



Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2025

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Registered Charity
No: 1172358

"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"



Will you take up the baton?

Over the last six years the Trust has been blessed by several large donations from legacies, churches and individuals, which have enabled us greatly to increase the work we do in schools in the Brentwood area. I would also like to thank all of you who have supported our work regularly, whether for one month or thirty-four years. The fruit of your gifts can be seen in this newsletter.

The Trust decided not to 'sit' on large amounts in the bank, but to use gifts to introduce more children to the love of God and support local schools. However, in a year's time we will have to

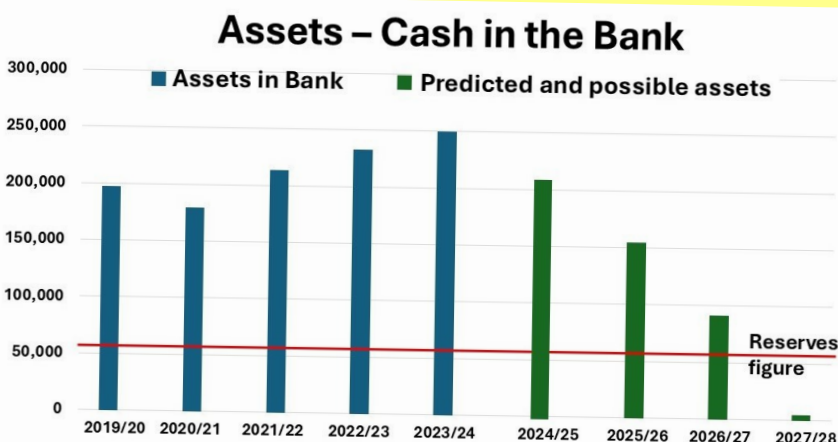
reduce our work to previous levels, to match our regular giving. This will inevitably mean fewer assemblies, clubs, projects, prayer spaces and pastoral groups in fewer schools. Unless... we do something about it.

Between now and December 2025 we are looking for a new generation of supporters who will give regularly to BSCWT. If another 200 people arrange to give £25 a month going forward, this would enable our work to continue as now. And yes, that does mean that the gap between regular giving and our current outgoings is over £50,000 pa.

Details about how to give are on the back page and at www.bscwt.org/donate. Regular giving, whether from new or existing donors, helps us to plan, but other donations are, of course, welcome.

The Trustees will meet in December to finalise the shape of our work from September 2026. Come and play a part! The children love to see our teams walk through the door.

Sally McMahon, Chair of Trustees (from May 2025)



YOU ARE INVITED

to our
END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Date: Thursday 17th July
Time: 7pm for 7.30pm till 9pm
Place: Trinity Church (in the Fellowship Hall),
Coxtie Green Road,
Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood
CM14 5PS

Please join us to celebrate and give thanks to God for what He has been doing through BSCWT in our local schools this year. Refreshments will be served from 7pm.



9,000 PUPILS

I am very excited to share this Summer Term Newsletter with you, as there are currently so many wonderful opportunities to serve our local schools, not least through our 'It's Your Move' project (see page 2), our assemblies (page 3), our clubs (page 2) and much more. Through our projects and activities, we are connecting with around 9,000 children and young people in schools, and we believe that God wants this to continue!

So we are seeking to raise up a new generation of supporters to help us reach the next generation of children and young people! To echo Sally's invitation above, could you be one of the 200 people we are looking for who could give £25 a month (that's just 82p a day)? Or more? Or less? Every donation helps. Please scan the QR code to the left or visit www.bscwt.org/donate. Thank you so much for your support.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work



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It's Your Move

Our 'It's Your Move' lessons are currently underway, supporting over 850 Year 6 students in their move to secondary school.

The lessons take place in a carefully timed window - after pupils have finished taking their SATS tests but before they go to Induction Days at their new schools. We seek to help them to negotiate the challenges they might face through the changes ahead, and to give them time to reflect on what they will miss and what they are looking forward to. In an interactive lesson, we look at preparing for challenges, and provide some advice on making wise choices. Throughout the lesson we make use of Biblical Wisdom, offering 'Top Tips', and we use Jesus' Parable of the Two Builders to help pupils think about the consequences of the choices they make.

We are very grateful for our team of volunteers, without whom these lessons wouldn't be possible. Please pray for the team and the children at this exciting, but sometimes worrying, time.

