



# Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Autumn Term 2025

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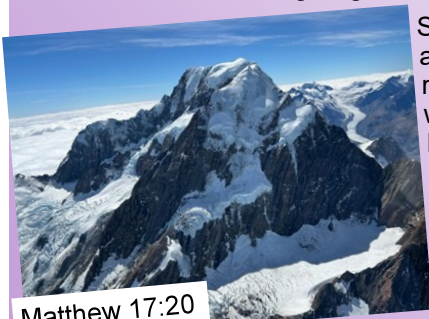
*"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"*



## Moving Mountains

On behalf of the Trustees and staff of BSCWT, I would like to thank you for the way in which you have generously supported our appeal for new donations since my article in our Summer Term Newsletter.

In my recent letter to supporters, I summarised giving to the appeal at the end of August as representing 135 new donors of £25 per month over three years, which equates to 68% of our target. Writing now in October, I can report that we have received some further additional giving in September, although at a lower level.



Matthew 17:20

So, we are two thirds of the way! Or, alternatively, we are looking at reducing the current scope of our work by 30% from September 2026. Inevitably this will mean fewer staff offering fewer activities in fewer schools, with fewer children coming into contact with the love of God and Bible truths. Our Trustees have met with staff to look at the options for the future shape of the

Trust, but these are difficult decisions. All additional giving will be reviewed by the Trustees at the end of December 2025.

Please continue to support staff and Trustees in your prayers. We serve a faithful God who is blessing the children of Brentwood through the work of BSCWT and promises to move mountains.

*Sally McMahon, Chair of Trustees*

## 9 things we're doing in schools this term.....

- 'Christmas Wonder' Project with at least 9 schools (bookings still open)
- 'Darkness to Light' Project with at least 13 schools (bookings still open)
- Weekly lunchtime clubs in 5 schools
- 10 'OT/NT Mini' lessons
- A 2-day whole-school 'prayer space' with a primary school
- One-to-one pupil support in 8 schools
- 65 assemblies in 31 schools
- A pop-up prayer space for 6th Formers
- 'Caterpillars' support group for Year 1 pupils

## Schools Ministry Sunday

**The date:** Sunday 1st February 2026

**The place:** local churches

**The reason:** to give thanks for, raise awareness of, and pray for all kinds of Christian ministry that goes on to serve our local schools, including the work of BSCWT and others.

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

This coming January will mark 20 years since I began my role as Director of Schools Work at BSCWT! It has been a remarkable privilege to serve God with an amazing group of people from many churches, working together to support our local schools. Over those 20 years, countless thousands of children and young people have been able to learn about Christian faith because of the work of this extraordinary charity.

As I reflect upon these past years, I don't believe the opportunities have ever been greater than they are now for us to continue this vital work, serving our local schools. In this newsletter, you can read about some of the current opportunities. But in order to continue taking these opportunities to reach the next generation of children and young people, we need to raise up a new generation of supporters, as Sally highlights in her article above.

For details on how to donate, please visit [www.bscwt.org/donate](http://www.bscwt.org/donate) or scan the QR code. Thank you so very much for your support.

*Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work*



*Alison with pupils at 'It's Your Move'*

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## Spaces for Prayer & Wonder

'Prayer Spaces in Schools' explore spirituality from a broadly Christian perspective, in accessible and creative ways which differ with each situation, age group and school.

Our whole-school prayer space with St Mary's recently took place in church over two days, each class engaging with four zones during their thirty minute visit.

This year's theme, 'Meeting Jesus', reflects on Jesus bringing help, friendship, forgiveness and peace using stories of people who met Him. It was adapted for St Thomas' School, using their Prayer Garden and Year 6 Prayer Garden Assistants on team.

Our 'Wonder Space' at St Martin's School is a weekly voluntary club, providing reflective zones to wander around at lunchtime. It has covered topics such as 'back to school,' 'dealing with mean people' and 'how does God get your attention?', and has just launched 'Wonder Space Bags' which are take-away prayer bags to encourage calm and deep thinking.

*Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker*



A 'prayer space' activity: planting prayers



## Primary & Specialist School Assemblies

This year, the overarching theme for our assemblies in primary and specialist schools is about the apostle Peter following Jesus and getting the unexpected! Earlier this term, we kickstarted the series with Peter choosing to follow Jesus. School staff commented on how this linked well with recent conversations about choices, and teachers used it to raise some helpful points for children.

Pupil involvement in our assemblies is high. At one school, as pupils were coming in, 10 of them excitedly asked to volunteer that day! This is common across the schools.

During the second half of this term, we are inviting pupils to consider Peter walking on water! We also have a Christmas theme at a specialist school 6th form assembly and an extra Peter story at one school which wants even more of our assemblies!

*Frances Coe, Schools Worker*

## Darkness to Light



It is a privilege to be invited into schools again this year to deliver 'Darkness to Light' lessons with the Year 2 classes.

This wonderful, interactive lesson takes the children on a journey through the Christmas story, whilst also exploring the themes of darkness and light in the

actions, emotions and words they encounter, all with the help of our puppets, Lucy Light and Frightened Freddie.

At the time of writing, schools are still booking us for these lessons and we are making plans so that we can help the children understand the true wonder of Christmas.

*Holly Coleman, Schools Worker*



'Darkness to Light' last year

## Christmas Wonder

This year, we once again have the amazing privilege of helping hundreds of Year 6 primary school children to reflect on the meaning and significance of Christmas.

These lessons, mostly held in local churches, are in the style of a prayer space. After participating in a lively and interactive telling of the Nativity story, the children break into groups to move around a variety of zones, focusing on different aspects of the Biblical account.

They are encouraged to consider the relevance of the story to their everyday lives and to 'wonder' at the astonishing events of the first Christmas.

*Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker*



'Christmas Wonder' last year

## Lunchtime Clubs

We are very blessed to currently be running primary school clubs in Warley, Ingatestone Juniors, Holly Trees and Mountnessing with good numbers in attendance. Clubs provide us with an amazing opportunity to teach children about the Bible while having fun. This academic year we are looking at Miracles and this term the focus is on Old Testament miracles such as Elisha and the widow's oil (2 Kings 4) and Joshua crossing the River Jordan (Joshua 3). We are also thankful to be able to run a lunchtime club called 'Wonder Space' at St Martin's School which helps pupils to wonder and think deeply about life and spiritual topics.

*Evie Bartlett, Project Administrator & Schools Worker*



## The Invisible Gorilla!

What do an invisible gorilla, world toilet day and Christmas have in common?! They are all part of our assemblies in secondary schools this term! But sadly there isn't enough space here to explain!

We continue to count it an enormous privilege to take regular assemblies in several of our local secondary schools. This term, we are helping students reflect on themes such as serving others, having empathy and being aware of other people's concerns - all from a Christian perspective.

Earlier this term, in one school's sixth form, we also installed a 'pop-up prayer space' for a week as a follow-up to our assemblies there, so students were able to continue reflecting on the theme.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work



Pupils at 'It's Your Move' last term

## Feedback from a primary school:

*"We feel that the support your workers and volunteers show to our school is invaluable. We are so grateful to the entire team and feel that our school would absolutely be worse off if the support ceased. The BSCWT team are valued as an integral part of the school family."*

## Being an Associate Worker

I became an Associate Worker last summer joining Alison at a weekly lunchtime club for Years 3 to 6 at a local primary school. Not having been in a school for many years, I had much to learn and still do.

Our club meets in a round open covered pavilion set in a quiet grassy garden area – perfect for running around – albeit not so quiet when the pupils come charging up the path! We have a wonderful teacher who encourages pupils to come to the club, gives up her lunch break to join us and helps us in getting to know the pupils. After an energetic themed game in the garden we sit down in the pavilion to re-enact an animated Bible story and then recreate the story in craft form – fun when it is windy!

Alison also leads assemblies at the same school, with over two hundred bouncy pupils crammed into the hall for a creative and lively presentation of a Bible story or theme. What a privilege to be an Associate Worker with BSCWT!



