



# Annual Report

## 2011/12



Easter Journey 2012

Established 2001 by Will Collins

## Contents:

Chairman's Report	Page 3
Director's Report	Page 4
Projects & Outcomes	
Explore	Page 6
MAPS	Page 7
Launch Pad	Page 8
Toddlerific	Page 9
Resource Centre	Page 10
Finance Manager's Report	Page 11
Statement of Financial Activity	Page 12
Balance Sheet	Page 13
List of Donors	Page 14
Trustees & Staff	Page 14
Contact Us	Page 15



## Report from the Chair of Trustees

The core values of our Trust “connecting children with faith, hope and love” are, we believe, the greatest legacy we can pass onto the coming generation.

This year’s Annual Report merely provides a snapshot of some of the Trust’s achievements, developments, progress and changes over the past 12 months. I hope it will help to illustrate our commitment to the promotion of Christian values and teaching in an exciting and innovative way to the children, schools, parents and the wider community in which we work.

I am very pleased to have witnessed so many examples of the significance and impact that the Trust has had on children and families by

- Providing essential support, guidance and friendship for young families in Toddlerific
- Changing the lives of children receiving support through MAPS
- Showing the relevance of Christianity through the holistic approach of Launchpad,
- Delivering Christian assemblies, classwork, themed events & RE curriculum support to primary school teachers

The real successes of these weekly ventures have helped to build a better future for many in Stevenage.

The Trust as a whole continues to grow and develop with each person, whether salaried or volunteer, adding to the skill base, building a resilient organisation deeply rooted in the Christian faith.

Among our greatest strengths are our partnership projects, working with and through the many organisations, churches and schools in the Stevenage area. This positive integration and shared values provide that vital link between Trust and the Community, enabling our work to have a positive impact on the hearts and minds of children in Stevenage.

The Trustees are immensely proud of our dynamic and trusted team with their dedication, drive and achievements. They have risen to the challenge of the changes this year has brought magnificently.

On behalf of all the trustees I wish to express our great gratitude to staff, volunteers and the many organisations that have opened their doors to our work.

We also acknowledge most gratefully, the essential financial support we receive from our partnership links and from personal donations. A number of longer term grants will come to an end in 2013 at a time when the demand for our input continues to grow through the positive appreciation of our work. These services mean that we are able to make significant differences to individuals, families and schools. However, without additional funding we will be unable to service these increasing needs. As a result the Trustees have set a target to raise an additional £200,000 over the next two years. Your help, support and prayers for our work would be immensely valued.

Nicole White

Chair of Trustees



## Report from the Director

Bridge Builders Christian Trust is a small local charity working at the heart of communities in Stevenage and the surrounding area. Throughout the year, working in partnership with local churches, members of the team have helped to

- resource and deliver original, exciting, thought provoking assemblies on a regular basis in 6 local primary schools and as requested in other schools throughout the town
- resource a range of opportunities within Reception, KS1 and KS2 for children to learn about the Christian Faith and explore its relevance for Christians today
- train over 100 volunteers and provide the resources for THE EASTER JOURNEY – a Year 5 / 6 project hosted by 7 churches and attended by 1000+ pupils from 29 primary schools in Stevenage and the surrounding areas.

During term time we have been privileged to mentor (one to one and in small groups), a number of primary school aged children for whom life is proving tough. The Mentoring And Pastoral Support (MAPS) Project is specifically designed to help prevent personal, social and emotional issues from escalating into more dramatic incidents and gives children essential strategies to deal with their challenging lives. In 2011/12 MAPS was delivered in 7 local primary schools where the staff have sufficient confidence in the team to entrust them with the pastoral care of those who they recognise as being vulnerable and in need of early preventative measures. At any one time the team may be working with around 30 children who have been referred to us. This year 50 children have received one to one support. Programmes of small group and whole class activities such as Whale Tales, have also been delivered covering such issues as the raising of self esteem, improvement of social skills, formation of lasting relationships and transition.

We have also provided a range of clubs where children aged 0 – 11 have found a welcome and a safe place to enjoy themselves. Schools and churches host most of our activities and our team of qualified project leaders are ably assisted by an ever increasing number of committed volunteers.

