



Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Autumn Term 2021

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No: 1172358

BSCWT can be found both on Facebook and Twitter at:
www.facebook.com/BSCWT and www.twitter.com/BSCWT.



"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"



Rebuilding, Recovering, Reflecting

One of the many encouragements we have had from schools recently came when a teacher commented gratefully on how we (BSCWT) had continued to stand with them and support their school throughout the difficulties of the last year and a half.

Even though the Covid pandemic still presents many challenges in schools, this term has brought with it a welcome step forward in the ways schools are operating. This has brought about increased opportunities for our team of staff and volunteers to visit schools in person for a wider variety of activities, including taking assemblies, running and supporting clubs, offering 'prayer spaces', and providing pastoral support to pupils.

It feels very much like we are in the process of rebuilding our ways of serving schools as we also take time to reflect on where God is leading us and to recover, and help others recover, from all that has happened in recent times.

And while we continue to stand with, serve and support schools, we are immensely grateful to you for standing with us to help us in this important work.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Schools Work Sunday

...is on **Sunday 6th February 2022**. This is an opportunity for churches to celebrate, raise awareness of and pray for the Christian work that goes on in our local schools through various groups and people, including BSCWT.

More information will be out nearer the time but please mark this in your diary to remember the date!

7 things we are doing in schools this term:

- Assemblies in over 20 schools
- 'Rooted' support group for boys
- Secondary school Christian Union
- One-to-one pupil support in 7 schools
- 'Christmas Wonder' Prayer Space with primary schools in local churches
- Primary school lunchtime club
- Sixth form Q&A workshop



New Treasurer Needed!

Our current Treasurer will be stepping down in the early part of 2022 and the Trust is therefore seeking to find a successor for this essential role. Could this be you or anyone you know?

A full Job Description for the Role of Treasurer, which details current functions and responsibilities, and also gives an indication of the time involved in undertaking this work, is available on the BSCWT website at www.bscwt.org/vacancies.

If you have any questions regarding this role, please email our Chair of Trustees, Kevin Gilderson, at trustees@bscwt.org.

We are asking for submissions of interest, including details of relevant experience, to be made by **Tuesday 30th November**.

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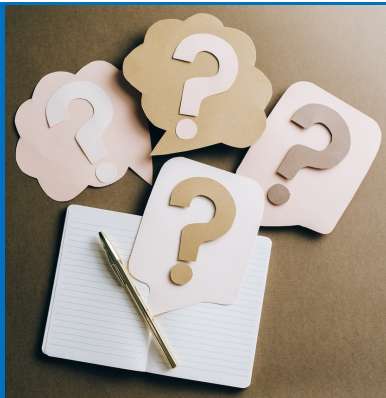
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Sixth Form "Q and A"

Earlier this term, Holly and I attended a question and answer session with fifty 6th Form students at Becket Keys School. They had previously participated in a series of lessons entitled 'Why bother with religion?' The students

asked some very deep, thoughtful questions, which were somewhat different to the more controversial questions we were expecting! We were also able to share some of our more personal experiences of faith.

The feedback we received from students included this comment: **"I thoroughly appreciated learning more about Christianity and the way it can benefit me in my everyday life. I am most definitely going to explore it more at school and in my own time!"**

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



One-to-one pupil support in Primary & Secondary Schools



Our pupil support work continues to be in high demand. Since the start of term, our Chaplains have been supporting students each week in 7 schools. We never underestimate the privilege of listening to a young person as they share concerns and worries in a trusted environment.

The effects of the pandemic continue to have an impact on children and young people. Increased stress, anxiety, eating disorders, feelings of low mood, loss, bereavement, sadness, anger, loneliness and panic attacks all make keeping up with school life and studies very challenging, together with concerns over impending exams, choices and life decisions.

With many support agencies having long waiting lists, our flexibility to provide a listening ear and much needed space can help a young person face the day or circumstance. Hearing a young person thankful for our help and asking for continued support is a blessing and an honour.

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker

Fiona Mason, Administrator & Schools Worker



Recent feedback from a school staff member:

"In a time when mental health services are stretched and budgets are tight, your generous and professional input is very much appreciated. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do!"

Thank you to churches for supporting IYM

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to local churches for sponsoring the "It's Your Move" books once again this year. Thanks to your support, we were able to provide over 900 books to 27 local schools to help their Year 6 pupils in their transition to secondary school.

