



# Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Spring Term 2019

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[www.facebook.com/BSCWT](http://www.facebook.com/BSCWT) and [www.twitter.com/BSCWT](http://www.twitter.com/BSCWT).



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



## Making Space for Questions

Not long ago, I was standing at the front of a secondary school hall waiting for the start of an assembly. Some students were also already there and one of them approached me and began to ask me questions of a deep nature about matters of personal faith and doubt. In the few moments I had with that student, I hope I was able to provide some encouragement and help.

That interaction was a reminder to me of the need to provide opportunities and spaces for young people to reflect, explore and ask questions about life and faith. Those questions often reflect a deep search for truth as well as a desire to be understood and accepted.

As you will read in this newsletter, we continue to have the amazing privilege of providing those kinds of spaces and opportunities for pupils in schools in a variety of different ways. We very much appreciate your support and we hope you enjoy catching up with our news!

*Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work*

## Pray for Schools Fortnight



Pray for Schools Fortnight will take place this year during the two weeks of **12-26 May 2019**, and,

as usual, coincides with exam time for many pupils in schools. Please use this time to pray for schools, students, teachers, Headteachers, staff and governors—those known to you and those in your local schools. For further information on how your might be able to pray as a church, in a group, or individually, please visit [www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org).

## Welcome to Jenny!

We are delighted that Jennifer (Jenny) Head has joined our staff team as our new Project Admin Assistant. She is following on from the great work started by Sue Wellman in the role last term. She is working with us in our office on Tuesday mornings and Thursday mornings, organising and co-ordinating the bookings and plans for our primary schools' Easter projects - 'Easter Cracked', 'From Sadness to Joy' and 'Easter Prayer Spaces'.



## From the Trustees

When I read our newsletter,

- I am thrilled by the reports of the Christmas project activities we have been involved with,
- challenged by the support that we need to give to children and young people,
- thankful for all the generous gifts that are made by churches and individuals and
- excited by the opportunities that are opening up.

BSCWT could not achieve all that it does without the dedicated staff team and enthusiastic volunteers - people who generously gift their time not just in schools, but also with vital 'support' roles. Time is more valuable than possessions - although most of us act the opposite.

At this time, we are prayerfully seeking:

- Trustees to hold BSCWT accountable and guide plans for the future
- Volunteers who could take responsibility for ICT
- Additional team to help expand our activities in schools by regularly committing their time.

Is there some time that you can give to the children and young people in the schools of Brentwood?

*Jeff Fair, Chair of Trustees*



## Annual Celebration: Monday 1st July 2019

Our Annual Celebration will take place on the evening of Monday 1st July 2019. We will be celebrating the work that God is doing through BSCWT in the schools of the Brentwood area and we would love you to join us! So please make a note of the date and further details will be issued in our Summer Term newsletter...



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# Supporting Pupils through our Chaplains



Mary

Our Chaplains serve schools by helping pupils develop spiritually and by supporting school pupils and staff. The pupil support provided by our Chaplains in schools has become, in recent years, an important part of the work that BSCWT does. There is a growing need for young people to have someone who can spend time listening and providing space for them to offload worries or concerns. It is a great privilege to come alongside a young person in need and support them in this way. Here are some of the main ways in which BSCWT provides this support to our schools and young people...

## One-to-One Pupil Support

In both primary and secondary schools, giving time and a listening ear to troubled children and young people is an important part of showing the care and love of God. We have been supporting pupils this way at several schools for some time and have had recently started at St Martin's School. Some of the students we see may have never had someone give them undivided time for them to talk about how they are feeling, and we see it as a great privilege to serve schools in this way.

## Christian Union

We are supporting a Christian Union that a 6<sup>th</sup> form student is running in Shenfield High School. This is a lunchtime club, where students can ask questions and find out about the Christian faith. Both Christians and non-Christians attend.

## Pupil Support



## Drop-In Club

This busy lunchtime games club at Shenfield High School provides a safe, friendly place to have lunch, play games and chat. It often attracts vulnerable students who find it hard to socialise, or who find outside too busy and crowded at lunchtime.

