



Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Spring Term 2026

BSCWT, 49 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5PS
Phone: 01277 523522 E-mail: office@bscwt.org Website: www.bscwt.org
www.facebook.com/BSCWT, www.x.com/BSCWT,
www.instagram.com/b.s.c.w.t, www.youtube.com/@BSCWT

Registered Charity
No: 1172358

"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"



View from the Chair

Lamentations 3 v22-23: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Today I want to thank you for standing with the Trust as we have appealed for funds over the last year. Thank you to those who have committed regular gifts, which make it easier to budget; we now have over 100 regular donors. Thank you to those individuals and churches who have stepped in and given one-off donations to meet our needs. At the end of our campaign, we had the equivalent of 213 new donors of £25 per month over the next three years, exceeding our original target of 200.

As I mentioned in my recent letter to our supporters, due to increased costs, there will be a few changes from September to ensure that this money is spent wisely. In addition, our wonderful Lead Schools Worker, Sue Evans, is going to retire at the end of this academic year after 18 years with the Trust. So, we are busy discussing future plans, which we will share with you in due course. We value your support in prayer and ongoing giving.

In the meantime, do read about the many ways in which we are supporting local schools and sharing with them God's love and inspiration from the Bible. We are so glad that this life-changing work will continue.

Sally McMahon, Chair of Trustees

Staff Team News

After an amazing 18 years, Sue has decided the time has come for her to retire from her work with BSCWT after the end of the summer term. We are so grateful for everything she has done with us and we'll be saying more in our Summer Term Newsletter!



Sue with pupils at Sadness to Joy last year



2006

20 YEARS LATER



2026

In 2006, Facebook and Twitter were launched to the public, Daniel Craig appeared in his first Bond film ("Casino Royale") and Google acquired a one-year old video-sharing website called YouTube for \$1.65 billion. In rather less global news, it was also the year I began working as Director of Schools Work for the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust!

As I reflect on the past 20 years, my overwhelming feelings are ones of gratitude - gratitude for the amazing people who have worked and volunteered with BSCWT over those two decades, gratitude to God for all that he has done to grow and develop our work, gratitude for all the schools that have welcomed our team, gratitude for the many thousands of young people and children who have engaged with us in schools, and gratitude for our wonderful supporters who make it possible for us to keep serving our local schools.



Pupils at Christmas Wonder

Thank you for your interest in, and support for, BSCWT - I hope you enjoy catching up with us through this newsletter.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Our End-of-Year Celebration...

...will take place on the evening of **Thursday 16th July 2026**. Please save the date in your diary - we would love you to join us to thank God for another year of serving our local schools! There will be more details in our next newsletter.

Inside this issue:

	Page		Page
View from the Chair / 20 Years Later	1	Pupil Support / Lunchtime Clubs	3
Staff Team News / End-of-Year Celebration	1	Assemblies in Secondary Schools	3
Christmas report / Primary Assemblies	2	Pray for Schools / 9 things we're doing	4
Prayer Spaces / Easter Projects	2	Fundraising opportunity / Could you help us?	4



Christmas report: Christmas Wonder & Darkness to Light

Last term, we taught 16 *Darkness to Light* lessons, allowing us to share the Nativity story in an interactive way, whilst also encouraging the children to consider the light and dark aspects of the story. As usual, the Year 2 children did not disappoint with their enthusiasm, engagement and wonderful moments of insight. When discussing why we gave them golden chocolate coins, one child shared that it would remind her that Jesus is treasure.

We also led 11 Christmas Wonder sessions with Year 6. These 'prayer space' style sessions encourage the pupils to reflect on the relevance of Jesus' birth to their lives today. One teacher commented: 'It was so lovely to see the children so involved and thoughtfully participating.'

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



Alison with pupils at *Darkness to Light*

Primary School Assemblies



This year's theme for our assemblies in primary and specialist schools follows the apostle Peter. We've seen that as he got to know Jesus, Peter realised that Jesus was more than a person, a good teacher, or wonderful friend – he saw power which set Jesus apart as completely unique. Peter's understanding reached a peak when he witnessed Jesus transfigured as God's Son, but then crashed as fear took over and he denied knowing him at all! Thankfully, after his Resurrection, Jesus offered Peter restoration with new chances. With each assembly we encourage the children to reflect on their experience of noticing what is important, making mistakes and needing forgiveness.

