



Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2024

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www.instagram.com/b.s.c.w.t and www.youtube.com/@BSCWT.

"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"

YOU ARE INVITED to our END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Date: Tuesday 16th July
Time: 7pm for 7.30pm till 9pm
Place: Trinity Church (in the Fellowship Hall), Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, CM14 5PS

We would love you to join us for our End-of-Year Celebration on 16th July as the school year draws to a close. We have had so many wonderful opportunities to serve schools over this past year. We are excited to share some of these with you and to give thanks and praise to God for all that He has been doing. Refreshments will be served from 7pm.



Pupils at
It's Your Move 2024

Feedback on *It's Your Move* from a Year 6 pupil: "I liked it because it really got me thinking."

Back to School Sunday / Education Sunday

The start of September is a great opportunity in our local churches to pray for everyone who will be going back to school, moving to a new school, starting school for the first time or leaving school to start college, university or apprenticeships. Please encourage your church to take this opportunity on 1st, 8th or 15th September. There is also a National Day of Prayer for Schools on Friday 27th September.

For further information: www.prayforschools.org/btswg
www.prayforschools.org/education-sunday
www.paismovement.com/ndopfs

'Keep sowing'

One of my favourite stories told by Jesus is the one known as "The Parable of the Sower" (see Luke 8:5-8 in the Bible). Jesus described a farmer sowing seeds and these seeds falling on different kinds of ground, leading to varying outcomes in terms of growth. Jesus said the seed represents the word of God.



One of the takeaways for me from the parable is the encouragement to *keep sowing seeds*. In other words, to keep working to serve our local schools communities by providing Christian learning and support, in as many ways as we can. In this newsletter, you can read about some of the ways we are doing this, including our *It's Your Move* project (see page 2). I hope you find it encouraging.

And I also hope you will be able to join us, on Tuesday 16th July, for our End-of-Year Celebration (details on the left) as we look back on an exciting year of serving our local schools, as well as looking forward to next year.

Thank you so much for your interest in, and support for, our work.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

9 things we are doing this term...

- 25 'It's Your Move' lessons with Year 6
- 58 assemblies in 25 schools
- 10 'OT Mini' lessons
- Lunchtime clubs in 4 schools
- One-to-one pupil support in 8 schools
- Whole-day 'LifeSpace' event at a secondary school
- 6 Q&A lessons at a secondary school
- 'Prayerfully Learning Together' project connecting schools & churches
- Outdoor 'Prayer Spaces' at two primary schools

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It's Your Move

This term we were privileged to take our **It's Your Move** project into 25 different schools, meeting with nearly 850 year 6 children, working in partnership with 21 churches and 2 charitable trusts who sponsor and provide each child with a Scripture Union "It's Your Move" book – a guide to moving from primary to secondary school.

These lessons take place between the end of SATs and the start of induction days (when the year 6's visit their new schools). Our aim is to help the children in the process of thinking about what's next: to understand the big change ahead and any challenges it will create, as well as thinking about making wise choices. The focus is on developing the tools to make a good move, get prepared and to think ahead.



Thank you

Every pupil that takes part in our **It's Your Move** lessons is presented with an "It's Your Move" book, published by Scripture Union. These books are kindly sponsored by local churches. We would like to say a massive thank you to these churches for sponsoring these books once again this year and to all our volunteers for helping us deliver this project to schools.



Evie Bartlett, Project Administrator

Being an Associate Worker

Having decreased my hours working in the NHS a few years ago, I discussed with Sue Evans becoming an associate worker. I wanted to give time and energy to helping with the children in Brentwood, bringing my listening and caring to work. Initially I volunteered in primary schools, helping with clubs and lunchtime activities. At first this was challenging, as I had little experience of trying to be "in control" of 20 children. However, the spontaneous questions, and the feeling that we were working as a team to show how much Jesus loves us all was immensely rewarding.