## Caterpillars & Butterflies



In primary schools, Sue has developed two courses for supporting pupils through change and loss: 'Caterpillars' and 'Butterflies'. Small groups of pupils meet weekly with Sue and her team to help them to explore and discuss feelings via a story and craft activity.



These courses provide vital support to children to help them to learn how to express their feelings during times of change or loss in their lives.

## 6th Form Student Support

A new development in the last year has been our 6th Form student support. Fiona and Jem offer to meet weekly with 6th Form students at Shenfield High School to provide a listening ear at this important time of decisions about the future as well as exam pressures, driving tests and other pressures that young people encounter as they enter adulthood.

## Group Work

Sometimes we are asked to work with a group of students for a period of time on a particular aspect of life they may be struggling with. This could include anxiety, anger, self-harm, grief and loss. Weekly group meetings allow pupils to explore together the issues affecting their lives. It is helpful for them to journey with others going through similar life issues. It also provides a safe place in which to learn healthy ways to express emotions.



Sue

## Supporting school staff

Sometimes we are also able to support school staff who are struggling with work overload or family issues. In a busy environment, giving even just a few minutes to listen and support adults in schools is all part of the Chaplaincy role.



Fiona

Mary Thomas (Schools Worker), Sue Evans (Schools Worker) & Fiona Mason (Administrator / Schools Worker)  
On behalf of all our Chaplains

## Easter is Coming!

Last term, we had the amazing privilege of being able to provide over 50 Christmas activities in schools, connecting with over 3000 children and young people. This term, we are anticipating another busy Easter season as we offer Easter assemblies and Easter Prayer Spaces as well as our 'Easter Cracked' and 'From Sadness to Joy' projects to schools.



## Christmas Unwrapped

Once again we had a wonderful time running *Christmas Unwrapped* with 15 schools, 8 churches and meeting with over 550 children. Even though this project has been running for 10 or more years, it is still something the team find inspiring to be involved in as we share such a good news story.



Feedback from school staff:

"The pupils were all engaged and made at ease giving them the confidence to fully participate."

"High quality resources, interesting presentation combining tradition with what is in the Bible. Enthusiastic, knowledgeable staff."

"Thank you for your very friendly welcoming session that valued all our young people's input."

"Another successful workshop. Very well organised, good pace and engaged all the children in the Christmas story."

## Christmas Prayer Space

It was wonderful to spend a day before Christmas in Ingatestone Parish Church running our Christmas Prayer Space with Ingatestone Junior School. The children of years 5 & 6 engaged well with the 5 activity zones spending time reflecting on different aspects of the Christmas Story and relating them to our own lives and the lives of those around us. The church is such a warm and welcoming place and the Prayer Space a welcome pause in a busy season. Our thanks go to Reverend Patrick Sherring and his team for their support and encouragement.



Feedback from school staff:

"A really valuable experience and excellent use of the church. Thank you."

"This was a lovely way of letting the children think of Christmas from a different perspective."

## From Darkness to Light



Our Nativity Scene

These lessons are now being run in more schools than ever and before Christmas we met with over 300 Year 2 pupils in 14 lessons. These lessons are such fun and never fail to produce wonderful reactions in the young children we meet. The lessons frame the Christmas Story as bringing light into a dark world

and, along with our puppet friends Lucy Light and Freddy Fearful, we help the children think about how this light can be relevant in the dark places of the world today.

Feedback from the children:

Feedback from school staff:

"A lovely session with important messages. It was great that the children had the opportunity to be involved."

"It was awesome."  
"I enjoyed learning about dark and light."  
"I liked following the star."

"Always so thoughtful, engaging, fun and child-centered – thank you!"

## Training Invitation: "Young People & Social Media"

Our next training event, on *Young People and Social Media*, will be led by Mark Tiddy, the Bradwell Area Youth Advisor from the Diocese of Chelmsford, from 9.15am-12pm at Shenfield School on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please contact the BSCWT office if you would like to book a place.

