

## Dear Friends and Supporters

Happy New Year! We hope you are well and that you had an enjoyable end to 2023.

As we look back on the academic year so far, we are thankful for all that God has done through BSC and excited about what lies ahead for 2024. Our vision remains the same – to see every school in the Bristol area having a good connection with local church. We have wonderfully seen this vision becoming more of a reality in 2023 e.g. we have worked with churches and schools that are new to us, and seen more schools having Prayer Spaces, Christmas in a Box, and Easter in a Box hosted by local church.

We want to say a huge thank you to Liz who finished working with us at the end of December to progress her coaching work. Liz has helped to develop the work of this charity over many years and has been a huge blessing to us and many of you. In 2024 we enter a new season of partnering with others to achieve our vision.

Ephesians 3:20 rings true for us as we reflect and look forward:

*With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. (NCV)*

Thank you for being a part of this story. We couldn't do this without your support through prayer, encouragement and giving.

Love and prayers  
Jane and the Trustees

## Giving

Please prayerfully consider giving to our charity. We would love 20 more people to give £25 a month to cover our deficit. [Click here](#) to donate.

BSC is a registered charity – no. 1162067

## Christmas in a Box and other Christmas Connections



Malc from Mustard Tree Community Church running CIAB for the first time

Wow – another amazing year! 1700 school children across Bristol had the joy of experiencing Christmas in a Box, hosted by a local church team. From Oct to Dec, we invested our time in whatever way we could to facilitate teams running CIAB across Bristol. This involved: delivering numerous training sessions; journeying with team leaders who were running CIAB for the first time; praying for teams and cheering them on; and lastly the joy of joining in with teams as they ran CIAB in various schools! We have continued to receive positive feedback about this resource from our Bristol teams and from teams all over the UK!

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Totterdown Baptist running Christmas in a Box

We also supported people across Bristol who were connecting with their school in other ways during the run up to Christmas – this included running trails, prayer spaces, collective worship, Christingle services for their school communities. This amounted to about 5700 children who were exploring the Christmas story with local Christians!



Christmas in a Box – Each child gets a takeaway mini box

## Training



Rachel sharing her story during our seminar at the Mullers Y&C Conference

September to December was a busy time for us as we ran various sessions at conferences and gatherings, which included the Diocese of Bristol Education Conference, The Mullers Children and Youth Conference, Clifton Catholic Diocese Chaplaincy Gathering, and a regional Methodist study day. It was a privilege to connect with so many incredible people from different denominations who have a heart for the spiritual development of children.

## Jesus Out of the Box



First planning session for Jesus Out of the Box – June 2023

We have been working on a new and exciting resource, the third in the trilogy – Jesus Out of the Box! This resource creates a space for young people to explore the surprising stories of Jesus' life in an imaginative, interactive, and reflective way. The resource will shortly be trialled and tweaked before being launched at the end of April.

## Kids Matter

Kids Matter are a wonderful charity that we champion in the Bristol area – ideal for churches who would like to run parenting programmes in their school community. If you are interested in finding out more, we will be co-hosting an online taster session with Kids Matter on 24th January 10am–11am.



Kids Matter Programme Graduation Nov 23 – Easton Christian Family Centre

## Coming Up

- **Kids Matter** online taster session – 24th January 10am–11am
- **Easter in a Box – The Movie** online training sessions will be happening at the end of Jan and into Feb.
- **Save the Date: Sunday 28th April 3–5pm** – Bristol Schools Connection Gathering for friends and supporters, including the launch of Jesus Out of the Box.