



Watford Schools Trust

Autumn Newsletter 2011

Giving every schoolchild a clear understanding of the Christian faith

These are exciting times for Watford Schools Trust.

We now have more staff and volunteers, and many opportunities to take the Gospel of God's love into the schools of our town.

Changes

We welcome back Danelle Nightingale as a Schools' Worker. Danelle worked for the Trust a few years ago, so we already know about her enthusiasm and creative flair. Tricia, who has been running solo recently, will particularly appreciate Danelle's return, as they have worked so well together in the past.

Also joining the team is Alison Harvey, who is our new Administrator, taking over from Debbie following her departure during the summer. Alison has a key role at the hub of the trust with her organising, informing and communicating skills. We have also said goodbye to Karen Thompson who has moved on and so relinquished her role as a trustee.

Opportunities

With the new dynamic team in place we are ready for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Christmas is fast approaching, and we want to tell the children in our schools what the real meaning of Christmas is: the birth of Jesus.

Then next year the Olympic Games will create openings for us to take days in schools based on a Games related theme. This will require not only our team, but also volunteers and the backing of local Churches.

Thanks

All this is only possible with your support. With a bigger team we will need more finances, but we also covet your prayers and encouragement. So a big thank you to all of you, individuals and Churches, who have stood with us in taking the knowledge of Jesus Christ into the heart of our schools.

Returning to the Olympic theme, in Hebrews it says,

"Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish." Heb 12, 1-2 (New Living Translation).

Kelvin Hirst (Trustee)

Hectic Harvest

The beginning of this term found me planning Harvest assemblies. It is always a special occasion, which the children seem to really enjoy.

This year many schools that I visited had collected goods for Watford New Hope Trust. It gave me an opportunity to highlight what we have and so often take for granted, like our homes and families. I used some very basic British Sign Language to share how Harvest is a time when Christians say thank you to God for all that they have.

Feedback from one school:

'The assembly was FANTASTIC...pitched just at the right level for the children to understand, very clear message and not too long. The teachers were also buzzing afterwards saying how good it was, so...absolutely brilliant! (Or should I say "Well done" in sign language!)

Tricia

WST Financial Report

Thank you to all of those donors who have continued to give faithfully over the past months. Without them, we would not have been able to take on our extra worker. We, like many other charities are continuing to feel the effects of the recession and in particular we have had a huge reduction in personal giving. We have now set up our on-line giving through BT donate go to

www.btplc.com/mydonate

Please consider giving to the trust if you have not done so already. If you would like to send a donation by post please send it directly to:

Elizabeth Vis, WST Treasurer
2 Lower Paddock Road,
Oxhey Village WD19 4DS

Olympic Opportunities

I have also spent a lot of time last half term looking at ways we can use the Olympic Games next year to offer something special to schools in our area. One of the possibilities will involve offering a unique day to schools which will include a "Creative Zone", a "Sports Zone" as well as a "Discovery Zone" where they will hear the story of Zacchaeus. The idea is that local Churches would supply some volunteers to help lead the day in their nearest school. Just like the Bible Workshops last term, this idea won't get off the ground without your help. So please pray about whether this is something you and your congregation could support.

Tricia

Introduction To The New Team Members

Greetings! My name is Danelle Nightingale and I am both new, and not new, to the Watford Schools Trust Team. I worked alongside Tricia a number of years ago, and am glad to be returning to the Trust for a new season of schools work.

In addition to the assemblies, lessons and other schools' work I will be enjoying in the Watford area schools, I also work part time leading the children's ministry at Mill End Baptist Church in Rickmansworth. My husband Todd is the pastor of the church, and of our four children, two are in secondary school, one is a gap-year intern and the eldest is off at Uni.

Since I last worked for the Trust, I have not only partnered with my husband in leading our community of faith, but have also completed a theological course of study. My final research project looked at how churches can empower parents in the spiritual formation of their children, and reflects my passion for children, families and the local church.

I see the vital role that people of faith can have in schools, impacting children and staff with the gospel, both in word and in action. I am glad to be a part of a team which embraces and provides such a tangible expression of God's love and truth.



Hi, my name is Alison Harvey and I am excited to be joining the Watford Schools Trust Team.

I am married to Owen and we have two boys at primary school. Owen and I met at Leicester University. After a period of travelling around Australia and other parts of the world we both trained as primary school teachers. After getting married we moved to Bushey, close to the schools we were working in. Since having children I have moved to part time teaching at a couple of local schools.

We are both heavily involved in our church, North Bushey Baptist. I am the church administrator, Owen is the Church Secretary and we both help run the Sunday Clubs.

Being both a mum and a teacher, I have a real interest in supporting the work of the trust in schools. I also would like to raise the profile of the trust and make it more accessible to the churches and schools within the Watford area.

Please contact me via the e-mail address below if you have any queries, questions or are interested in getting more involved in the work of the trust.



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