

# Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2011

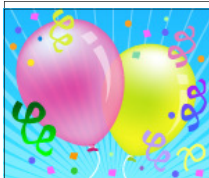
BSCWT, Sawyers Hall College, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9DA  
Phone: 01 277 261999 E-mail: office@bscwt.org Website: www.bscwt.org



**Brentwood  
Schools Christian Worker Trust**

Registered Charity No: 1005207

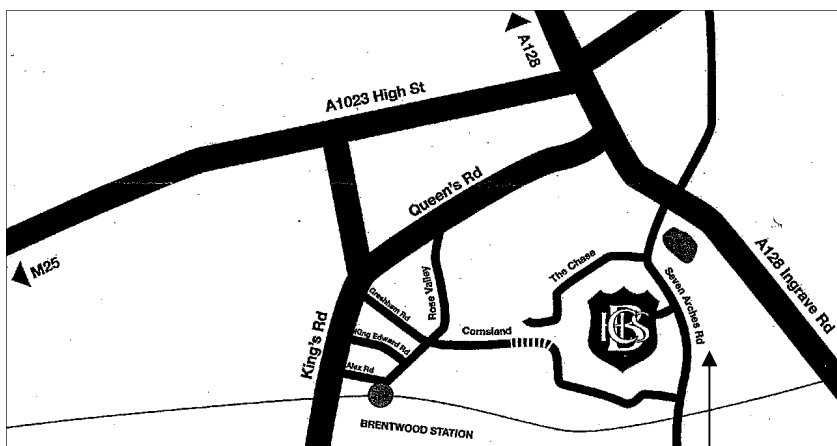
*“Christians serving schools”*



## You are invited to the BSCWT Annual Celebration & General Meeting on 4th July 2011

You are invited to the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Annual Celebration and General Meeting on **Monday 4th July 2011 at 7.30pm-9.30pm to be held at Brentwood County High School**, Shenfield Common, Seven Arches Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4JF. Refreshments and papers will be available from 7.30pm and the meeting will start at 7.45pm with worship and celebration. This event is open to all - please put it in your diary and bring others from your church to join us to give thanks and celebrate the work God is

doing in schools and the lives of young people through BSCWT. It is also a great opportunity to join with Christians from the Borough of Brentwood who are involved with, and have a concern for, the young people of our town, to pray for them and to look for further ways to serve them. We look forward to seeing you there!



(Entrance on Seven Arches Road)

### Exciting Times!

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time for education in Brentwood, not least as several proposals for the future of the Sawyers Hall College site are discussed and debated. Since we represent a broad range of churches and serve a broad range of schools, the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust, as an organisation, takes a neutral view on these different proposals. We recognise that there are many different points of view that are entitled to their place in this conversation. Let us hope and pray together that we will discover the best way forward for the children and young people of this area and that this community will be able to give the best provision possible for the education of the next generation.

Ian Kemble,  
Director of Schools Work



### Special Announcement from the Trustees!

The Lord has been very faithful in meeting the financial needs of the Trust especially over the financial year which ended at the end of March (see article on finances on page 3). We do however have a short-term need for which we would appreciate your help.

The Trustees have a legal obligation to ensure that the Trust has sufficient reserves to meet all its contractual commitments. While the Trust has a considerable cash balance it is currently insufficient to meet these commitments which increase year by year. We have a one-off requirement for £3,000 which would put us back into a strong position. If you are able to help us with part of this need, we would be most grateful.

We have around 80 individuals who support the Trust by making regular donations via standing order. Regular donations of this type ensure that our income is received in a smooth manner for which we are very grateful. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Trust in this way please complete the form on the back of this newsletter and send it to Fiona Mason at our office. *With thanks, the Trustees*

### Inside this issue:

	Page		Page
Join us at our Annual Meeting & Celebration	1	Living Faith	3
Exciting Times	1	From the Chair of Trustees	3
Special announcement from the Trustees	1	Bible Explorer	3
School Residential at Beauchamps Camp	2	Financial update	3
Relationships Lessons	2	Associate Worker Focus	4
Body Image & Self Concept Lessons	2	Supporting the Trust	4

## School Residential at Beauchamps Scout Camp

Last month I accompanied year 9 students from Sawyers Hall College and Shenfield School on a two day residential trip to Beauchamps Scout Camp in Hockley. The main focus of the residential was to help the students 'mingle' together as part of the process of moving Sawyers Hall College students to Shenfield School. By the time you read this, the year 9 students will have made that move and this residential was key in helping the students build friendships.