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker



Pupils at 'It's Your Move' last year

Easter Projects



Easter seems an age ago now but it has been so encouraging to look back over the feedback for our Easter Projects ('Love Easter' and 'Sadness to Joy') and to remember the amazing comments and observations the children made during these lessons.

We were blessed with wonderful engagement from the pupils and it was incredibly special to witness children as young as 6 grasp the Christian message of Easter and why Jesus came to die for us. We continue to pray that the message of Easter will not be forgotten by these children, and that God would nurture the seeds which were planted.

*Holly Coleman,
Schools Worker*

Feedback about 'Sadness to Joy' from a primary school teacher :

"Your ability to bring the Easter Story to life was incredible. Talking to the children afterwards revealed a fountain of new learning they had gained."



Pupils at 'Sadness to Joy'

Thanks to Churches

This term BSCWT is taking 25 'It's Your Move' lessons with our local primary schools.



Each pupil is provided with an 'It's Your Move' book (published by Scripture Union) to take home with them. This book is packed with advice, real-life testimonies and Bible reflections to help them with their transition to secondary school.

We would like to thank all the local churches who have so generously sponsored these books. This continues to help build the relationships between the schools and their local churches.

*Evie Bartlett, Project Administrator
& Schools Worker*



Back to School Sunday

The new school year begins on 1st September, so please encourage your church to mark Back to School Sunday (or Education Sunday) on 31st August, 7th September or 14th September. This is an opportunity for us to pray for everyone going back to school or starting school for the first time!

Clubs

We are very pleased that we currently have primary school clubs running in Warley, Ingatestone Juniors, Holly Trees and Mountnessing, with good numbers attending. Clubs are a wonderful

opportunity to have fun whilst teaching the children about the Bible, as well as building relationships with them as we see them weekly. Last term, we taught the children about God through Bible stories involving animals, including Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6) and Elijah and the ravens (1 Kings 17). This term, we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit.

Also this term, we have re-launched our secondary school club called 'Wonder Space' at St. Martin's School, initially linking in with a week of assemblies we did there about 'The Power of Peace'.

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



Barbara with pupils at 'Love Easter'

Assemblies

In local primary and specialist schools, our assemblies are continuing to follow the Old Testament story of David. Over the year we've seen how the young David was anointed as the next King because of his heart for God; how his trust in God made him brave enough to fight the big problem of Goliath; how his faithful friendship with Jonathan weathered King Saul's jealousy; how David sought to make the situation better rather than taking revenge; and how temptation led him astray, but forgiveness returned him to God's ways. This series is finishing this term by exploring the ways David stayed close to God through worship and praise. In local secondary schools, our assemblies this term have been addressing themes including peace, forgiveness and success. On a recent visit, one teacher said: "I wish we could have you take our assemblies every week!"

Ian Kemble & Sue Evans



Exam Stress

Earlier this term, we had the privilege of taking Exam Stress Workshops with groups of students in Year 13 at Becket Keys and Years 11, 12 and 13 at Shenfield School. We also took a 'Coping with Exam Stress' Assembly with Year 11 at St Martin's School. The workshops are relaxed and discussion-based, with activities to help students think about different ways of managing the stress of exams. We look at perspectives, expectations and provide helpful advice and tips. We discuss our faith perspective on finding prayer a powerful way of dealing with worry and we share Bible verses that exam groups have found encouraging in the past.

Feedback from a student:

"The session allowed me to think outside the box with stress and how to handle it."

Please pray for all students taking exams at this time - for discipline to study, the opportunity to give their best and a sense of peace and calm during this stressful time of life.

Fiona Mason, Operations Manager & Schools Worker



Frances with pupils at 'Love Easter'

Pupil Support

We continue to support pupils in primary, secondary and specialist schools. Some of us are saying goodbye to students we have been working with as they go on study leave, take exams and leave school. This also means that we will be starting with new students. Please keep all these students in mind, as transition and exam season can bring a lot of stress and anxiety, and we ask you to pray that our Chaplains can build good relationships with all new students we come into contact with.