TODDLERRIFIC is a toddler group that provides a popular meeting place at the heart of the Broadwater community. Each Monday and Thursday morning 20 families/ parents / carers and their under 5's were welcomed into St Paul's Church and encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities. We work in close partnership with staff from The Broadwater Children's Centre.

LAUNCH PAD is a project jointly staffed by members of Bridge Builders and St Hugh and St John's Church in Stevenage that provides a range of class based projects and two midweek clubs which each week attracted 50 youngsters. Regular assemblies, also delivered by the team, helped to reinforce this teaching The highlight of the year for club members was an away weekend at Buckden Towers.

Story Club (KS1) and Telling Tales (KS2) lunch time clubs proved very popular at Woolenwick Infant and Junior Schools. This outreach project is supported by Bunyan Baptist, Holy Trinity, Christ the King and Emmanuel churches in Stevenage Old Town.

Schools outreach in the St Nicholas area of Stevenage continued to grow. Our well established MAPS work in Trotts Hill and Giles Junior School has built up a trust amongst staff which has enabled the team to engage with both schools at many other levels. They have undertaken a highly valued pastoral role as well as being well placed to provide assistance with the RE curriculum. The primary school in the neighbouring parish of Graveley has also welcomed support.

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS RESOURCE CENTRE, based at St Paul's Methodist Church, Stevenage, continues to provide the administrative hub for all our school's outreach projects. It is the meeting place for our paid staff and volunteers. It is also our training base and home for our resources which are available for use by a wide variety of partner organisations. The Church and Community Fund are funding the Resource Centre Manager for 3 years. This post is also supported by the St Albans Diocese Mission Support Fund.

Sheila Smith  
Director





## Explore

A Bridge Builders project, led by Project Manager Hilary Davies (pictured) offers opportunities for children to EXPLORE the Christian faith through assemblies, class work and themed events.

Assemblies took place in many local schools reaching over 2000 children in Stevenage.

The Easter Journey shares the Easter story through interactive storytelling stations. It was hosted by 7 churches with over 100 volunteers working together to host 29 school visits. Around 1095 Year 5 children attended and 40 bibles were donated to classes.

In February 2012 Bridge Builders offered to look into the Hertfordshire RE agreed syllabus to see if we could create a working document for the local primary school teachers linking the assemblies and projects Bridge Builders were offering with the RE curriculum.

This new project idea was shared with the Bishop of Hertford in May 2012. He was very excited about it!

In July, 2012 Tracy Plumpton and Alex Horlock attended a course entitled: The new Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – an introductory briefing for primary schools. This explained the new Attainment Target and assessment structure but as yet the scheme of work support for this curriculum had not been updated. They noted that there was a much greater emphasis on Learning From Religion (Attainment Target 2), rather than Learning About Religion (Attainment Target 1). This re-enforced the realisation that many primary school teachers needed support and resourcing so that RE could be taught with exciting, engaging and thought-provoking activities and that Bridge Builders had the skills and opportunity to do this.

Plans for 2012-13 include Alex Horlock joining the assembly writing team with Jo Simson and Tracy Plumpton. The whole school assemblies being linked to specific year group RE topics for the term.

Alex Horlock is to co-ordinate Broadwater school assemblies now that Hilary is no longer able to do them.

Alex Horlock is to continue to work on a supportive booklet for teachers that is approved by the Hertfordshire RE syllabus team, supported in the back ground by Sheila Smith.

Alex Horlock and Tracy Plumpton are going to investigate writing and planning follow up lesson plans and resources for the assemblies which could go back in to the relevant class for whom the assembly was part of their curriculum teaching.

Hilary Davies left Bridge Builders in July 2012 to return to full time teaching. We would like to express our thanks to her for all her work as a Project Leader and member of the Core Leadership Team.

Justine Hobbs



## **Mentoring And Pastoral Support project**

MAPS as it is known to us.

Through our work in primary schools, providing assemblies and Christian based projects, it became clear that there was a real need for a pastoral visiting and mentoring scheme. Our project was initially funded for 4 years by the County Council as part of their early prevention scheme in 2002. We, of course, thank them for this start-up funding. The good news is that this project is still providing children with a listening time, befrienders and help over 10 years later.

