



# Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2021

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



## THANK YOU!

Throughout the last term, and indeed over the past year or so, I have been extremely grateful for everyone who has helped us to keep serving schools throughout the challenges the world has faced. It might have been easy to think there was nothing we could do, but God has enabled us to find ways to continue providing Christian learning and support to our local schools.

I am grateful to our Staff and Associate Workers who have been so creative and hard-working, to our Church Reps for helping to keep us in touch with local churches and to our Support Teams and Trustees for their continued commitment. And I am grateful to you also for continuing to support our work and to stand with us in whatever way you do that. Thank you.

I very much hope you enjoy catching up with our news and that you will be able to watch our Celebration Video (see panel to the right).

*Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work*

## Celebration Video!

Due to current restrictions, we will sadly not be able to hold an Annual Celebration event this summer. Instead, we are putting together a short 'Celebration' video to share with you some reflections and highlights from the past year of serving schools.

**This video will be available to watch from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July onwards at [www.bscwt.org/celebration](http://www.bscwt.org/celebration).**

Thank you so much to all our supporters for your continued prayers, support and generosity through the past year.

## It's Your Move



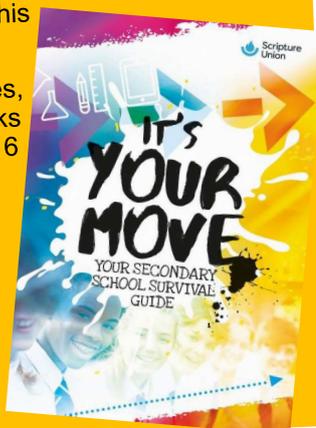
Our big summer transition project, to support Year 6 pupils preparing for secondary school, took a digital form again this term.

The video-based lesson, with a guide for teachers and worksheets for pupils, was updated for 2021 and provided to 27 local schools (take a look at [www.bscwt.org/iym](http://www.bscwt.org/iym)). This gives opportunities for pupils to share their excitement about the move and to discuss their anxieties about the changes, challenges and choices that lie ahead. Our videos focus on inviting pupils to learn about the Biblical story of Peter, a follower of Jesus, and to reflect on their own situation in light of his experiences.

With thanks to sponsorship from 20 local churches, we also delivered over 900 *It's Your Move* books (published by Scripture Union) for the Year 6 pupils to read and use.

### Feedback from a parent:

"What you provide for our children is so valuable, and even more so in present times when they can't be involved in induction programmes at secondary schools as before."



## BACK TO SCHOOL / EDUCATION SUNDAY...

...is on 29<sup>th</sup> August or 5<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This is an opportunity in our church services to mark the start of the new academic year and to pray for everyone going back to school/college or starting somewhere new for the first time.



Especially in light of the difficult challenges that schools have faced over the past year, this is an important occasion on which we can support and pray for our local schools.

Visit [www.prayforschools.org/btswg](http://www.prayforschools.org/btswg) and [www.educationsunday.org](http://www.educationsunday.org) for more information.

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## Primary Schools Assemblies & 'Bible Story Bites'

From early in the first lockdown, we have developed new ways of delivering assemblies to schools we cannot visit in person. We decided to make half-termly assembly films, supplementing them with resource packs designed to support collective worship and reflection. This has involved learning and developing completely new skill sets, including producing and editing films, and acting to camera! With each assembly we have improved and learnt, and also laughed a lot, bonding as a team, even though for most of the time, we have been apart.

Our **'Power to'** theme has explored stories of the Holy Spirit equipping and empowering Jesus' friends. Each assembly develops ideas which we hope will support pupils' recovery as we all continue to work through the impact of the pandemic. Earlier this term, our 'Power to Love' video considered the importance and power of love, the commandment to love each other, and the love which God has for every one of us.

But we have not stopped there! In addition, we have been building a catalogue of 'Bible Story Bites' - 5 minute films with a story and a reflective question. These have been put together by many individuals on our staff and volunteer team, offering something quick and calm that can be used in school at any time.