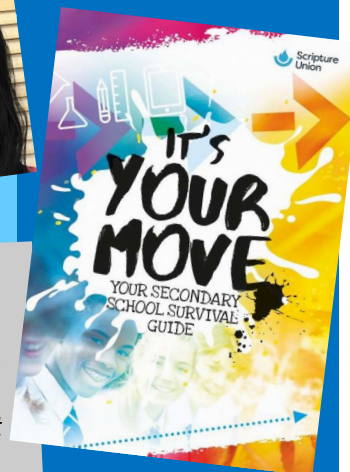
Gelila Melaku, Project Administrator



Some feedback from teachers about our digital 'It's Your Move' project, supporting Year 6 pupils last term in their preparations for moving to secondary school:

"The resources helped the pupils by addressing all their hopes and fears for their transition on to the next school. It created lots of discussion."

"They have had many questions answered and have skills now to approach this next stage in their lives."



Prayer Spaces

Earlier this term, we prepared a two-day 'prayer space' for a primary school, exploring ideas of how **HUGE** God is and how small we are **YET** he made us, knows us and wants to be a team with us. Props being used include weighing scales, rocks, exercise balls and ribbons!! This has been planned with the flexibility to have some 'zones' outside as well as inside. Sadly the dates for this had to be postponed due a Covid outbreak at the school, but we look forward to rescheduling the event and to exploring how and where else this can be used.

Frances Coe, Schools Worker



Christian Union

By the time you read this, a secondary school Christian Union (led by a student) will have relaunched and be meeting in person. Advertising for this included displaying a Bible verse and C.U. information on the school TV notice screens. The C.U. will include a new element called Encounter Spaces where pupils will be able to go around different stations and interactively reflect on important themes. We kickstart with Love, Joy, Spirituality and Anxiety vs Peace. We are thankful to be able to see the students in person again and are looking forward to new students coming.

Frances Coe, Schools Worker

Taking Face-to-Face Assemblies Again!

You may recall that last year our team worked hard to provide videos for schools to use in classroom-based 'assemblies' and these were gratefully received and used by many schools. Now that they are allowed to hold full assemblies 'in person' again, most schools have resumed this and we are delighted that they have been eager to invite us back...

...in Primary Schools

It has been a wonderful encouragement to be welcomed back into schools so warmly as we return to take assemblies in person. We have been treated like old friends, by both staff and children, who haven't forgotten us, even though it's been well over a year since we last met. One teacher told me that the children were highly excited to be gathering again as a community in one place for whole school assemblies. It seems that assemblies are something which cannot easily be replaced!

This term, our theme has focused on being back together again and adjusting to more changes in the people and world around us. In some schools we have told the Creation Story, exploring our relationship to our wonderful planet earth. In others, we have looked at the choices we make, telling the story of Peter being called by Jesus.



Sue Evans, Schools Worker

...in Secondary Schools

It has been great to be welcomed back enthusiastically to assemblies in local secondary schools this term. We have been speaking about resilience, sharing the Biblical story of Joseph, as well as the remarkable story of professional surfer and Christian, Bethany Hamilton, who lost one of her arms in a shark attack at the age of 13 (see www.bethanyhamilton.com).

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to visiting more secondary school assemblies to speak about the season of Advent and Christmas.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Recent feedback from a school teacher:

"The children always enjoy your lively assemblies and having the opportunity to participate too."

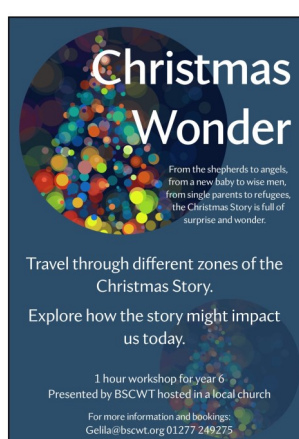
"Christmas Wonder"

From the shepherds to the angels, from a new baby to wise men to refugees, the Christmas Story is full of surprise and wonder. And 'Christmas Wonder' is the name of our expanded prayer space which will be our main Christmas workshop for primary schools this year.

We hope the children will feel and experience wonder as they travel through different zones of the Christmas Story, exploring ideas and open questions of how the story might impact us today. Each zone will have a different activity such as craft, discussion or quiet reflection, to help frame their response.

We have had enthusiastic responses from schools eager to take part, along with encouraging support from the churches offering to host the workshop. Please pray for all the planning and organisation involved, for the teams running the sessions, and most of all, for the staff and children who will attend.

Sue Evans, Schools Worker



Goodbye to Rosie.....

