



Annual Report 2012-13



Our vision is that every child within our community will have opportunities to explore the values of the Christian faith, so that they may look forward with hope and confidence, as they experience this love in action.

Report for the Academic & Financial Year September 2012 – August 2013



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Bridge Builders Christian Trust works in partnership with primary school teachers, church leaders and many committed volunteers in Stevenage and the surrounding area to provide:

- opportunities for children to **EXPLORE** the Christian faith through assemblies and class work
- opportunities for class visits to local churches for themed events such as **THE EASTER JOURNEY** and **THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY**
- early prevention **MENTORING AND PASTORAL SUPPORT (MAPS)** for vulnerable children through one to one, small group and whole class activities
- a mid-week club for children in school years 3-9 - **LAUNCHPAD**

Trustees' Report



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. The real successes of our 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 the past two years have 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 came to an end in 2013 at a time when the demand for our input continued 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
Trustee

Project Reports

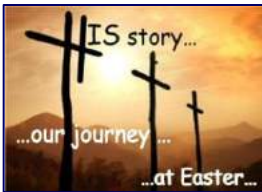
Bridge Builders Christian Trust is a small local charity working quietly but effectively at the heart of communities in Stevenage & the surrounding area.

ExploRE



Throughout the year Bridge Builders Christian Trust has worked in partnership with local churches and Christian volunteers to resource and deliver RE syllabus related assemblies in, original, exciting and thought provoking ways, in 9 local primary schools on a regular basis and as requested in other schools throughout the town.

Church visits, Religious Education lessons and teacher resources for the delivery of RE lessons have also been offered and enthusiastically received by several schools in Stevenage. The ExploRE Team's desire is that children not only learn about the Christian Faith but have the opportunity to explore its relevance for Christians and themselves today. The Easter Journey and The Christmas Journey Projects are another excellent example of how we fulfil this aim.



The Easter Journey, for Year 6 children, was hosted by 8 churches and attended by 1000+ pupils from 26 primary schools in Stevenage and the surrounding areas; including Cambridge. Over 100 trained volunteers made up the ExploRE Team and were vital to the success of this event. Every child heard the

account of key characters within the events of Holy Week and Easter and were encouraged to ask questions about the significance of those experiences for each character, as well as consider how those experiences might influence their own lives and the lives of believers today.



The Christmas Journey, for Year 2 children, was run for a second year. 600 children from 15 schools attended as the ExploRE Team successfully worked in partnership with 2 local churches and 70 trained volunteers. The Bridge Builders administration team built an on-line booking system which further

enhanced the smooth running of this project and £900 funding from SACRE for costumes ensured that the children were treated to a visually exciting experience which enabled them to not only hear the Christmas story but also begin to engage with it and understand some of the significance it has for Christians and themselves today.

Mentoring & Pastoral Support (MAPS)

During term time we are privileged to mentor (one to one and in small groups), a number of primary school aged children for whom life is proving pretty tough. In 2012/13 Mentoring and Pastoral Support (MAPS)



was delivered in 6 local primary schools. The 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.

A MAPS school is a school with whom Bridge Builders Christian Trust has established a working relationship over a number of years and 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 the Trust. This year 43 children have received one to one support. Programmes of small group and whole class activities have also been delivered covering such issues as the raising of self-esteem, improvement of social skills, formation of lasting relationships and transition.

Schools outreach in the St Nicholas area of Stevenage continued to grow. Our well established MAPS work in Trots 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 while being well placed to provide assistance with the RE curriculum. The primary school in the neighbouring parish of Graveley has also welcomed support.

*A craft activity: part of
The Christmas Journey*

Whale Tales



Allied to our Mentoring and Pastoral Support work we have continued to offer our Protective Behaviours training day for KS2 in our local schools. This is a fun packed day, where through story-telling, theatre, puppets, parachute games and discussion group activities we share the story of Jonah (and the big fish) to hang the Protective

Behaviours themes that make up the Citizenship part of the National Curriculum.

This is one of our professional services to which schools readily contribute. We shared with five schools during this year; it is a programme we enjoy delivering & schools book us year on year. We again are restricted by the number we can put on during the year as it requires many volunteers both in preparation and delivery. A really huge thank you goes out to them from us at Bridge Builders!