In the past year we have helped 46 children from infants to top juniors in our 7 schools where we visit. We have given children (and their teachers) help coping with worries, such as: Self-esteem, family break-ups, loss, falling out with friends, or not enjoying school for any reason.

I am pleased to report that our schools are using our service more and more, and children are waiting to come on the project, but it does place pressures of time and finance on our small team. We have this year updated many of our programmes and art work in response to these needs. All of this work is covered by 1 part-time paid manager (me) and just 5 amazing volunteers.

This year has also seen us provide, in each of our schools, "Whale Tales" a whole day of story-telling, teaching, games and discussion groups introducing over 180 children to "Protective Behaviours" and Christian Values so they may feel safe and grow together.

Our vision is that all of the schools in our community might have a MAPS worker linked to them supported by the local church and community.

John Forster  
Project Leader



## Launchpad

**What are we?** Launchpad Local is a popular youth group held every Thursday evening during term time at St Hugh and St John Church in Chells

**Who for?** Launchpad is for ages 7 to 10 (School Years 3 to 6) and Launchpad Plus for ages 11 to 13 (School Year 7 to 9) - it costs just £1.50 a week!

**When?** Launchpad runs from 6pm till 7.30pm and Launchpad Plus starts at 7pm finishing at 8.30pm

**What do we do?** We explore stories from the Bible and unpack the message of how it is still very much real and relevant for us in the here and the now today through games, sports, craft, baking, cooking, colouring, talking, dancing, singing, drama, karaoke... and lots more

**Contact us:** [www.launchpadlocal.com](http://www.launchpadlocal.com)

**LAUNCH PAD** - a project jointly staffed by members of **Bridge Builders** and **St Hugh and St John's Church** in the Chells area of Stevenage- provided a range of class based projects and two midweek clubs. Regular assemblies every 2 weeks, also delivered by the team, helped reinforce this teaching. Each week the two after school clubs were attended by a total of approximately **50 youngsters**. The team consists of 19 volunteers, 9 of which are 'young leaders' who have come all the way through from Launchpad itself. A parents lounge runs on a Monday morning and Thursday evening to provide a safe place where parents and siblings can meet for tea and a chat. The highlight of the year for club members was an away weekend at Buckden Towers where we took 40 youngsters.

Tracy Plumpton  
Project Leader



## Toddlerrific



It was a successful year for Toddlerrific, which is our toddler group that meets in St Pauls' Church for parents and carers and their under 5's. The welcome given to families within the community of Broadwater continues to be appreciated by all that come. An average of 20 families attended each week.



Our team of 9 volunteers were supported by the local Children's Centre whose support also enabled popular events such as the Road Safety & Safety in the Home event to be run.



The outline of the sessions follows a theme each term linking into the crafts and activities

The group ran 'cake bake' fundraising events that supported both Children in Need and Comic Relief.

The children also had the chance to have their photographs taken by a professional company which proved to be very popular and earned some funds for the group.

Sheila Smith retired in July 2012 and the group continues to run, led by Bev Wood & Janice Hawketts. Our thanks go to both Sheila, Bev, Janice and team for all their work and commitment to this project.

Justine Hobbs





## Resource Centre

The Resource Centre based at St Pauls Methodist Church, Stevenage, continues to be the administrative centre for all of our school's outreach projects.

Over the years the Bridge Builders team have built up a useful collection of books, teaching resources, puppets, costumes and games equipment which we are pleased to share with local groups who are also working with primary school aged children. These are offered free of charge but a donation is always appreciated.

Together we keep the charity a well oiled machine behind the scenes.

We look after the 8 members of our part time paid team and 35 volunteers.

The Resource Centre completes all the administration and bookings for the large scale events such as the Easter Journey, ensuring best practices are in place for all that the charity does.

The centre hosted two training events for the Easter Journey where over 100 local volunteers came to be trained and gain more knowledge about this great event. The centre has hosted a First Responders course that was attended by 27 members of our community from churches, schools and organisations in February 2012. In May we held a Nurturing Children's Spirituality for the under 6's which was run by Joan King and attended by 12 members of local churches.