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker



Joan with pupils at 'Sadness to Joy'

OT/NT Mini

This term, Barbara is teaching OT Mini in two schools to a Year 5/6 class and a Year 4 class, while I am teaching NT Mini to two Year 6 classes at different schools. Both Barbara and I make use of interesting and eye-catching props to help bring the Bible stories to life for the children. We both use a 'lota jar' which keeps pouring water after emptying, to illustrate the woman at the well. Barbara has a Noah's Ark story bag which keeps being turned inside out. I use a disappearing/appearing box to tell the story of the lost coin, a torn and restored Easter banner to explain Jesus' resurrection and a broken chain to demonstrate Peter's miraculous escape from prison. As the children gasp in wonder, we pray that they will wonder at God's mighty acts.

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker

PLT / Prayer Spaces

We love hearing feedback from children to help shape our work! Here are some examples from the PLT (Prayerfully Learning Together) project:

From three focus group sessions, pupils said:

- "I am feeling really connected to God."
- "I've started praying more without being told to."
- "I have learnt that you can pray about anything, with anyone, at any time."

There was also much enthusiasm to pass this onto others: "We could help younger children with ideas about how to pray and give them encouragement."

From a Pre-SATs Prayer Space, pupils said:

- "Wherever I am, God is with us."
- "It helped me focus on what I need."
- "I feel more confident going into it now."
- "It was calming and inspiring stuff."
- "It made me feel a lot less stressed about SATs."



Frances Coe, Schools Worker

Thank you, Mick

We would like to thank Mick Bastable, who agreed to become Chair of Trustees for 18 months nearly three years ago! Mick has worked tirelessly for the Trust and is especially remembered for getting the new office into shape over the summer holidays of 2022. Mick will continue as a Trustee and gradually hand over his responsibilities. We are glad that we will still benefit from his experience and his commitment to our work in schools and to the staff team.

Sally McMahon, Chair of Trustees
(from May 2025)

Our new Patron

We are delighted to announce that the Bishop of Bradwell, The Right Reverend Adam Atkinson (pictured to the right), has recently agreed to be a Patron of BSCWT.

Bishop Adam has a keen interest in supporting Christian ministry in schools and among young people and children, and he has expressed his enthusiastic support for our work serving the schools of Brentwood. He said: *"I am honoured to become a Patron of the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust. The work they do to share God's love and hope with young people is both vital and deeply inspiring. I look forward to supporting their mission as they continue to walk alongside schools, staff, and students, helping to nurture faith, compassion, and community."*



Q&A Lessons

At the end of last term, the Ursuline Convent High School invited our team to hold six 'Question and Answer' lessons with their Year 11 GCSE classes. We talked about our individual journeys of faith, and responded to many interesting questions including:

- How did becoming a Christian change your lifestyle?
- Can children really believe?
- Do different religions believe in the same God?
- What drew you to your denomination?

We were very thankful for this amazing opportunity to discuss these students' questions about Christian faith.

Fiona Mason,
Operations Manager & Schools Worker



Pupils at 'Love Easter'

8 things we're doing in schools this term.....

- 25 "It's Your Move" lessons in 25 primary schools with over 850 Year 6 pupils
- 62 assemblies in 28 schools
- 42 lunchtime club sessions in 5 schools
- 20 'OT/NT Mini' lessons
- 3 Exam Stress workshops
- A whole-school whole-day 'prayer space' and other 'prayer space' activities
- One-to-one pupil support in 8 schools
- Supporting Year 6 pupils at their secondary school Induction Days

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

Could you help us provide Christian learning and support to the next generation? Read on...

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

- To receive weekly prayer updates, termly prayer calendars and other information to help you pray, please visit www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent.
- Why not 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, either in schools as 'Associate Workers' or behind the scenes as Trustees, Support Team members or Church Reps.

- Visit www.bscwt.org/vacancies to find out more.
- To express an interest in doing an internship or work experience placement with us, contact us at office@bscwt.org.

DONATE: We are immensely grateful for everyone who supports us financially - thank you! In addition to our existing income, we are looking for 200 people who could give £25 a month (or 500 people who could give £10 a month!) to enable us to keep reaching thousands of young people and children in our local schools. If you can give more, or less, or if you can increase your existing support, we appreciate every contribution.

- To set up a standing order or a one-off donation via your online/phone banking, please contact us at office@bscwt.org for our bank account details.
- To complete a Gift Aid Declaration form, if applicable, visit www.bit.ly/BSCWTgiftaidform.
- Go to www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156 to donate via Stewardship.
- We can also accept cheques (payable to BSCWT).
- Visit www.bscwt.org/donate for further information.



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