

The Connection

Spring 2023



Welcome to our latest update.

Spring is here and Easter is just around the corner, which means we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is always portrayed as a time of giving up and going without the good things we enjoy. Sometimes though, it is only when you give something up that you can really appreciate what you had. There is definitely something in the old adage 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone'.

Another one that also rings true is 'You can't miss what you never knew'. The thought that so many young people don't know what they are missing by not being aware of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for them is what drives Label of Love. Our prayer this Lent is that we will be able to reach many of them with the message of this life-changing gift.

We wish you all a happy Easter.





'REaction updates'

Faces of Easter

This March we are holding 2 REaction days in Beverley Minster and 1 in Bridlington.

The theme of the days will be 'The Faces of Easter' and will explore how different people respond to Jesus' life, death and resurrection.



Advent

In November we held our Advent REaction event at Beverley Minster, looking at the Christmas story and what the coming of Jesus means for Christians around the world.

There were workshops looking at Advent music and songs, the festivals of Christingle and Hanukkah, the coming of Jesus and real-life rescue through drama and music and games. The drama workshop explored Lights of Hope, where the children acted out a real-life story of being trapped in darkness, waiting a long time for light to come and rescue them. This was the story of the Thai boys football team who were trapped in a cave. They then thought about how the rescue of the boys is like how Christians feel about Jesus. He has rescued us from darkness and brought us into the light and to life.



Isaiah 9:2 - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

Label of Love, Cottingham Methodist Church, Hallgate, Cottingham, East Yorkshire, HU16 4BD.

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Mentoring

As part of my role at South Hunsley Secondary School, in partnership with Hunsley Christian Youth Trust, I mentor students. Meaning I meet with them weekly for about 30 minutes. They vary in age, come from a range of home backgrounds and face different challenges.

Many young people in today's culture don't have a trusted adult they can talk to or turn to in times of need. Many find it hard to talk about their feelings, or even understand them. They are often confused, anxious and lonely.

When they first come to see me they can be rather defensive and closed off, not wanting to appear vulnerable or weak, but after a while their demeanour changes. They relax and feel safe, knowing I will listen without judgement, support them without condemnation and journey alongside them without fearing I will abandon them.

It's a privilege to watch as they unravel, take down the walls and share their feelings, often for the first time. Then to watch them grow in self confidence and resilience.

One young person said *'thank you for listening to me, I feel I've been able to say things that have been hidden away. Sharing them has helped me feel strong.'*

As I reflect on my work supporting students, I'm thankful for the support I have through family and friends who listen and guide. Ultimately I'm thankful for my faith in Jesus, Who through life's storms has always been my rock and strength.

My faith often comes up in conversation with the students I see. I'm able to share from personal experience the peace I have felt in knowing Jesus and His love for me.

I hope the work supporting students continues and that they would come to know that they are loved, handmade and have a hope for the future.

Adam

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Introducing Cathy, the newest member of the team!

I enjoy relaxing by gentle walks in the countryside or watching a favourite TV programme. My favourite food is vegetable curry and I love a good cup of tea with friends. Family life is busy, with grandchildren as well as my own five children and their spouses.

Previously, for 14 years I worked on Longhill Estate in East Hull, supporting a small local Church and growing a Christian charity to minister to children and young people in schools and the community.

Currently I am involved in Church and Schools ministry, working part time for Beverley Schools Christian Trust and Toll Gavel United Church. I am training to be a Counsellor and on a weekend I work as a Bereavement Support Facilitator, for The Together in Grief Forest Project which supports bereaved young people in a forest setting.

I am very much enjoying being on team with Label of Love and I hope you meet many of you in my role as Development Officer in the coming months.



Cathy

Taking Stock

The last few years have seen a lot of challenges which have impacted in different ways on schools and on churches, and on Label of Love. So we are taking some time to reflect on what these changes might mean for us as a charity but also what they might mean for Christian ministry in schools in Hull and the East Riding.

There are some big questions we are thinking about are: what might be the best way to share our faith in schools; what needs do schools and children and young people have that we might help with; how can we pay for the work we might do; who might God be calling to join in with this sort of work?

Cathy is leading this piece of work for us over the next six months.

She may well be in touch with you if you have experienced our work, are a supporter, a local church leader, or are just interested in young people, schools and faith. We hope you will be able to talk to Cathy and offer your perspective on the questions we are asking. Please do pray for us as staff and trustees as we look for our next steps.

Meanwhile, if you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining the Label of Love team as a volunteer, working with young people in schools and through Christian youth projects, please to get in touch with us to find out more! We would love you to come and join us. Our contact details are at the bottom of the page.

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