





Not that CRiBS ever stands still, 2024 has definitely been a year of change. For only the second time in 31 years of CRiBS there was a change of leadership! Mark Leveson, CEO, departed at the end of August having led the organisation for 7 years. From September, a new Senior Leadership Team (SLT) was implemented, as I was appointed as Director supported by Adam Parfett and Dan Milne as Operations Managers. Also, the whole team moved to term-time contracts.

Despite that, as a team, and as a mission our constant is our Firm Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10-11), Jesus Christ, and it is with that message of Good News ('the Gospel') that we go into schools in a number of different ways, which you can read about in this review of 2024. This is our purpose and our joy - for the education and wellbeing of the children and young people that we have the privilege to be able to help schools teach and support.

Paul Davis, CRiBS Director

Our purpose

CRiBS' work supports the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of children and young people as we seek to inspire Growing Faith. Our desire is that all children have the opportunity to explore and think through the values they live by and the beliefs that underpin them.

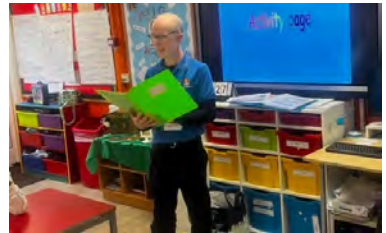
Our starting point is that the Christian message provides a compelling framework for doing this in a way that includes people of all backgrounds and provides space for growth and exploration. As we move forward in this new phase of CRiBS, this remains true.

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The CRiBS team have been delivering creative, interactive RE lessons since 1993, and it represents the heart of our work. REconnect is a programme that offers the teaching of Christianity, as part of the RE syllabus, and consists of a bank of over 300 creative and memorable lessons, helping children consider faith in a fun and engaging way.

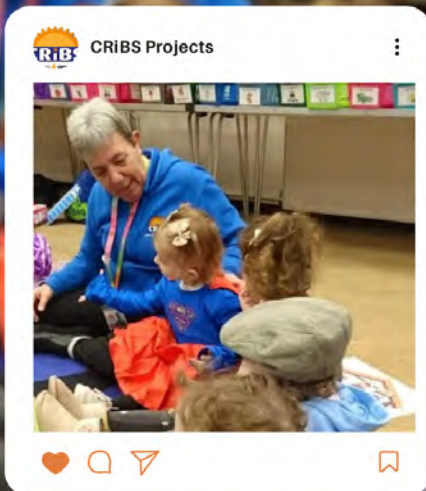
The team teach in primary schools across Bexley Borough as well as now extending into neighbouring boroughs, and have additionally developed teaching sessions for pre-schools ('Mini-Explorers'). REconnect also includes bespoke workshops covering a range of aspects with regards to Christianity and values education.



Jason teaching an RE Lesson

RE lessons remain an important opportunity for CRiBS to present Christian faith and the hope that we have, sowing seeds that we trust will bear fruit in the future.

Carole delivering 'Mini-Explorers'



'As well as the children learning. I feel as an educator I have expanded my knowledge of ways to introduce topics.'
(Yr 5 Teacher)

'I just want the lessons to be longer so we can learn more together.'
(Yr 3 pupil)

Primary



Our 10-week small-group intervention programme ('HeartSense') focussing on emotions and well-being is for children across Years 2-6 who may be struggling with:

- engagement in the classroom
- social interactions
- an unsettled home environment

'I think Unlimited is really good for wellbeing and confidence. Five star rating from me'
(Pupil)

Depending on particular needs, this can develop further into a longer-term programme of mentoring support.

There continues to be high demand for Unlimited in primary schools. Throughout 2024 we have worked in 11 schools, some of which we have now been working in continuously for over 7 years.

The small-group work can then be supplemented by an after-school club to help with team play, social skills and confidence building. However, due to school funding and priorities, this only took place in one school this year.

'She is a lot more accepting of situations that would upset her more. She will talk through and understand negative situations.'
(Teacher)

Teresa, Abigail, James and Adam in 'Heartsense' sessions



Over 400 children supported during 2023/2024



Secondary

CRiBS Unlimited mentoring for secondary school students provides a safe space for a young person to sit and talk with a trained mentor about any concerns or difficulties they are facing.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer mentor or CU support can contact the CRiBS office for more information.

In 2024 our mentoring presence expanded its reach into six secondary schools, with a significant increase in the amount of pupils being mentored. We also linked in with a social prescribing project that allowed us to build relationships with new schools, in which we have been able to continue providing mentoring beyond the end of our involvement in the project.

One of the biggest areas of growth in our secondary work has been transition mentoring where we provide some short-term support to new Year 7 students to help them settle into their new school. This has led to more mentoring opportunities in two of our schools.

We are also passionate about supporting young people leading Christian Unions in their schools. This is an area we would love to see develop further, although our own staffing levels, as well as access to schools, makes this a challenge.

Isaac mentoring



'I think this 1-to-1 session has helped me a lot and it has helped me in lessons and it has made me more independent and I 100% recommend to someone else'
(Student)

Mentoring: 70 students, 6 schools CUs: 40 students, 3 schools

Workshops



CAP Money: Kids course is a two-session workshop developed by 'Christians Against Poverty'.