Our last training event, led by Mary and Sue, tackled 'Identity' and 'Self-Esteem'. We had a great morning exploring the formation of identity and the challenges facing young people today, followed by the sharing of resources to help work with young people struggling with low self-esteem.

More training on "**Exploring Identity and Belonging in Children's and Youth Ministry**" is taking place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Trinity Church - find out more at [www.separtnership.org.uk/boost](http://www.separtnership.org.uk/boost).



Comment made by a pupil to his class teacher after one of our Year 7 lessons:

"It was a brilliant lesson, sir!"

## "Being Good News in Schools" Conference

This year's annual *Being Good News in Schools* (BGNiS) Conference took place on 2nd February at Brentwood School to explore the theme of "Bridging the Gap between Church and School".

Our own Sue Evans had been on the planning team and the day aimed to encourage the partnership between churches and schools. There were many varied contributions including Sue's talk on being a Schools Worker, Fiona's talk on BSCWT's *LifeSpace* Project, an act of worship led by Fiona, Ian & Sue and other talks and interviews from local headteachers and young people.

Other members of the BSCWT team also took part as delegates, stewards and discussion facilitators. It was a day of great encouragement and inspiration and our thanks go to everyone on the planning team, our hosts at Brentwood School and everyone who contributed to an excellent day.



Sue leading a session at BGNiS

## Finance Update from the Treasurers & Trustees

We continue to be grateful to God's people, individuals, local churches, charitable trusts etc. who support the activities of the Trust in prayer and financially.



Peter Embling  
Treasurer

We have financial details to the end of December and are delighted to report that we are very close to budget.

We are very grateful for a significant one off donation from one of our supporters. Donations from individuals were slightly down but this has made a huge difference.



Joe Nunn  
Treasurer

We would like to thank Olive Law and Christ Church for arranging a David Pickthall Big Band Concert where the proceeds are going to BSCWT and to Christ Church Car Park. I went to the concert and the church was almost full. It was a very enjoyable evening.

We are also grateful for another supporter who kindly left a legacy in their will which will be received later on in the year following the sale of the property.

Again, many thanks for all your continued support and please continue to pray that the existing opportunities remain open and that new doors will be opened to support the young people in our local schools. *Peter Embling & Joe Nunn, Joint Treasurers*

## 9 things we are doing in schools this term:

- ⇒ Supporting pupils pastorally in 5 schools
- ⇒ *Easter Cracked* with about 15 to 20 schools
- ⇒ *From Sadness to Joy* in about 10 schools
- ⇒ Assemblies in 26 schools
- ⇒ *OT/NT Mini* (formerly *Bible Explorer*) lessons
- ⇒ 10 lunchtime clubs in 7 schools
- ⇒ *Caterpillars & Butterflies* for children dealing with loss
- ⇒ *A whole-day Easter Prayer Space*
- ⇒ Anxiety workshop with sixth form students

## Thank You

### Schools Work Sunday

*Thank you* to everyone who played a part in marking *Schools Work Sunday* recently on 3rd February. This is an annual opportunity in local churches to celebrate, raise awareness of, and pray for Christian ministry taking place in local schools. Next year, *Schools Work Sunday* will be on 2nd February 2020.

## 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.asp](http://www.bscwt.org/downloads.asp)).
- Contact us for a standing order mandate (or download one from [www.bscwt.org/downloads.asp](http://www.bscwt.org/downloads.asp)).
- Send a cheque to our office address (see front of newsletter) or donate online at [www.give.net](http://www.give.net).
- *For on-line banking/standing orders, please contact the BSCWT office for our bank account details.*

**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 the office via email [office@bscwt.org](mailto:office@bscwt.org) or 01277 249275.*
- *Join us for our team prayer meetings at the BSCWT office every Friday, 9.30-10.30am, during school term time.*
- *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 **Management Committee** supports the schools work and the Trustees by doing important tasks in areas such as prayer, finance, human resources, policy-writing, 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.

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](mailto:office@bscwt.org) to be removed from our circulations.*