John McMahon, Associate Worker

## Pupil Support

Recent years have been so challenging for young people in the context of a global pandemic, political instability, cultural shifts and global crises, and the effects of these on their education, work and future. Youth for Christ's latest national research, 'Z to A: Growing Spirituality', shows a spiritual openness among young people across our nation.

We have a big opportunity to help young people learn about God and faith for themselves. In our pupil support work, we have weekly opportunities to listen to children and young people in schools to provide the space they need to talk about the challenges they face. Please pray for young people and our team of Chaplains providing this much-needed support.

Fiona Mason, Operations Manager & Schools Worker

Feedback from a secondary school on our pupil support work: *"Our students always say they feel better once they've spoken with a member of your team."*



## 'Caterpillars'

This term, Evie and I are running a 6-week 'Caterpillars' course with a small group of children at a local infants school. The course is about growing through change, with the aim of building confidence, self-esteem, resilience, relational skills and emotional regulation and understanding.



The course is built around the Biblical story of the Lost Son (see Luke 15) and involves games, chatting, craft and the opportunity to express feelings. Tricky, a wolf puppet, is an integral part of the group, encouraging the children to join in and express their opinions as well as reinforcing the theme of each session. We are very much looking forward to the final session, when one of our Associate Workers, Angela, will visit the group with Tricky's puppet friends!

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



Sue with pupils at 'It's Your Move' last term

## Church Visits

Thank you to our local churches who have hosted BSCWT this term at a Sunday service or a midweek group, to hear about the work of BSCWT in the local schools.

If your church/group is interested in hearing more about the work of BSCWT in the schools, please contact Fiona or Ian via [office@bscwt.org](mailto:office@bscwt.org).



Pupils at 'Darkness to Light' last year

## Looking back to 'It's Your Move'

Last term, our team had the privilege of taking 25 'It's Your Move' lessons with over 850 Year 6 pupils. These lessons provide space for the pupils to consider the changes, challenges and choices which may lie ahead as they move to secondary school. Local churches sponsor books (published by Scripture Union) which are given to each pupil, as an additional source of advice and help. Thank you to all our Associate Workers who help run these lessons and to the churches for providing the books. We always receive encouraging feedback from the schools.



From a primary school: 'It's Your Move' each year is a super resource for the transition to secondary school."

## Quiz Night fundraiser!

A big "thank you" to everyone who attended our Quiz Night fundraiser in October and to all who donated raffle prizes. Over £1,000 was raised for the work of BSCWT and a great evening was had by all!



Pupils at 'It's Your Move'

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Most of the photos of our projects are provided by PhotographybyAnnaMarie.

## Could you help us provide Christian learning and support to the next generation? Read on...

**PRAY:** We believe praying for our local schools, children and young people is really important...

- To receive weekly prayer updates, termly prayer calendars and other information to help you pray, please visit [www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent](http://www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent).
- Why not start a prayer group for schools in your church or start/join a prayer group for a particular school?
- Just pray - on your own or with others!

**VOLUNTEER:** There are over 40 people who give their time and energy to volunteer with BSCWT, either in schools as 'Associate Workers' or behind the scenes as Trustees, Support Team members or Church Reps.

- Visit [www.bscwt.org/vacancies](http://www.bscwt.org/vacancies) to find out more.
- To express an interest in doing an internship or work experience placement with us, contact us at [office@bscwt.org](mailto:office@bscwt.org).

**DONATE:** We are immensely grateful for everyone who supports us financially - thank you! In addition to our existing income, we are looking for at least 200 people who could give £25 a month (or 500 people who could give £10 a month!) to enable us to keep reaching thousands of young people and children in our local schools. If you can give more, or less, or if you can increase your existing support, we appreciate every contribution.

- To set up a standing order or a one-off donation via your online/phone banking, please contact us at [office@bscwt.org](mailto:office@bscwt.org) for our bank account details.
- To complete a Gift Aid Declaration form, if applicable, visit [www.bit.ly/BSCWTgiftaidform](http://www.bit.ly/BSCWTgiftaidform).
- Go to [www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156) to donate via Stewardship.
- We can also accept cheques (payable to BSCWT).
- Visit [www.bscwt.org/donate](http://www.bscwt.org/donate) for further information.

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