It is aimed at children in Years 5 and 6.

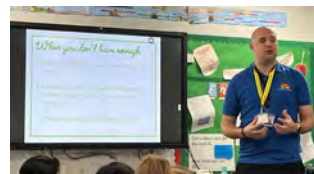
The two sessions provide a basic understanding of income, expenditure, saving, giving, budgeting, and the impact debt can have on families. The sessions trigger some fantastic discussions and have been widely appreciated by staff and pupils. This has now become an established part of CRiBS work in schools.

'I learnt that you should be happy with what you have and spend wisely.'

(Pupil)

'The children thoroughly enjoyed planning their own budget. This gave them a real context for the mathematical application and an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that budgeting presents.'

(Teacher)



Dan delivering a 'CAP Money:Kids' course

Approx 1100 children, 43 classes, 20 schools in 2024

Once again in 2024 we delivered 'Moving Up', our transition support workshop for children in Year 6 to help them prepare for their move to secondary school.



'The CRiBS staff created a safe environment where the children could share their opinions'

(Teacher)

The workshop uses a mix of media content, small-group activities and whole-class discussions to help children explore how they are feeling about some of the changes associated with going to a different school.

'I now know different ways to remember my primary school memories and where to go if something happens.'

(Pupil)

We delivered 'Moving Up' in 21 schools in 2024 with very positive feedback from pupils and teachers, which really emphasises the importance of these sessions.



Over 900 children, 30 classes, 21 schools visited in 2024

The CRiBS team have been performing seasonal productions since 1997. These dramatic presentations are written and performed by the team to provide children with explanation and understanding of the reason for the Christian celebration of Christmas and Easter, and bringing them to life. They are delivered in a creative way with acting, puppetry, music and dance, and seek to engage the children with interactive performances.



This year's performances of "Good News Flash" at Easter and "His-Story in the Present" at Christmas proved as popular as ever with bookings and positive feedback from children and staff. It has been great to see the opportunities widen as demand for the productions extends further afield and more schools outside of Bexley Borough are booking.

'It was a brilliant production which was accessible to all children; it was thoroughly enjoyable and was a fantastic end to the term for our school.'
(Teacher)

'The production gave a clear account of the Biblical account in a child-friendly way. This supported the RE work that has been done in class.'
(Teacher)

'His-Story in the Present'

'Good News Flash'



Over 15,000 children across 45 different schools during 2023/2024

Volunteers

Charities in general appreciate their volunteer support, and CRiBS is no different!

With the new school year, September 2024 saw two new Korus join us. Both students have been an asset to the team, providing support in Unlimited and RE lessons. They immediately threw themselves into CRiBS work, quickly becoming valued team members.



In addition to working alongside the CRiBS team, each Gap Year student is assigned to a church as part of their placement. This enables them to participate in the life of the church, including supporting the running of various children's groups.

In 2024 St John's Welling and New Hope hosted Korus.

Koru gap year: running since 2014, hosting a total of 30 students

During 2024, our number of volunteers grew, with three new people joining us. Volunteers can work with our Unlimited team in primary schools, or as mentors in secondary schools, and are provided with training and support. We also have volunteers supporting work in the office.

Three new volunteers joined the team during 2024

Community

Over many years, CRiBS has supported local church community events 'Spark in the Park' and 'Lark in the Park', and 2024 was no exception. Team members retold Bible accounts and stories in a fun and engaging way, with some of the Bible characters time-travelling to share their experiences! It is always a privilege to serve alongside the Church in our Borough.

CRiBS team at 'Spark in the Park' and 'Lark in the Park'



Trustees

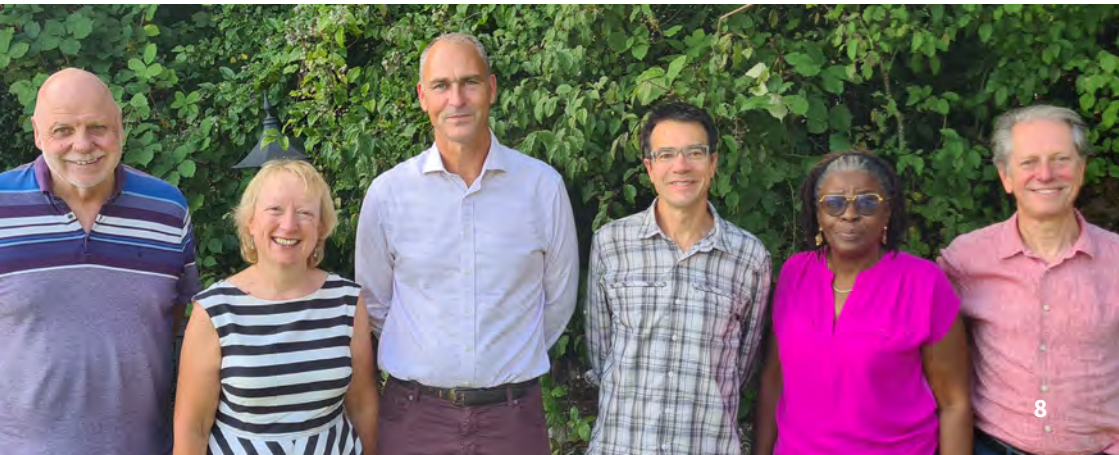
The CRiBS Trustees and team would like to say a huge thank you to all our loyal supporters.