At the end of last term, we said a sad "thank you" and "farewell" to Rosie Graham who had worked on our staff team as a Schools Worker since September 2017. We are extremely grateful for all that she did while she was with us, including taking many secondary school lessons and leading our 'It's Your Move' project (we are also grateful to other members of our staff who have taken on additional hours in Rosie's absence). We invited Rosie to share a few words...

I have loved working for BSCWT and being part of a great team these last 4 years. God has opened so many doors and continued to grow His work in the schools of Brentwood and it has been a privilege to see that first hand and to work alongside dedicated staff and associate workers as they give their time and energy to serve. Whilst I shall miss the work, I am thankful for the time I had there and all I have learnt.

Thank you for all those that have prayed for and supported me during my time as a schools worker - it has been a joy! And as I start a new journey I look forward to seeing God continuing to move and shape the Trust in all it does.

Rosie Graham



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:



Autumn signifies a time of change for me. Evenings shorten, leaves turn colour and fall, and nature prepares for winter. Changes have also occurred since July as most lockdown restrictions were lifted allowing some return to normality. This has been welcome

and we have re-gained the joy of social interaction and much missed pastimes.

Returning to school has included freedoms and challenges, to which students and staff continue to adapt and our Trust staff are enjoying the opportunity to visit and support schools in person for more activities.

As Trustees we have also faced changes, two Trustees have recently stepped down and we extend our thanks to Kevin and Adrian for their commitment. As you will see on the front page, we are also in the process of seeking a new Treasurer. This is a vital function. Please join us in prayer as we seek a new person for this role.

As ever, some changes are good, some less so. As the Trust moves forward, I am grateful for our willing and knowledgeable Trustees, dedicated and hardworking staff, and a wide base of faithful supporters and volunteers, all united in service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you all.

God bless.

Kevin Gilderson, Chair of Trustees

Finance Update from the Treasurers & Trustees

The Trust continues to be grateful and thankful to all individuals, churches and charitable trusts for their generous support of BSCWT working with the young people in our local schools.

In particular, to those who have left legacies to the Trust and also a significant donation from Trinity Church. This means that the Trust will be able to continue and expand its work in the local schools for some time to come.

To the end of September, general income was £37,985 and expenditure was £43,523 giving a deficit of £5,538. The deficit was covered by the legacy and donation mentioned above.

Please pray that the current opportunities remain open and that every advantage God has given the Trust to communicate with the young people in the local schools will be taken and expanded.



On a personal note, I (Peter) have decided that it would be prudent for me to withdraw my services as treasurer. The Trust is seeking a replacement to take over in April of next year. If you have a knowledge of Sage and would be interested in considering helping with this important role (or if you know of someone else) please contact the Trust office.

Peter Embling & Joe Nunn, Joint Treasurers



Amazon Smile: If you shop online with Amazon, you can raise money for BSCWT at the same time with 'Amazon Smile'. Visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk, choose the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust as your charity and Amazon will donate to BSCWT with every qualifying purchase you make. Thank you!

How can you be involved?

If you are a Christian with a passion for schools, education, children and young people, and think you might be interested in being involved, please get in touch with us at the BSCWT office. Please join with us to:

GIVE: BSCWT depends on the continued generosity of people who support us financially. If you'd like to support the work financially, please:

- Set up a standing order or a donation via your online banking. Please contact us for a Gift Aid Declaration form, if applicable (or download one from www.bscwt.org/downloads).
- Contact us for a standing order mandate (or download one from www.bscwt.org/downloads).
- Donate online at www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156 or send a cheque to our office.
- For on-line banking/standing orders, please contact the BSCWT office for our bank account details.

BSCWT is a Local Mission Partner of



Scripture Union

If you no longer wish to receive communications from BSCWT, please contact us via the office at office@bscwt.org to be removed from our circulations.

PRAY: We believe praying for our local schools, children and young people is really important. Please contact us to:

- Request our weekly prayer email, termly prayer calendar and newsletter by email or post. Contact us at office@bscwt.org or 01277 249275 or visit www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent
- 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:

- Our **Associate Workers** volunteer with us in schools, working with children and young people.
- Our **Trustees** oversee the running of the Trust.
- Our **Support Teams** assist the Staff and Trustees by doing important tasks in areas such as prayer, finance, human resources, policy-writing, events, monitoring and publicity.
- Our **Church Reps** help us to liaise with our local churches.
- We are also open to applications from people interested in doing an internship or work experience with us.