Launchpad



A project jointly staffed by members of Bridge Builders and St Hugh & St John's Church in the Chells area of Stevenage providing a range of class based projects & two midweek clubs.

Regular assemblies, also delivered by the team, helped reinforce these themes. Each week the two after school clubs were attended by a total of approximately 50 youngsters. Another club was set up in September 2012 at St Peters Church, Broadwater with an average of 10 children attending each week.

We also took 40 youngsters away for a weekend residential to explore 'Easter and beyond - with Peter'.



Kind Hands



A resource we offer to Reception age children. We explore stories in the Bible that reinforce the use of our hands in a positive way. In small groups we then backup our teaching with a fun activity or craft. To finish we sing an interactive song together as a whole class.

The Bridge Builders Resource Centre

The 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 & Community Fund is funding the Resource Centre Manager for 3 years. This post is also supported by the St Albans Diocese Mission Support Fund and Hertfordshire County Council SACRE grant. The Resource Centre also received funding from The Belling Trust to support its IT rebuild.



Toddlerrific



We continued to provide a popular meeting place at the heart of the Broadwater community.

Each Monday morning parents, carers and their under 5's were welcomed into the Resource Centre and encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities. Approximately 20 families attended each week. We worked in close partnership with staff from The Broadwater Children's Centre who provided a play worker to support the team. Sadly this group closed at end of July 2013.

List of Donors

The following have given generously to the work of Bridge Builders Christian Trust over the year 2012-13. 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 Church
Bunyan Baptist Church
Hockerill Education Foundation
Holy Trinity
SACRE
St Albans Diocese Mission Fund
St Cuthman's Church, Brighton
St Hugh & St John's Church

St Mary's Church, Shephall
St Nicholas Church
St Peter's Church
The Belling Charitable Trust
The Church & Community Fund
United Reformed Church
Individual donors



Sponsored Walk raising funds for The Easter Journey

Patron

Rt Rev'd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford

Trustees

Mrs Nicole White

BSc (Hons), NPQH, 5 years service

Mr Toby Purnell

HND Computer Studies, 12 years service

Canon J Duncan Campbell

BSc, MA, 9 years service

Rev'd Richard Byass

BA (Hons) Theology, PG Dip Theology, 4 years service

Rev'd Don Dowling

MA (Hons), Dip Theology, teaching certificate, 4 years service

Mr Albert Binns (Clerk)

MA (Mgt), CMC, FIBC, FIMgt, Chartered MCIPD, 5 years service

Staff Team

John Forster - *Mentoring & Pastoral Support Manager*

Cert Ed. Retired Head Teacher. Protective Behaviours Practitioner Certificate. Joined in 2003

Alex Horlock - *ExploRE Manager*

BEd (Hons) English. Joined in 2013

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

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

Associate

Churches Together In Stevenage

Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2013

Income	2013	2012
Donations	29,592	35,557
Gift Aid	3,339	3,430
Activities	37,129	34,698
Total Income	70,060	73,684



Expenditure	2013	2012
Staffing Costs	45,103	54,111
Property Costs	4,201	4,221
Office Expenses	6,628	11,699
Legal & Professional	3,217	4,117
Cost of Goods Sold	2,521	2,766
Write Off Bad Debts	43	
Total Expenditure	61,713	76,914



Surplus / (Deficit)	8,346	(3,230)
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Assets	2013	2012
Cash	42,009	40,558
Stock	1,044	
Prepayments	129	
Sundry Debtors	2,020	1,639
	45,203	42,197

Current Liabilities	2013	2012
Creditors	334	1,583
Receipts in Advance	1,900	5,991

Net Assets	42,969	34,622
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Represented by General Fund

Balance Brought Forward	34,622	37,852
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	8,346	(3,230)

Balance Carried Forward	42,969	34,622
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connecting children with



faith



hope



love



Bridge Builders' Prayer

Father of Lights,
By your Spirit shine out through us to
the children of our communities.
Kindle in them a spark of faith, a ray of
hope and the fire of your love,
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Bridge Builders Christian Trust

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