CRiBS has a team of six Trustees, all respected Christian people who draw on a wide range of skills and experience, and we could not function without them. Amongst other things, they are responsible to the Charity Commission for the sound financial management of CRiBS as a charity, and to donors and supporters for the efficient use of resources.

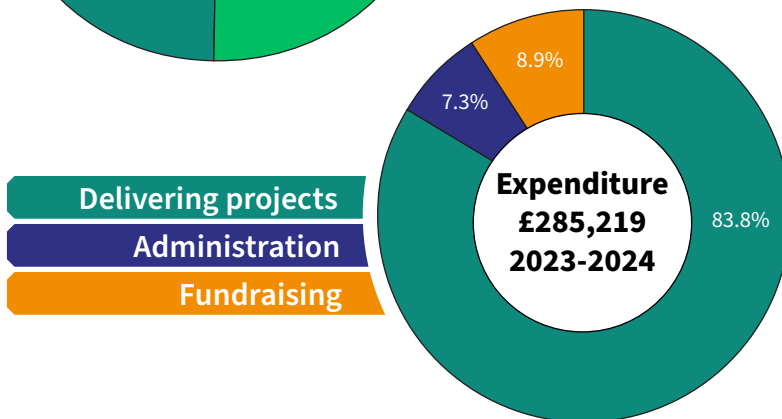
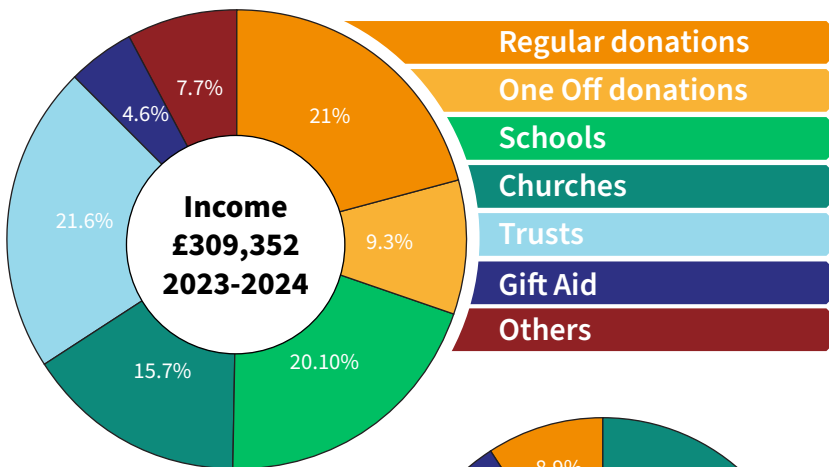
CRiBS celebrated its 30th year, and we're grateful to God for his goodness in enabling CRiBS to flourish. To mark this milestone, a special appeal was launched to raise an additional £30,000 to support our ongoing work. We were extremely grateful for all the supporters who enabled us to reach that target. As a result, incoming resources for the latest financial year amounted to £309,352 and resources expended £285,219, giving rise to a surplus of £24,133. Nevertheless, this followed a significant deficit in the previous year and the Trustees are conscious of the need to ensure CRiBS has a sustainable cost base for the future. Trustees therefore considered and put in place some adjustments to the team structure, including a move to term-time working.

We were sorry to lose the wise leadership of Mark Leveson when he moved on during 2024, and we have been grateful to our excellent team for their flexibility and commitment in adjusting to new ways of working under the leadership of Paul Davis. We also are thankful for the many committed churches, individuals, businesses and trusts who support us. We continue to look to widen the financial support base so that we can develop CRiBS' mission for many years to come.

David Linley, Anne Wood, Martin Andrews, Tom Parsons, Bola Ojo, Steve Burnett



Finance 2023-24



Helping us change lives and positively impact the future of thousands of children and young people, as we share the light, love and life of Jesus with them in their schools.

How can you help?



Did you know?

- £10** a month could pay for resources for a lesson in a school
- £37** could provide for an Unlimited 'Heartsense' session in one school
- £100** will pay for one school performance of our Easter or Christmas play
- £220** could help us teach RE in one school for a whole term

- I am returning this response form with a cheque for £_____ payable to CRiBS Charitable Trust.
- I have set up a regular bank transfer to CRiBS Charitable Trust.
Bank Account: 65293438 Sort Code 08-92-99.
- I would like information about leaving a gift to CRiBS in my will.

Contact Details

Title:..... First Name: Surname:.....
Address:.....
..... Postcode:.....
Email Address:..... Telephone:.....

Contact preferences: email mail phone do not contact me

- I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to CRiBS Charitable Trust
- I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to CRiBS Charitable Trust.

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify CRiBS if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Signed: Date:



REconnect



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