



Spring Newsletter 2019

The Large and the Local

Watford Schools Trust is affiliated to Scripture Union, an international, evangelical organisation that has been established for over 150 years. Their aim is to reach the 95% of children and young people in this country who are never in church with the good news of Jesus. As a “Local Mission Partner” of Scripture Union, we play our part in this with our work in the schools throughout Watford.

At the end of January, I attended Scripture Union’s annual conference, along with our schools’ worker Tricia Bastable. Working as we do in a small local charity, it was wonderful to see the bigger picture, to meet others doing a similar work to ours in their own locations, and still others who were seeking to reach children and young people through sports ministry, dance and theatre. Encountering people with so much energy, enthusiasm and creativity was inspiring. S.U. are a good resource for us, assisting us with policy-making and good governance, and their local development worker, Sam Fowler, is available to support and encourage our schools’ workers, Tricia and Johanna. It is good to be part of something big!

Also in January, I spent a few days away at Christians Across Watford’s annual advance (not a retreat) for leaders of churches and Christian agencies in Watford. A much smaller and more intimate occasion than the S.U. conference, it was a lovely time of sharing and growing together. It emphasised to me that we are a local Trust and as such, we rely entirely for our prayer and financial support on the local churches and you our faithful supporters. So a HUGE thank you to those of you who volunteer with us, who pray for us and who give to us. Without you we would not be able to do the work we do. It is good to be part of the local Christian family!

Every blessing to you,

Kelvin Hirst (Acting Chair)

Reflection Room in Cherry Tree Primary School

During the last week of May we will be running a Reflection Room at Cherry Tree Primary School. This is the third year in a row (!) and we are very excited to return to this school with many activities from Prayer Space. The activities will help the children to reflect on themselves, the people around them, our big world and on God. It’s a wonderful experience for the children who can take some time off from their usual learning and focus on other things that are important to them.

We will introduce a good number of new activities this year (besides some all-time favourites). Some address particular issues in the school and other activities are based on stories in the news such as ‘pollution of the oceans’ and ‘violence’.

Please pray for children to have a real encounter with the living God. Previous children have said that it was the first time they had talked to God in a Prayer Space or Reflection Room.

Easter Lessons

Since the new Herts R.E. curriculum was introduced, we have redesigned our lessons to help deliver exactly what the teachers are required to teach. In upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 & 6) this involves looking at some very big concepts such as Incarnation and Salvation. Our Christmas and Easter lessons give us the perfect opportunity to address these ideas and explain them from a Christian point of view.

Our Easter lessons this year allowed us to tell parts of the Easter story in Years 2 and 4 and to re-cap the whole story in Year 6. As well as re-capping the story, we also considered the question of 'How the death and resurrection of Jesus is significant to Christians today.

The Year 6 lessons were a challenge! As well as sharing a clear gospel explanation, we were asked some of the most difficult questions about sin and separation from God. I was asked several times if God would forgive everyone, no matter what they had done; if anyone was too bad for God to forgive-this led to questions about recent violent news stories. I was also asked what I thought God would say about same sex relationships, something I'd not been asked before in school.

It is a privilege to share the Good News with the children of our town, but it's not easy or straightforward. We value your prayers more than you can know!



Art work by a Year 6 child who thought about why Jesus died on the cross.

Noah's Ark



Johanna and I meet once a term with some of the children's workers from the Churches of Watford. We share our news and resources and pray for each other and our children and young people.

This term we are pooling our talents and running an event for the children of the churches across Watford and their friends. We have arranged a special visitor who will help us look at the Bible story of Noah using science experiments.

The Noah's Ark themed afternoon will be full of science experiments, crafts, singing and more for local children. We'd love for as many children as possible to come and join us.

St Mary's on Saturday 29th June from 2-4pm.

You can book online at www.wellspring-church.org tickets cost £2 per child.

For more info email tricia@watfordschoolstrust.org

See Flyer on page 4

Quiz Evening

23rd March 2019 saw St Luke's, Watford, kindly hosting a fundraising quiz evening for Watford Schools Trust. We were allocated the Upper Hall as the Church premises are busy on a Saturday night. Ticket sales were high but there was enough room for all the teams. There was a good age range and several teams came from local Churches. The quiz was run by Tricia Bastable, one of our schools workers together with her husband Richard and Lois Helden, a friend from Bushey Baptist Church.



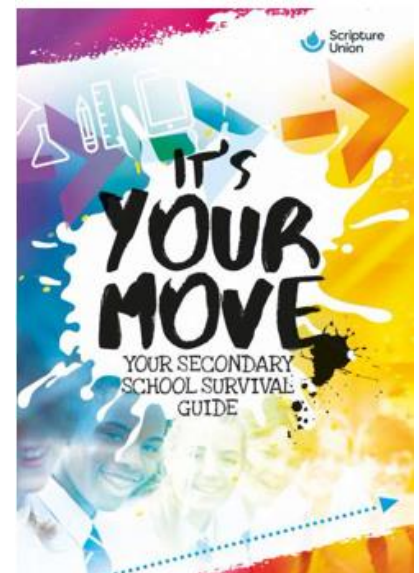
We had a few rounds of questions together with some photos to identify before the interval where everyone had a huge choice of cake served with tea or coffee. We then had the final rounds before Jo Woolcock, our Treasurer, said a few words about the work of the Trust and John Way, our ex-Chair, having travelled up from Dorset, drew the raffle prizes. We have attended a few quizzes over the years supporting various causes and my husband Mark commented that it was the best quiz he had attended. We both felt that the questions were pitched at the right level and there was a good variety. We had photos of bridges around the world in one round and trays of herbs to identify in another. Everyone agreed that this should become an annual event so please do support us next time.

Angela Steed (Trustee)

It's Your Move!

The second part of the summer term is fast approaching which means it's time for our It's Your Move workshops. These workshops are aimed at helping year 6 children to get ready for their move to secondary school. We are grateful for the many local churches who support these workshops and pay for the It's Your Move books that are given to the children! This year the books have been completely updated by Scripture Union, so we are planning to update the workshop as well. We plan to use the Bible story of Joseph to encourage the children to think of the changes, challenges and choices they face in their move to secondary school.

Please pray for the year 6 children to be encouraged by the workshop when they are reminded that they can talk to God about their worries and anxieties or to share their excitement for this big change in their lives.



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Watford Schools Trust



#Watfordschtrust

www.watfordschoolstrust.org

CHAW
children across watford

presents...



Noah's Ark

Children's Summer Event

Come and take part in science demos & experiments!

Book tickets online at www.wellspring-church.org



Saturday 29th June

2:00pm - 4:00pm / £2 per child

Children aged 5-12 years old

St Mary's Church

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG

CHAW is hosting a summer event for children to take part in science demos and experiments, crafts, music and the story of Noah. Refreshments will be provided.

Please book tickets online by 25th June.

Children across Watford is a network of children's workers from different christian organisations and churches partnering together to resource, equip and encourage leaders who work amongst children and families in Watford.