A lot of activities were provided by the camp leaders, including archery, crate-building, 'Jacob's ladder', high ropes and an assault course. A BBQ round a camp fire was provided in the evening, and students also had some free time to 'socialize' – the girls tending to congregate in their dormitories and the boys happy to play cricket and rounders in the grounds. The two days were a great success with students mixing well together as we attempted all the activities. Did I join in? Of course!! To be honest, my expectation had been to be around to encourage and support, but I soon found myself high up on crates clinging to another leader, harnessed up wearing a very attractive red helmet. I have the bruises to prove it!! It was great fun though, even with an almost sleepless night, and the students and staff are still talking about it. At least I am prepared and forewarned if invited to be involved next year! *Mary Thomas, Secondary School Worker*



## Sex & Relationships Lessons

Earlier this year, Mary and I visited Shenfield School to present a Christian view on sex and relationships as part of the wider sex and relationships education at the school. The lessons were really well received by students and teachers alike.

Each lesson Mary and I started with personal stories of how our lives have been affected in the area of sex and relationships. During this time the young people were always really engaged and were clearly interested in our experiences. After this introduction, we outlined how we all have boundaries and got the students to consider the consequences if they overstep boundaries whether in school, at home or in wider society.

We then applied this principle to the area of sex and explored the idea of abstinence which, to many students, was a completely new word. The main activity of the lesson was for the students to identify reasons that people might abstain and reasons they might not. We then discussed whether these were good reasons or not. At the end of each lesson, we nearly always had a longer list on the side of the board that was headed "*reasons to abstain.*"



We have had very positive feedback about these lessons and it has been clear that they helped the year 9 pupils think about the choices they make and why they make them, particularly in the area of sex and relationships.

*Jon Keel, Associate Worker*

## Year 8 lessons: 'Body Image and Self Concept'

This term Jon Keel and I have started a new set of lessons with Year 8 at Shenfield School. We had been asked to focus on peer pressure and bullying from a Christian perspective as part of a schedule of work called 'Body Image and Self Concept.' This was quite a challenge to prepare, but the lessons seemed to go very well.

Using PowerPoint slides showing a series of faces, we ask the students to list words that describe their first impression or gut reactions to the faces and then we consider how our first impressions can easily cause us to make assumptions about people that can, in turn, lead to bullying. Our aim is to help students understand that so often we judge by first impression or appearance without knowing the story of the person 'behind' the face. We explore the main reasons why people get bullied, who or what influences our decision-making and then we discuss Bible verses that describe God looking at the heart rather than our appearance, and about each of us having been "wonderfully made". We conclude the lesson using a clip of an amazing Christian man called Nik Vujicic, born without arms and legs but quite content in himself because his identity is not in how he looks but who he is as a Christian.

Once again we are thankful to God for another opportunity to explore such important issues with young people in school. I am challenged personally by the content of the lesson, and our prayer is that the students will be also.

*Mary Thomas, Secondary Schools Worker*



### 6 things we are doing in schools this term

- Lessons with year 8 and year 7 in Shenfield School
- Assemblies in 26 schools
- Bible Explorer lessons at three primary schools
- Leading and supporting a variety of clubs in 8 schools
- *It's Your Move* lessons with year 6 at 21 primary schools
- Continuing our chaplaincy work in three schools

**Living Faith:** In the spring term newsletter, I wrote about the passion and importance of faith in the lives of believers, and how our relationship with God has a profound and important affect on the way we live our lives. It is this living faith which we as Christian schools workers try to convey whenever we are in school. It is what distinguishes us from other voluntary help the schools receive. Never more so than when we meet with the year 6 children at different points throughout the year in our three projects: *Christmas Unwrapped*, *Easter Cracked* and *It's Your Move*. These lessons give us opportunities to spend a good chunk of time with the children, and because we run them with a team of volunteers from both the Trust and the churches, we are able to have quite in-depth conversations. Our aim is to help pupils to explore not only what Christians believe, but what our faith means to us, and to demonstrate how we believe God is relevant and important to us in our lives.



