



# Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2019

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BSCWT can be found both on Facebook and Twitter at:  
[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"*

## BSCWT Annual Celebration Monday 1st July 2019, 7.30pm-9.30pm



You are invited to the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Annual Celebration on Monday 1st July from 7.30pm-9.30pm, which

will take place in the i52 Conference Room at Shenfield High School, Alexander Lane, Shenfield, CM15 8RY. Refreshments will be available from 7.15pm.

Please join us to **celebrate and look back on the past year to thank God for what He has done** through BSCWT's work in schools. In addition, we will be **thanking Mary for her 20 years of work for BSCWT** before she leaves us this summer (see page 2). It is also the perfect time to come along if you, or anyone in your church, are interested in finding out more about BSCWT.

**NOTE:** Please park in the Alexander Lane Car Park (not the Oliver Road Car Park). Signs and stewards will direct you from the car park to the i-Block entrance, where the i52 conference room is on the first floor. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

## Want to work for BSCWT?



Due to changes in our staff team and the growing opportunities to serve our local schools, we are looking for the right people to join our staff team in the following roles:

- **Two Schools Workers** - 25 hours a week each (term-time)
- **Project Administrator** (providing support for our projects in schools and for our other staff) - 12 hours a week (term-time)

Please contact our office for more information and an application pack. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 26th June.

Please note that these posts give rise to a Genuine Occupational Requirement for the post-holders to be committed Christians who will need to agree with BSCWT's Basis of Faith.

## Changes, Challenges, Choices

We are currently deep into our 'It's Your Move' project (see page 2) with which we are helping nearly 1,000 year 6 pupils prepare for secondary school by considering the changes, challenges and choices that lie ahead. For many of the pupils we meet it's a time of excitement mixed with nerves and anxiety.

At this time in the life of BSCWT we are also experiencing the mixed emotions of change as we get ready to say a sad goodbye to Mary after 20 years of her faithful, dedicated service to BSCWT as a Schools Worker (see page 2). We are also saying goodbye to Jenny, who has done a great job as our temporary Project Admin Assistant since January.

As we look forward, we are excited to be looking for new staff to join our team (see below) and would love to hear from you if you are interested. We would also be delighted for you to join us at our Annual Celebration on Monday 1st July (see left).

Ian Kemble,  
Director of Schools Work



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

- 30 'It's Your Move' lessons
- 2 'LifeSpace' events
- Caterpillars & Butterflies groups in 2 primary schools
- Assemblies in over 25 schools
- 2 Primary School 'Prayer Spaces'
- OT/NT Mini lessons (formerly Bible Explorer)
- Lunchtime clubs in 7 schools
- Supporting pupils pastorally in 5 schools
- 7 'Sex & Relationships' lessons

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## 20 Years of Schools Work

Sadly, this will be the last newsletter article I will write for the Trust. I am leaving the work after 20 years to move down onto the south coast to be nearer our son and his every growing family. I have very mixed feelings about this decision, some sad, some excited, as I know God will have something new for me to get involved in.

When I first felt the call to come into this work I was visiting an assembly at St Martin's School with the schools work leader at the time, to get a feel for the work. God made it obviously clear to me that He wanted me to step out in faith, give up the job I had and become a volunteer for the Trust. Something of His passion and love for young people was instantly imparted to me and hasn't left me, which is why the decision to leave has been so hard to make. I worked as a volunteer for a couple of years, and was employed by the Trust following an interview on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001.

I have seen many changes throughout my time with the Trust, including 10 office moves – at one stage we were using a coffee shop in Brentwood for our team meetings when we didn't even have an office! Lots of volunteers have come and gone, and staff have changed, as have Trustees, but the heartbeat of God has never changed throughout my time here - His strong love for the children and young people in our schools. The work has expanded, the way we work has evolved and the number of schools we support has increased.

I have gone from visiting lots of primary schools and a few secondary schools, mainly for assemblies and a few clubs, to focusing my work in 3 secondary schools, one of which I have become deeply involved in pastorally. This is an answer to years of praying, as I felt pastoral work was what God really had placed on my heart all those years ago.