It is so encouraging to receive positive and grateful feedback from schools, and to keep connected with them in this fun way. THANK YOU to all who are involved, from the initial ideas right through to the distribution!

Sue Evans, Schools Worker

## Assembly Videos for Secondary Schools

We are continuing this term to create video messages for our local secondary schools to use in classroom 'assemblies'. Our recent themes have included "Success", "Positivity" and "Wisdom". Each video seeks to provide thought-provoking stories and ideas from a Christian perspective and we also suggest various questions which teachers and pupils can use for further reflection and discussion.

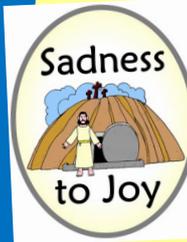
We are delighted that these videos are being well used in our local schools (and sometimes further afield too!) One teacher recently wrote to us: **"A big thank you for the assembly – it certainly generated great discussions in form groups across the school"**. To see some of our assembly videos, visit [www.bscwt.org/assemblies](http://www.bscwt.org/assemblies).

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work



## Easter Cracked & Sadness to Joy

It was a fun challenge to rethink and redesign our Easter workshop lessons in a digital format. Whilst aiming to create something that can be used in a number of different settings, we worked hard to maintain all the usual variety of our in-person lessons.



To keep the children safe, our infant **Sadness to Joy** digital lesson cut down on moving around and acting out the story. But instead, we were able to include opportunities for the pupils to imagine themselves in the story, and for each child to have more time to share what they thought and felt about the story.

The **Easter Cracked** lesson underwent a more radical restructure, with an increased focus on pupils being detectives, working together with a team including Miss Tree and the Easter Bunny, and a full quota of Biblical characters!

The team explored the Easter Mystery by looking for clues, interviewing witnesses, as well as considering what people thought happened and what it meant to them. We were even able to include optional 'extra' material from the three Marys, using links with QR codes!

It has been a delight to see how our team of staff and associate workers constantly and creatively look for ways to continue, adapt and even extend our schools work. Through these new digital versions, we have been able to expand our reach to even more schools, and even to different areas of the country!

[www.bscwt.org/easter-cracked](http://www.bscwt.org/easter-cracked) / [www.bscwt.org/sadness-to-joy](http://www.bscwt.org/sadness-to-joy)

Sue Evans, Schools Worker



Some screenshots from our Easter Cracked videos



### One-to-one support

The events of the past year have definitely made an impact on our one-to-one pupil support. Children in both primary and secondary schools have suffered with bereavement, lockdown in unstable family situations, stress, anxiety and loneliness. This has led to a multitude of different symptoms including struggling to adapt, panic attacks and eating disorders, to name a few. As the needs increase, we have had the privilege of continuing to provide a listening ear to pupils who are struggling and to show the love of Jesus through the time and care we can give these young people on a weekly basis.

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker



### 'Rooted'

I am currently leading another small group called 'Rooted' in a local school with 5 girls aged 11 to 14.

'Rooted' is an 8 week course covering topics such as self-esteem, friendships, identity, healthy lifestyle, relationships and influences. From the first session, the girls were very keen to chat and the discussions so far have been extremely lively! They also seem to enjoy creative activities and have been enthusiastic about the art and craft included in the sessions. We hope that the pupils will get a glimpse of how God values them as they participate in the course.

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker

## SUPPORTING PUPILS

Whenever schools have been open during the pandemic, they have welcomed our team of Chaplains to provide pastoral support to pupils in need of a listening ear. With recent reports suggesting that 1 in 6 young people have a mental health problem, this support is as important as ever as we seek to demonstrate God's love and compassion by coming alongside pupils in various ways...

### Christian Union ('CU')



This term, we have continued to support the student leader of a secondary school CU. He has been producing a 'Scripture of the Week' (SOTW) message. The Year 11 students had been on our minds and some fantastic answers to prayers enabled us to see some of them by 'God-incidence'. Plus, with the school's permission, we met with the Year 11s to give gift bags containing a Bible journal, pen, wooden cross, Scripture cards, chocolates and a CU message with exam prayer points. Some shared that the SOTWs have been helpful to them. Spare bags and crosses were even given out to curious observers who expressed an interest!