At Christmas and Easter we invite year 6 classes from several schools into church for a 1½-hour fast-moving workshop, looking closely at the Biblical stories and symbols associated with the festivals, as well as the ways in which the church celebrates them. We engage the children in different activities, with film clips, drama, cooking and even rap music. Both the team presenting and our visitors seem to have great fun, as well as hopefully learning something new, not least about the relevance of Christianity to contemporary life. The *It's Your Move* lessons take place in school and are designed to help the year 6 pupils transition to secondary school. We ask the children to reflect on their own values, the changes that lie ahead and the kinds of choices they may be facing. As the lesson progresses, we unfold the story of Peter's discipleship, looking at his decision to follow Jesus, the mistakes he made and the forgiveness he received. Through this story, we invite the children to see how Christians find help in the Bible to work through challenges we face and to make important everyday decisions. We hope and pray that the lessons, and the *It's Your Move* books that are given to pupils (and sponsored by local churches), will help to prepare them for life in secondary school.

Sue Evans, Primary Schools Worker

### From the Chair of Trustees:

"When he (Jesus) looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. 'What a huge harvest!' he said to his disciples. 'How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!'" (Matthew 9 v 36 – 38, The Message).

In reading this passage recently, I was struck by two things. Firstly, the compassion Jesus had in his heart for the ordinary people around him. In the work of the Trust, we see this day after day as he encourages us to show his love and compassion to the people we meet in our schools. He is anxious to make a difference in the lives of those we meet. Secondly, I was struck that Jesus' work was constrained by a shortage of people, just like so much of what we do. He was also clear what needed to be done about it – "pray for harvest hands". Let's leave it with the Father to resolve. As we thankfully remember the Lord's care for the work of the Trust over the past 12 months, please join us in praying for more workers to show his compassion, in particular for two new trustees, and also that the Lord will continue to meet our financial needs.



Andrew Kearns, Chair of Trustees



### Bible Explorer

*Bible Explorer* (see [www.bible.org.uk/bx\\_whatIs.php](http://www.bible.org.uk/bx_whatIs.php)) aims to teach children in years 5 & 6 the storyline of the Bible by giving them a sense of the big picture. It takes the form of two series of five one hour lessons -

one series covering the Old Testament and the other the New Testament. The lessons are great fun and very entertaining, telling the story through a mix of all kinds of different media, such as storytelling, drama, videos, and slides. Throughout the lessons the children are actively involved and they are taught a set of keywords and hand-signs to help them to remember the storyline.

Lindsey Crutchett has been running *Bible Explorer* for BSCWT since 2007-08, and has taught over 100 lessons in primary schools in the Brentwood area. During the last few months Lindsey has also been training Barbara Clark to teach *Bible Explorer*, and she will start taking lessons this term. *Bible Explorer* is a demanding programme to memorise and deliver, with props and other resources to gather together. Please pray for both Lindsey and Barbara as they continue to put in so much work to deliver such memorable lessons for children in our local primary schools. And if you work in a local school and are interested to know more about *Bible Explorer*, please get in touch with us at the BSCWT office. Sue Evans, Primary Schools Worker

### Financial update as at 31 March 2011

As you can see from the figures on the right, the budget deficit of £4,805 for the last financial year did not materialise, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and of our God, who is clearly in the Trust's work in so many ways. Giving by our individual supporters, the Brentwood churches and charitable trusts has been remarkable, and with special gifts by these three groups coming just when



the need has arisen. Budgetary control of expenses has also helped and hence overall we show a small surplus for the year rather the projected deficit. In the current financial climate this is something to be really thankful for.