I will miss the team I work with, at times they have been so much more to me than work colleagues. I don't believe my heart for BSCWT will ever leave me, and I will watch from afar to see how God progresses His work in the coming years. He has been completely faithful to me, seen me through many ups and downs, and equipped me to work with Him all these years. I know He will continue His faithfulness to all who serve Him in the schools, provide for all that is needed, and lead the Trust on into all He has prepared. *Mary Thomas, Schools Worker*

## From the Trustees

When I tell people that I travel a lot for my job, they always think it is more exciting than it actually is. It is a matter of perspective.

On my last trip, there was an absolutely fantastic sunset. I can't ever remember seeing anything like it before. Not only was it an African sky, I was also viewing it from a plane at 10,000m. It was a matter of perspective.

And I remember the conversation with a teacher during an *Easter Cracked* lesson about the roots of Christianity, because an activity had linked with the Jewish Passover. It was a different perspective.

Four years ago I thanked everybody for all the assemblies, lessons, clubs and pastoral work that had been delivered; it seemed so much had been achieved, and I wasn't sure that we could do anything extra. Looking at this newsletter, I am thankful for all those who have enabled BSCWT to contribute so much more to the schools in the area, and their children and young people. It is a matter of perspective.



BSCWT is entering a season of change. Please join me and the Trustees at the Annual Celebration, not only to be thankful for all that has been achieved this year, but also for the excitement of the future. It is a matter of perspective.

*Jeff Fair, Chair of Trustees*



**Last year's *It's Your Move***

## It's Your Move

This term sees another year of our *It's Your Move* project going into the local primary schools! With 30 lessons running across Brentwood and Ongar and just under 1,000 students taking part, we feel incredibly blessed to be able to share with so many. The lessons will run from

20<sup>th</sup> May right up until 24<sup>th</sup> June and focus on the transition from Year 6 into secondary school. We will be helping pupils to explore the challenges, changes and choices they may have to face and to discover ways to help make the move smoother. The lessons are always great fun as we try to incorporate activities, games, video clips, drama and more!

Sue, Joan, Ian and I will be leading the various lessons this year, along with a fantastic team of our Associate Workers. We are also thankful to Becket Keys School who are once again allowing some of their year 8 students to join us, sharing their first-hand perspective on what it's like to be at secondary school and offering any tips or advice they may have picked up along the way.

We are extremely grateful to local churches who have sponsored Scripture Union's *It's Your Move* books, that will be given to each student and to those who are able to join the lessons and have been praying. Please do continue to pray for the students as they face these big changes in preparation for starting secondary school in September.

*Rosie Graham, Schools Worker*



## LifeSpace

Following our previous *LifeSpace* events, we have the opportunity to hold it again in one of our local secondary schools and in one of our specialist schools. *LifeSpace* is a 'prayer space' with a difference! It is aimed at older students as part of their careers focus and helps them to think about their gifts, skills and talents, what their dreams are for the future, things they would rather leave behind and the direction in which they feel their lives are going. Please pray for these forthcoming opportunities. *Fiona Mason, Administrator & Schools Worker*



For those who like numbers :

We delivered "Easter Cracked" to 16 schools and approximately 542 pupils!

We brought "From Sadness to Joy" to 6 schools and approximately 260 pupils!

We gave a whole-day Easter Prayer Space to 1 school and approximately 92 pupils!

We hosted the lessons in and linked up with 9 different churches!



All in all, through these projects, about 894 children were given the opportunity to discover, consider, reflect on and explore the Christian message of Easter!

Please keep praying for every seed that was planted, that God will cause it to grow in the lives of the children we have spent time with.

## Easter Lessons

Last term, we were privileged to run workshop lessons with infants and older juniors on the Easter Story through our projects *Easter Cracked* and *From Sadness to Joy*.