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker

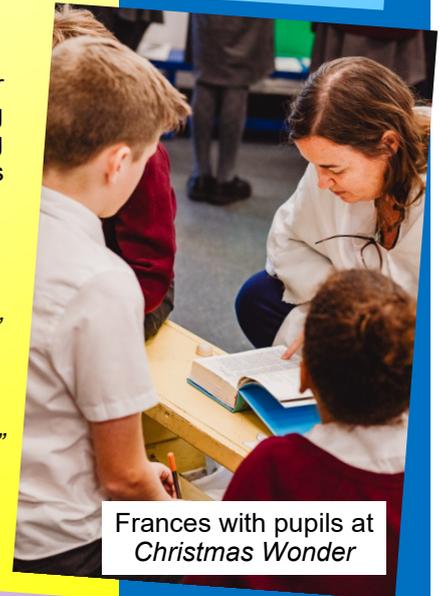


Prayer Spaces: Pupil Voices

We enjoy developing young leaders in some of our 'prayer spaces'. Many help with ideas, setting up and explaining/leading activities. Here are some thoughts from young leaders running outdoor 'prayer spaces' at St Thomas' and Hutton All Saints schools:

- "I felt like I could make our school a better place."
- "I feel grateful because I am doing something good for the school."
- "I have really enjoyed helping people get closer to God."
- "I have enjoyed watching other children hear about God & seeing how they pray."
- "I have learnt that praying is not the only thing that makes a religion."
- "I have enjoyed teaching people about Christianity & learning about it myself."
- "I feel like I can share my ideas without being questioned."
- "I've learnt that people believe different things about what God does & who he is."
- "I have learnt that staying calm pays off & you should not doubt yourself."
- "I have learnt teamwork."

Frances Coe, Schools Worker



Frances with pupils at *Christmas Wonder*

OUR EASTER PROJECTS - MARCH 2026!

Love Easter

Love Easter frames the Easter story as one of God's great love for his people, and his plan to repair broken relationship. After hearing an outline of the Bible narrative, the children divide up to explore the story and it's meaning for themselves. They do this through different reflective activities focusing on questions such as who we follow, how we remember special people or events, forgiveness, and hope. *Love Easter* is a wonderful way to engage the children with the Christian message of hope, helping them to relate to their own experience of the world, other people, themselves and God.

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker

Sadness to Joy

Sadness to Joy is an interactive lesson with Year 2 children which takes the children on the journey through the last week of the life of Jesus. They enjoy being part of a parade on Palm Sunday, having their hands washed and tasting Matzo for Maundy Thursday, and acting out Resurrection Sunday. We conclude by making a little Easter garden together for them to keep at school to remind them how the different Easter symbols all remind us of what Jesus did for us that week! Please pray that these lessons help the children understand the true meaning of why Christians celebrate Easter!

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker



'Caterpillars'

Evie and Alison are continuing to run 'Caterpillars' with pupils in Years 1 & 2. This small group course helps young children navigate feelings and actions when dealing with changes and loss in their lives. There has been excellent feedback from the sessions so far and quieter pupils have found this a safe space to speak openly.



Exam Stress

Our work with Exam Stress has expanded to more schools in recent years. We take assemblies and run small group workshops to explore in depth how we cope with exam stress, and life stress in general. As Christians, we know the words 'fear not' or 'do not worry' appear in the Bible fairly regularly! Exam season brings a heightened sense of stress to some pupils. Through this work, we have a great opportunity to help pupils cope with the pressure of exams and outcomes by providing practical support and advice from a Christian perspective.



Pupil Support

Our team provide many different types of support to pupils in the schools we visit. It's a privilege to serve young people and school communities through our pastoral care. Here is a look at how we put that support into action.

*Fiona Mason,
Operations Manager & Schools Worker*

UCAS Support and 6th Form

Last term, Holly and Alison supported 6th Form pupils at Becket Keys School's UCAS (Universities and College Admissions Service) days. Pupils were finalising and submitting their university choices. The event provided a good opportunity for pupils to discuss their thoughts and concerns on the next important steps as they prepare to leave school.