Subsequently I volunteered to support pupils on a one to one basis. This has been exciting and stimulating... my skills at UNO, Draw the Well Dry, Chess, and German Whist have increased dramatically, as I hope have my listening skills! More recently, having fully retired, I volunteered to join the Trustees, and look forward to being part of a team dedicated to Christian values, and the care for the future of pupils in the schools of Brentwood.

Helen Burgess, Associate Worker & Trustee



It's Your Move 2024

These workshops are a mixture of activities, group work, film clips and storytelling. At the core is the Biblical parable of the wise and foolish builders, using the themes of changes, challenges and choices to explore the move ahead for the year 6 pupils.

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker



It's Your Move 2024

Feedback on *It's Your Move* from a teacher: "It was terrific as usual!"



It's Your Move 2024



Prayerfully Learning Together

We are delighted to be part of the 'Prayerfully Learning Together' (PLT) research project, initiated by the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford, in partnership with *Prayer Spaces in Schools*. It is running in Brentwood, Colchester and Redbridge until summer 2025. The project involves creating opportunities for pupils to explore prayer in school through prayer spaces, and then to continue this exploration in meaningful and connected ways that enable them to further their own spiritual flourishing at school, in their place of worship and at home. Some pupils will be part of focus groups where they will complete questionnaires and have discussions about prayer and spiritual life. PLT in Brentwood is happening at two primary schools and one secondary school with two lead churches as well as volunteers from other local churches.

Frances Coe, Schools Worker

Some comments from the first focus groups:

- "Prayer is a connection to God, a way to bond with him."
- "You can speak to God to help people, thank him, ask for help and for making the right decisions."
- "You can go to God when you feel worried, unwell, nervous or scared."
- "God is always someone who will understand you the most and listen to you."
- "I'd like to read and hear more things from the Bible."

So far in Brentwood:

- 2 whole-school prayer spaces held at a primary school.
- 1 secondary school prayer space club.
- 2 prayer spaces with Year 4 pupils at a second primary school.
- 7 focus group sessions involving 36 pupils.



Primary School Assemblies

Over the course of this year we have been taking a series of assemblies around the theme of 'God's Greatest Rescue Plan!'. We've explored the Christian belief that God sent Jesus to the world as part of His plan to restore us and to rescue us from the brokenness in the world. This term, we are focussing on forgiveness and how we respond to God's offer of rescue. We consider how God is a God of hope and new starts (the very opposite of today's 'cancel culture'), telling the story of Peter and Jesus meeting (from John 21), and Jesus helping Peter to understand that he is forgiven. In our final assembly we look at how we can respond to the offer of help, using the parable of the sower to reflect on different ways we might choose to respond to God's Great Rescue Plan.

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker



Our Easter Projects went well at the end of last term.



Space to Pray



Prayer spaces are an important part of our work, whether it be as part of a larger project, a club, in the form of a 'Curiosity Trail' or a 'pop-up' prayer space. I have had the opportunity to work on an outdoor pop-up prayer space for one of our local primary schools which aims to complement themes they are already exploring through the curriculum. This prayer space aims to get the children enjoying the outdoor space in a new way, thinking about creation and creativity, exploring nature and considering their place and purpose within it.

With different stations and activities spread around the grounds of the school, and with the support of the year 6 pupils, we hope to encourage the children to reflect, pray and be thankful for God's wonderful creation.

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker

Secondary School Assemblies

This term, our themes for our assemblies in local secondary schools include: "How important is it to be loyal?", "What does it mean to be successful?" and "How important is it to have fun in life?" We have also done a special assembly for Year 11 in one school on "How to cope with the stress of exams". All our assemblies include stories or quotes from the Bible and it's a great privilege to have these opportunities to invite students to reflect on important themes of life and faith.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Ask us a question!