The children were deeply engaged with the story of the first Easter, asking questions about the events and meaning of the story, and thoroughly enjoying the activities and challenges we set them. Many of these pupils have never heard the story nor its significance to Christians, so we are grateful for these opportunities to help them learn. Sue Evans, Schools Worker



## Easter Prayer Space

At the end of March, we ran an *Easter Prayer Space* with the years 5 & 6 children of Ingatestone Junior School in Ingatestone Parish Church. The *Prayer Space* consisted of 5 different activity areas all based in the Bible stories associated with Lent and Easter. We started with Jesus' temptation in the desert, thinking about what we need to turn away from and leave behind; next was Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, reflecting on what gives us direction in life; then we considered Jesus washing his disciples' feet, washing each others' hands and thinking about what we can do for others; the Crucifixion brought us to the topic of forgiveness and what we want to say sorry for; and finally the Resurrection and dreaming of our hopes for the future. The children were amazing and the staff appreciative. Thank you again to Revd. Patrick Sherring for allowing us to host this day in his welcoming and beautiful church building.



Washing hands at the Prayer Space

Sue Evans, Schools Worker

## Feedback from a teacher about Easter Cracked:

"Thank you again for all the time and effort you put into organising these events. The young people get so much from them and talk about what you have done even months after."

## 6th Form Exam Stress Workshop

In early April, Mary, Ian and I led an exam stress workshop for 6th Form students at Shenfield High School. With pressure of exams, large amounts of revision, coursework deadlines, plus future choices and decisions all coming together at the same time, it can often make the build up to A-Level and BTEC exams a stressful and worrying time. Also, for many students the thought of stepping into the unknown, leaving school for the final time, adds to the challenge. The structure of school life will no longer provide a regular routine.

Some students are confident and look forward to the change. However, for many it is a difficult time of uncertainty. It was a privilege for us to share some insights into how to cope with exam anxiety and provide some practical solutions, but also to reinforce the belief that there is a plan for each of their lives, that when some doors close, others open, and to give some reassurance.

Feedback from the students included the following comments:

"I have learned not to worry as much as I do and how I should prepare for exams and that I'm not alone in the way I'm feeling."

"Fiona, Ian and Mary were really easy to talk to."

"It calmed me down about the future, not just about exams, but in general life experiences."

Fiona Mason, Administrator & Schools Worker



## Being a volunteer with BSCWT: thoughts from some of our Associate Workers!

### Best things:

- Camaraderie
- Working together with a common purpose
- Prayer meetings and 'Quiet Days'
- Structure, support and flexibility
- Using our different skills to work as a team
- Dedication to the children

### Challenges:

- The work is never finished
- There is always more that we could do
- Challenging situations that children deal with
- So much to do; so much potential
- We can pray about everything we encounter

## Finance Update from the Treasurers & Trustees

We continue to be grateful and thankful to you all, including individuals, churches and charitable trusts, for your support of the activities of the Trust with the young people in our Brentwood schools.



Joe Nunn  
Treasurer

We have come to the end of another financial year and we are pleased to report that the Trust finances are in a healthy position. We have been blessed with some legacies which have had a significant impact on our finances. Please pray for wisdom for the Trustees as they consider how the money will be spent. Receipts were in excess of payments by £25,160.

We will be sending out thank you letters shortly confirming your payments. If in the past you have gift aided your donations but are no longer in a position to do so, please let us know. If you do not gift aid your donations and you are willing and in a position to do so, please ask us for a gift aid declaration form.

We are busy doing the annual accounts for the Annual Celebration and the Charity Commission. Again, many thanks for your prayerful and financial support. Please pray that the current opportunities remain open and that every advantage of the privilege God has given us to communicate with the young people in our local schools will be taken.

Peter Embling & Joe Nunn, Joint Treasurers



Peter Embling  
Treasurer



Please plan to mark **“Back to School Sunday / Education Sunday”** in your church on 1st or 8th September 2019. For more info, visit [www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org).

## Pray for Schools Fortnight

Thank you to all who were able to support ‘Pray for Schools Fortnight’ in your churches, prayer groups or individually.

### Feedback from school headteachers:

- “Thanks for everything you offer our school. It is much appreciated and our pupils really gain from it.”
- “At a time of school budget cuts, I don’t know what we’d do without the BSCWT team. All services offered are of a high value to our school and we are extremely grateful.”

## 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)).
- 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.

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 <https://forms.gle/VUjcfbi1QhuSNvFP6>.
- 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 **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.