Our work with 6th Form pupils in local secondary schools is exciting and we feel privileged to provide a listening ear, guidance and wisdom via assemblies, workshops, pupil support and activities like the UCAS day, which bring conversation, from a faith perspective, to young adults as they embark on their futures.

One-to-one support

Our Chaplains continue to provide weekly one-to-one support to pupils in 8 schools. These regular times provide safe spaces for pupils to process and share difficulties in their lives. Sometimes this is via an activity where, for example, they might talk as they play a game, sometimes it's a conversation. Due to the needs, our Chaplains often have waiting lists for time slots to become available. Please pray for the pupils we meet and our Chaplains as they undertake this important role.

Anxiety Workshop

Sue, Alison and I were recently asked to run an Anxiety Workshop with a local specialist school as part of their Children's Mental Health Day. We looked at what anxiety is, how it makes us feel and we provided visual and practical activities to help explain and understand feelings of worry and anxiety. The pupils engaged really well. They made 'Calm Boxes' and did some very relaxing breathing, grounding and calming exercises!



'Shepherds' at Darkness to Light!

ASSEMBLIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

We continue to have the enormous privilege of being able to speak to thousands of young people in assemblies at several secondary schools. This term, we are inviting pupils to reflect on themes such as "Helping Hands" (considering Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan), forgiveness and Easter. We have also provided assemblies for students in Years 12 and 13 on managing the stress of exams (see item at the top of this page).

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Our Lunchtime Clubs

We are very blessed to still be running primary school clubs in Warley, Ingatestone Juniors, Holly Trees and Mountnessing and we receive great enthusiasm from the pupils who attend. These lunchtime clubs provide us with an amazing opportunity to teach children about the Bible through a game, active Bible story and craft. This academic year we are looking at Miracles, this term the focus being on the miracles of Jesus, including turning water into wine and the healing at the pool of Bethesda. We also run a lunchtime club called 'Wonder Space' at St Martin's School which helps pupils to wonder and think deeply about life, faith and spirituality.

*Evie Bartlett,
Project Administrator & Schools Worker*

Feedback from school staff after an OT Mini Lesson:
"The sessions are fast paced and exciting for all involved."



Pray for Schools Fortnight 2026...

...runs from Sunday 3rd May to Sunday 17th May, providing an opportunity for churches to pray for local schools just as exam season gets underway. Please join in and pray at this important time for many young people and schools.

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

- 'Love Easter' Project with at least 11 schools (bookings still open)
- 'Sadness to Joy' Project with at least 18 schools (bookings still open)
- Weekly lunchtime clubs in 5 schools
- 36 'OT/NT Mini' lessons
- 'Prayer Spaces' / 'Thinking Areas' in primary schools
- One-to-one pupil support in 8 schools
- 54 assemblies in 29 schools
- Anxiety Workshop in a specialist school
- 'Caterpillars' support group for Year 1 pupils

Schools Ministry Sunday

Thank you to every person and every church who recently marked Schools Ministry Sunday to raise awareness of, and to pray for, the various kinds of Christian ministry that goes on to serve schools. Next year, Schools Ministry Sunday will be on Sunday 7th February 2027!

Fundraising opportunity...

We are looking for someone with expertise in fundraising, to help us, as a volunteer, to build on our recent fundraising campaign - could this person be you?

Do you have:

- Experience, skills and knowledge in writing and submitting grant applications?
- Time and ability to search for funding sources?
- A servant heart to work alongside our Trustees, Treasurer and Staff in securing finances for the continuation of this work for generations to come as we continue to support the schools of the Brentwood area?

If you do, and would like to know more, please contact Ian Kemble (Director of Schools Work) or Sally McMahon (Chair of Trustees), via the BSCWT office:
Email: office@bscwt.org; Phone: 01277 523522

John with pupils at Christmas Wonder



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 to raise up a new generation of supporters to help us reach the next generation of young people and children in our local schools. If you can donate, 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.



In association with

If you no longer wish to receive communications from BSCWT, please contact us at office@bscwt.org.

BSCWT Patron: The Right Reverend Adam Atkinson, Bishop of Bradwell