A full report on the Trust's accounts for the year and of the general financial position will be given at the forthcoming AGM. Please continue to pray for the ongoing work in the Brentwood schools and thank you once again for standing with us. Ian Marr, Treasurer

	<u>Actual 12</u> <u>mths to</u> <u>31/3/11</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Budget 12</u> <u>mths to</u> <u>31/3/11</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>£</u>
Income—all sources	66,800	61,350	5,450
Staff costs	(49,514)	(50,910)	1,396
Other costs	<u>(16,877)</u>	<u>(15,245)</u>	<u>(1,632)</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	409	(4,805)	5,214
(Figures subject to audit)			

## Associate Worker Focus: Alex Newens

I have been an associate worker with BSCWT since last October, when I began my role as children's and youth worker at Hutton and Shenfield Union Church. As someone who works for a church, I see the importance of going to where children and young people are, to be a witness and servant for Jesus, rather than waiting for them to come to us at church.



Since I've begun, I've been able to be involved in many events and weekly groups, through my work with the Trust and my church. During the week, I help run a Monday lunchtime games group at The Endeavour School. On Tuesdays, after I have assisted with a Year 4 class at Willowbrook, I help out with the lunchtime drop-in club at Shenfield High School. Also on Tuesdays I sometimes sit in with a Year 9 RE class at The Endeavour School. On Wednesdays, I help with football coaching at Willowbrook, on Thursdays I assist with a Nintendo Wii club at St. Martin's School, and on Friday mornings I attend the BSCWT prayer meeting, which I always find a real encouragement. On a more occasional basis I take assemblies and lessons and I have also been involved with projects such as *Christmas Unwrapped* and *Easter Cracked*.

I really enjoy the variety that schools work brings. Working with both primary and secondary students is exciting, and a great challenge. Being able to serve in these schools on a regular basis has given me the opportunity to really get to know some of the students, and the school staff too.

## Back to School Sunday

*It may seem a long way off now, but the start of next term provides a great opportunity in our churches to pray for everyone involved in schools. The school year begins on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, so please do use Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September (or 11<sup>th</sup> September) to celebrate "Back to School Sunday".*

*Do feel free to contact us for help or ideas, or visit:*  
[www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org)

**Vacancies!** *Are you interested in getting involved with BSCWT's work but don't want to go into schools? Are you eager to support churches working together through BSCWT? We currently have spaces within our Trustees and on our Management Committee for people from local churches who want to support our schools team from behind the scenes. It's an important role but not an onerous one - contact us at our office to find out more.*



*Our newsletters and prayer calendars are available to download on the website [www.bscwt.org](http://www.bscwt.org). As well as providing information about the Trust's work in schools, the website carries links to the websites of schools and churches across the Brentwood Borough.*

**Trustees:** *Andrew Kearns, Sally McMahon, Phil Manterfield, Christine Drew*  
**Management Committee:** *Keith Bilton, Bob Jackson, Ian Marr, Olive Law, Brenda Ratley, Ann Fraser, Fiona Mason;* **Panel of Reference:** *Andrew Binnell, Rev Chris Goldsmith, Joan Dewhirst*

### Yes, I would like to invest in the children and young people of the borough of Brentwood

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dt/Rev:	
Address:	
Church:	
Telephone:	
<b>I would like to make a regular monthly gift:</b> To the Manager: (name and address of your Bank/Building Society)	
Account Name:	Postcode
Account No:	Sort Code:
Signature	Date:

Make your gifts go further at no extra cost to yourself, by simply signing your name below, the HMRC will top up your donations providing Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust with an extra 28p for every £1 you give. Please treat all the donations that I make after 6th April 2007 until further notice as Gift Aid. My annual income tax and/or capital gains tax bills exceed the total tax reclaimed on my gifts by Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust and the other charities I support.  
 Signed .....  
 Date .....  
*If you are Gift Aiding, it would be appreciated if you could add the letters GA to your bank reference to assist with payment identification. Thank you.*

Please pay £..... monthly to Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust A/c 04080841, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, sort code:30-91-85, starting on .....(date) until further notice.

**SINGLE DONATIONS:** I enclose a donation by cheque (made payable to Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust)  
 £25 \_\_\_\_\_ £50 \_\_\_\_\_ £100 \_\_\_\_\_ £250 \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred gift £ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to:*

*Fiona Mason, Administrator, BSCWT, Sawyers Hall College, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9DA*