the quality of the work. A chance conversation between an ICE supporter and the RE



coordinator revealed this exciting information. It is only through necessity that we went online yet the Lord has used this to grow the reach of our work. Praise God!

You can view all the videos on our YouTube channel. The story of Jonah was particularly fun to put together!

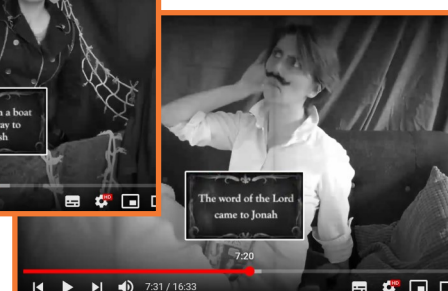
Activities for next term are already being planned, with the Life exhibition booked in the early part of 2022.

The team are also developing a new course which they hope to take into primary schools next year. Called "Like Me?" the programme uses Scripture Union materials to look at the theme of self-worth, self-esteem and self-respect.

***"Just wanted to say,
thanks for the session
with our year 6s on
Tuesday. It was
delivered really well for
them and the content
was just what they
needed to hear"***

Ruth, Year 6 Class Teacher

Do pray for Sally and Anne-Marie that they would return from their holidays refreshed and renewed for the year ahead.



What a year we have had! So many ups and downs through a crazy twelve months. But praise God, because we haven't just been able to cope with the challenges, but able to do much, much more.



Assemblies

A highlight for me was our Christmas and Easter assemblies. We

were sadly unable to do these assemblies in-person as we had planned, and therefore had to film them instead. But by filming them, we were able to send them to 4 secondary schools and more than 7,500 young people learned what Christmas and Easter are really about. I spoke to a teacher from Cranbrook school the other day. He told me that before our assembly, some of his class thought that Easter was just another commercial holiday, but now knew the true meaning of Easter.



Lunch Clubs

Another high point of this year was getting back to running some of our lunch clubs again. Our year 7 lunch clubs are for kids who find it difficult to fit in, giving them a space where they can play games, eat snacks, make friends and think through the big questions of life. Even with social distancing measures, it was still great fun to be back in school with the kids and building relationships there.



Mentoring

We have also seen some real positives with our TLG mentoring program.

We now have 9 mentors on our team and have been working with 8 young people this year. A real encouragement from this year is seeing the progress made by the pupils. One particular pupil was in a

bad place when he started with his mentor. His self confidence was so low that during January, he only spoke to 2 people for the whole month. But in the summer term, he was spending time with friends and family again and was doing a lot better in school.

"Thank you so much for all you're doing to support our children. I really appreciate the prayers - particularly for my 14 year old 'lost sheep' and my other daughter benefits so much from the support of a TLG mentor. Love the ICE team."

Secondary School Parent



ECCU

Exeter College CU has also been making the best of a tough year. Our team helped lead the group some-times in person and sometimes online, but always doing an amazing job of encouraging and supporting the students during this year.

Next year, we are hoping to build on the encouragements of this year. We would love you to pray for more lunch clubs, more mentors and more schools wanting to engage with our ministry.

"I think ECCU has been really great this year, it's been such a huge encouragement especially during lockdown and just generally with it being such a strange year, having the encouragement from CU has been really great."

Exeter College Student



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For many Christians in Exeter, schools are centre stage in their lives. Maybe it is your place of work - teaching staff, leadership team, or auxiliary staff; or where you are actively volunteering - either going into schools, or as a governor, or some other capacity; maybe your church meets in a school building; you may have children, or grandchildren who are at school; and all of us have been to school.

A cross church group called ONE for Exeter have set up a small steering group to begin looking at how the Christian community in the city can help and encourage Christians in that sector of city life. Prayer is going to be an important foundation, as well as building a picture of where churches are active in what schools - to show where resources are strong - and maybe areas of opportunity where there are currently fewer connections.

ICE are a core part of this group so we'd value prayer for the success of this venture. It is important to gain an overview of what is happening in our schools and to be good and wise stewards of the resources God has given us.

Brian Murray –Chairman Exeter ICE.



Have the ICE team at your sunday service

We would love to join you at your church and talk about
how you can partner with us.

Email: office@icetrust.co.uk to book now!