The centre continues to support local not for profit organisations with affordable printing and DBS (formerly CRB) checks.

I work alongside Amanda, our Administrator & Fundraiser, and Janice, our IT & Finance Administrator. We were very grateful to the Betty Games Opportunities Trust for part funding my University course this year on Charity & Social Enterprise Management, Certificate of Higher Education which I will complete in May 2013.

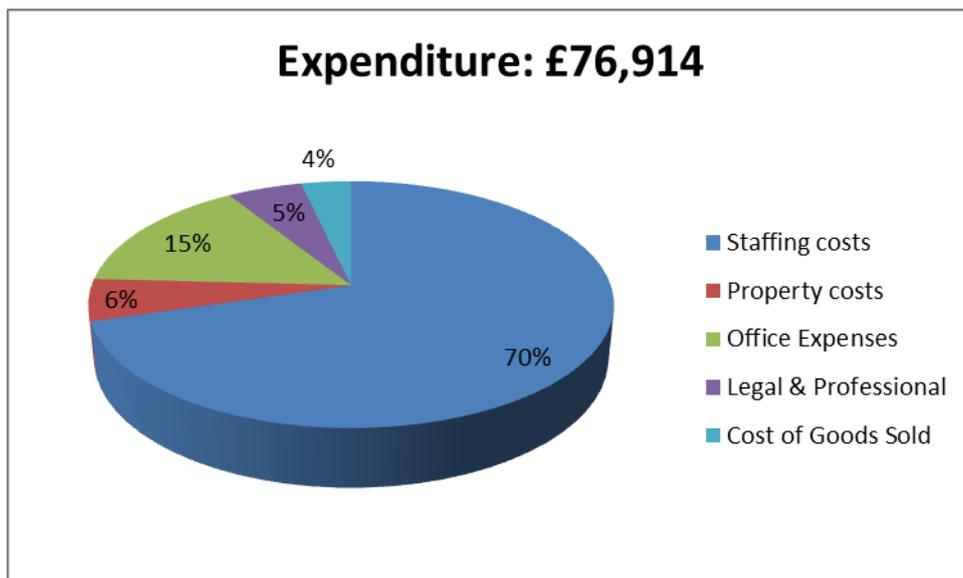
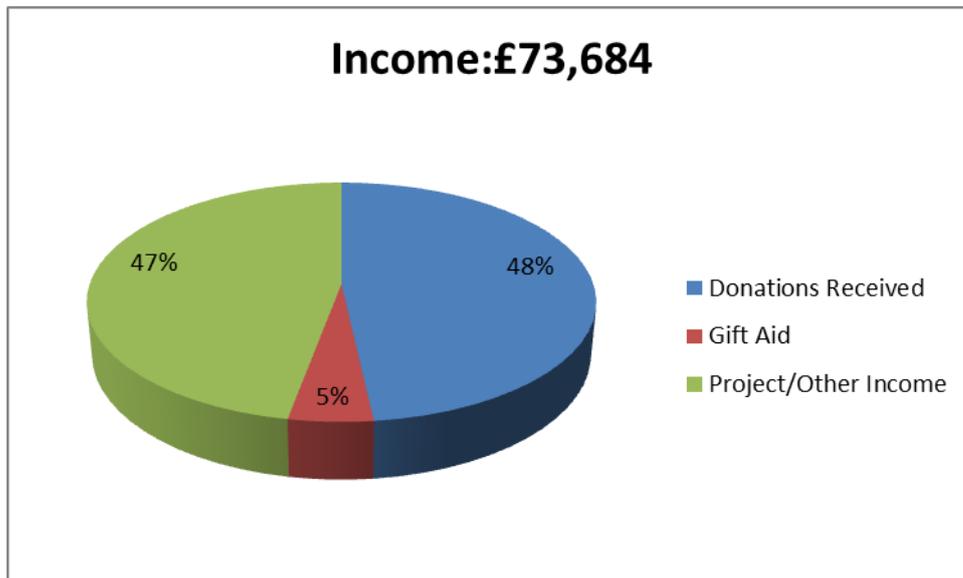
Justine Hobbs

Finance & Administration Manager



# Report from the Finance Manager

## 2011-12 Audited Financial Report



Bridge Builders Christian Trust only holds reserves to enable it to operate the Trust for minimum period of at least of 3 months (3 months running costs).