Earlier this term, we had the privilege of taking six lessons with Year 11 students preparing for their Religious Education GCSEs at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School. We had two team members in each lesson and, after sharing our stories of how we became Christians, we did our best to respond to whatever questions the students wanted to ask us! We hope our time with them was helpful for their exam preparation as well as their spiritual development.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Lunchtime Clubs

We are very excited to be able to re-start our lunchtime club at Holly Trees Primary School this term, not least because some pupils have been asking us in assemblies about when the club is starting again! We are working in partnership with Brentwood Baptist Church in order to run this club and we are grateful to the volunteers from the church who have come forward to help. We are running 5 weekly sessions on the theme of 'What is God like?', mainly using some of Jesus' parables. Each session consists of a game, a Bible story and a craft activity, all linked to the theme. Our other regular clubs are also continuing at Warley Primary and Larchwood Primary, as well as the WonderSpace club at St Martin's School.



Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker

LifeSpace

In July, we are running 'LifeSpace' once again at Shenfield High School. Our event, part of the school's Careers Day for Year 10 students, provides a reflective space where students will visit 8 zones. Each zone is led by one of our team members, with activities to prompt students to consider big questions of life. The aim of 'LifeSpace' is to help students prepare for Year 11 and beyond, providing space to help them think about future decisions and choices. The zones encourage students to consider their priorities, how faith might help them, who they are as people, changing directions and making fresh starts. It is a privilege to support students at this important time of their lives.

Fiona Mason, Operations Manager & Schools Worker



Exam Stress & Pupil Support

A main focus of every summer term in schools is exam time. Over the last few years, we have had opportunities to provide support to exam groups by taking assemblies on coping with exam stress, and workshops to look deeper at this time of life, providing tips on coping, perspective and communication during what can feel a stressful time. This year, we've also supplied some hints and tips for pupils taking SATs in primary schools. Our one-to-one pupil support work continues to be very much in demand during these busy months.

Fiona Mason, Operations Manager & Schools Worker



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

Over the last 18 months we have seen a number of changes with the Trustees. We have welcomed three new members, Rev Paul Hamilton in May 2023, Helen Burgess in January 2024 and Tim Barfoot in March 2024. We thank all of these for their willingness to serve with their expertise and knowledge to help lead the Trust as we go forward.

We have also said farewell to Christine Drew who served the Trust faithfully as a Trustee from 2010 to July 2023, including as Chair of Trustees between 2011 and 2013. We miss her expertise as a Head Teacher, Governor, and her HR experience. We wish her and Peter all the best for the future. She is however still involved with the Trust as part of the Monitoring Team.

It is also with some sadness that Joan Dewhirst is stepping down as a Trustee at the end of July this year. Joan has been a Trustee since the Trust was formed in 1991, including a period as Chair of Trustees. She is not stopping working with us and will continue as an Associate Worker.

I just want to thank all those who support the Trust with their time, financially and with their prayers.

Mick Bastable, Chair of Trustees

Finance Update from the Treasurer & Trustees



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

We are currently in the process of finalising the accounts for the 2023/2024 financial year and these should be available shortly. As we head towards the end of this academic year and move into a new financial one, we continue to be dependent on donations from both individuals and churches to ensure that the invaluable work of the Trust endures and expands. If you are a UK tax payer, you may be able to make your donations go further by allowing us to claim gift aid. The charity would receive 25p for every £1 that you give.

If you are not a regular donor and would like more information on how to become one, or would like to make a one-off donation, or are a current donor and would like more information about claiming gift aid on your donations, please do contact me on treasurer@bscwt.org. Please continue to pray for the work of the Trust and for the children that we are reaching on a regular basis. Please also pray for new opportunities that allow us to communicate with young people in the local schools.

Claire Lim, Treasurer

Thank you, Joyce

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Joyce Chapman, a wonderful Christian and one of our associate workers for many years. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family.

All photos in this newsletter are used with permission. Photos of our schools work are provided by PhotographybyAnnaMarie.

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.
- 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.

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 523522 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.



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