Frances Coe, Schools Worker

### Exam stress

With exams taking a different format this year and many students not having sat them properly last year, there was undoubtedly a lot of exam stress about! In the past we have led an *Exams Stress Workshop* with groups. But due to restrictions this wasn't possible this term. However, lots of individual students wanted one-to-one support specifically for exam stress. So having put the workshop into a booklet, I was able to work through it with students individually. This was a valuable experience which allowed for open conversations about their concerns and an opportunity to help allay some fears!



Fiona Mason, Administrator & Schools Worker

### BSCWT on SOCIAL MEDIA



Find us on Facebook



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We post some of our most up-to-date news via our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Please follow us on [www.facebook.com/BSCWT](http://www.facebook.com/BSCWT) and [www.twitter.com/BSCWT](http://www.twitter.com/BSCWT) to see our updates as they

happen. Recently these have highlighted some of our new assembly videos, *It's Your Move*, and Ian's interviews on Phoenix FM and on Revelation TV!

Gelila Melaku, Project Administrator / IT Support



### Fantasy vs Reality

As reported in our Autumn Newsletter, before she went on maternity leave, Rosie recreated our *Fantasy vs Reality* project in digital format with videos, a guide for teachers and a worksheet for pupils. This project is designed to help older secondary school students learn about the impact of pornography.

Due to the need for these resources to be used in classrooms rather than at home, we have had to wait for the right time to release them to schools, but we are very pleased to say that we have been able to do that this term. One senior teacher told us: **"The resources look amazing. I will see how we can integrate them into our PHSEE programme. This could be really powerful in delivering what is quite a tricky topic"**.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:



I was hoping that by the time you were reading this, 'Release Day' on 21<sup>st</sup> June would have occurred and near normality would be returning. But this was not to be and similarly the brief joy at being able to go abroad on holidays to places with more predictable weather also turned from green to amber.

Life currently seems to be locked in idle with hopes being dashed far too regularly. Lockdown has been a long slog and the anticipation of near normality returning gave people hope and a stoicism to see it to the end. I very much hope the new release date sees our freedoms restored.

We know many have struggled over the past year, not least some of the pupils in our schools, which has resulted in much greater requests for help with pupil support. The staff team has endeavoured to assist wherever possible but the need is great and likely to be ongoing for some time.

The Trustees and Staff have been deliberating recently as to how the pandemic might affect our work in the future and what we must do to adapt. What has become clear is that our core mission of bringing the hope of Christ to the young people of Brentwood has not changed, but rather how we do it in light of a changing world. I am bolstered by the knowledge that God is in charge and has a plan.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us.

God bless. *Kevin Gilderson, Chair of Trustees*

## Finance Update from the Treasurers & Trustees

As always, we are thankful to God's people, individuals, local churches, charitable trusts, etc. who continue to support the Trust's activities by prayer and financially.

With the data available to the end of the financial year, March 2021, we are happy to report that income and costs are well within budget. The following is a brief note of the Trust's receipts and payments. **Receipts** to March 31<sup>st</sup> were **£106,312** which included a budgeted transfer of £35,280 from unrestricted funds, and **Payments** were **£89,317**, leaving a net surplus of **£16,995**. Government support was received from the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) was £8,203 thus maintaining the Trust's financial situation and supporting furloughed staff. Recovery from HMRC of income tax on 'gift aided' donations totalled £6,359.



If you do not yet 'gift aid' your donations and are eligible to do so, then please contact the Trust office for a gift aid declaration form.

Thank you again for all your continuing support. Please pray that regular opportunities will be able to continue, and new requests will come in supporting the young people in our local schools.

*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](http://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](http://www.bscwt.org/downloads)).
- Contact us for a standing order mandate (or download one from [www.bscwt.org/downloads](http://www.bscwt.org/downloads)).
- Donate online at [www.give.net](http://www.give.net) or send a cheque to our office address (see front of newsletter).
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@bscwt.org) or 01277 249275 or visit [www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent](http://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.