In 2011-12 the balance carried forward into 2012-13 was £34,622.

However funding is challenging and we continuously search for new donors, grants and fundraising ideas. We do achieve so much with what we have, but need to increase our income to £200,000 per year to expand our projects to meet the increasing demand from schools/ churches and also to employ a new director who was previously fulfilling this role as a volunteer.

*We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.....Psalm 78 v 4*

Justine Hobbs

Finance & Administration Manager

**BRIDGE BUILDERS TRUST**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2012**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Charitable receipts:</b>		
Donations received	35,557	34,940
Gift aid	3,430	3,428
<b>Activities:</b>		
MAPS: Income		
Project/Other Income	34,698	48,185
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>73,684</b>	<b>86,553</b>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Staffing costs	54,111	53,384
Property Costs	4,221	4,281
Office Expenses	11,699	7,000
Legal & Professional	4,117	2,583
Other - Cost of goods sold	2,766	3,601
Write off bad debts		
Profit/Loss on asset disposal		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>76,914</b>	<b>70,848</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(3,230)</b>	<b>15,705</b>

**BRIDGEBUILDERS TRUST**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2012**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	40,558	35,841
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Stock		
Prepayments	-	1,398
Sundry Debtors	1,639	1,008
	<b>42,197</b>	<b>38,247</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	1,583	200
Receipts in Advance	5,991	195
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>34,622</b>	<b>37,852</b>
 <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b>GENERALFUND</b>		
Balance brought forward	37,852	22,147
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(3,230)	15,705
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>34,622</b>	<b>37,852</b>

## List of Donors

The following have given generously to the work of Bridge Builders Christian Trust over the year 2011-12.

We would like to thank you all. Without your generosity, it would be impossible to carry out the projects in the way we do.

All Saints Anglican Church	St Albans Diocese Mission Fund
Betty Game Opportunities Trust	St Hugh & St John Church
Bunyan Baptist Church	St Paul's Women Fellowship
Christchurch Hitchin	St Mary's Shephall Church
Churches & Community Fund St Albans Diocese	St Nicholas Church
Grace Community Church	United Reform Church
High Street Methodist Church	Walkern Church
Hockerill Education Foundation	Individual donors
Holy Trinity Church	
Longmeadow Church	

## Trustees:

<b>Nicole White</b>	BSc (Hons), NPQH, 5 years service
<b>Toby Purnell,</b>	HND Computer Studies, 12 years service
<b>J Duncan Campbell</b>	BSc, MA, 9 years service
<b>Richard Byass,</b>	BA (Hons) Theology, PG Dip Theology, 4 years service
<b>Don Dowling</b>	MA (Hons), Dip Theology, teaching certificate, 4 years service
<b>Albert Binns (Clerk)</b>	MA (Mgt), CMC, FIBC, FIMgt, Chartered MCIPD, 5 years service

## Associates:

**Bill Willgress**

**Annabel Scholes**

**Churches Together In Stevenage**

**Staff team:**

**Sheila Smith**

Project Director July 2008 - August 2012

**John Forster**

Mentoring & Pastoral Support Manager

Certificate in Education 1977. Retired Head Teacher

Protective Behaviours Practitioner Certificate 2009

Joined in April 2003

**Tracy Plumpton**

Launch Pad Local Manager

BSc (Hons) Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology. Joined in 2006

**Justine Hobbs**

Finance & Administration Manager

Cert HE in Charity & Social Enterprise Management. Joined in 2006

**Sue Gover**

Administrator

Joined in 2003

**Amanda Bryant**

Fund raiser

HND Business Studies & Printing. Joined in 2006

**Janice Hawketts**

IT & Finance Administrator

BEng (Hons) Electronic Engineering. Joined in 2008

**Sarah Feltham**

House Keeper

Joined in 2010

## **Contact Us:**

By post - St Paul's Church, Turpins Rise, Stevenage , SG2 8QR

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Registered Charity Number - 1088885

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