

# Bridge Builders

Christian Trust

connecting children with faith, hope & love



# Annual Report 2014

# **Bridge Builders Christian Trust**

a small charity with a big heart

***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.*



**Patron** The Right Revd Paul Bayes  
making his first visit to The Easter Journey

## **Trustees**

Revd Richard Byass (Chair)	5 years service
Canon Duncan Campbell	10 years service
Revd Don Dowling	5 years service
Mrs Jo Simson	Appointed 2014
Mr Toby Purnell	13 years service
Mr Albert Binns (Clerk)	6 years service

## **Administrative Team**

Finance & Admin Manager	Justine Hobbs
IT Support & Finance Administrator	Janice Hawketts
Fundraiser & Administrator	Amanda Bryant

Bridge Builders Christian Trust is an Associate Member  
of Churches Together in Stevenage

[www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk](http://www.bridgebuilderstrust.org.uk)

# Chair of Trustees

Dear friends,

This last academic year has been full and fun-filled. The joy of engaging with and serving the youngsters in all the clubs, assemblies and themed events has been fulfilling. The interactions with primary schools and churches within Stevenage and the surrounding area have been fruitful and positive.

It has also been challenging. Our need to find funding and to work within our capacity has stretched our core team. I am especially grateful to Justine, John, Tracy and Alex as well as Janice and Amanda and ask you to continue to pray for them and their loved ones. Please pray for our ongoing plans to recruit a director for the trust and for the potential project assistants.

I also acknowledge the huge amount of time and effort gifted to us by our generous team of volunteers. Thank you. You are fantastic and our appreciation is hard to articulate. It is also a delight to share with church leaders and other agencies. For all your input we thank you too. To all our supporters and friends, for your giving in time, money and talent, on behalf of the trustees, I thank you. In reality there are too many to mention but please know that our gratitude is immense.

On a personal note I want to thank the other trustees and our clerk for the care, vision and time they have for the project and without whom it would not be possible to run this excellent organisation. In particular I thank Don for stepping into the gap whilst I took my sabbatical earlier in the year. I also ask you to pray for Duncan, Toby, Jo and myself as we look to the coming year.

It is whilst talking trustees that I announce that after many years of great support and hard work, Toby has decided the time has come to hang up his hat as a trustee. It is with sadness that he releases this role, and we him, and we assure him of our prayers.

We are therefore looking for trustees! If you have considered how to support us as an organisation (but didn't think that puppets and assemblies were your thing!) maybe this is a way in which you could be involved? Please contact one of the trustees for an informal and pressure-free conversation.

So, with thankfulness for all that has been - *Christmas and Easter Journeys, MAPS and Whale Tales, Assemblies and the ExploRE project, Launchpad and the weekend away, all the Admin. back-up and much much more* - and hope and trust for all that is yet to come, the 2013/14 year comes to an end.

May God bless you and Bridge Builders as we continue to share the faith and hope and love of God in all we are and do. Thanks again and all the best for 2015!

*Richard*





- 🔍 **5** new schools welcomed the assembly tour, bringing the total to **13** primary schools receiving regular assemblies
- 🔍 **6** themed assemblies and follow up class lessons have been repackaged to link with the revised RE curriculum

**ExploRE Project Manager: Alex Horlock**

*“if there was more volunteer support and funding I would love to develop our programme of class lessons to include pre & post Easter, run training workshops for teachers, purchase more authentic props and provide FREE coaches for those schools who are not within walking distance of a hosting church for our special events”*



Comment overheard:  
*“Oh no we’re going to miss the assembly. I love those!”*

**The Christmas Journey**

- ✦ **600+** five and six year olds travelled back in time to meet some of the main characters of the first Christmas story
- ✦ This year **14** schools visited two host churches



Child: *“Thank you for teaching us about the Christmas story. My favourite bit was seeing the baby and dancing and making the crown.”*

**SACRE** funding enabled the purchase of a selection of adult costumes

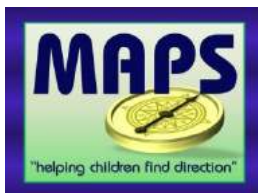
**The Easter Journey**



Bishop Paul: *“For me the highlights were the engagement and interest of the children and the enormous hard work of preparation and delivery on the part of the volunteer team. I’ll be delighted to commend it to anyone who wants to be involved.”*

- † **1000+** Year 6 pupils considered how the experiences of five key characters might influence their own lives and the lives of believers today

Teacher: *“... taking part in the session allowed them to have a deeper understanding as they stood in the characters’ shoes.”*



- 🕒 34 children received one to one support
- 🕒 2 new churches are sponsoring our work because they understand its value even though we are not working in their areas

**Mentoring and Pastoral Support Project Manager: John Forster**

*"the most important thing is that the children love coming and we know we are supporting them through difficult times ... if only there were more volunteers and funding ... we receive so many requests for help..."*



Head Teacher: *"We are so grateful for the work you do, it gives children the confidence to realise they can seek help and talk to a trusted person."*

**Whale Tales**

- 🐋 90 children from 3 schools enjoyed the dramatised story of Jonah and grew in their knowledge and understanding of Protective Behaviours



Year 5 pupil: *"Thank you for the best day of my life. I will never forget that you put so much into making it a nice time for us."*



This popular project is currently under review. More funding and volunteers would ensure its future sustainability.



**Launchpad Project Manager: Tracy Plumpton**

*"more funding and volunteer support would enable us to run a termly all day event Launchpad -Xtra"*

- 🚀 2 churches now host this fun-filled midweek club
- 🚀 80 children enjoy its varied programme
- 🚀 50 took part in the weekend away at Buckden Towers



# Step by Step

*'Many teachers lack support in teaching religious education'*

Helen Harrison, deputy chair Religious Education Council for England and Wales









The passion and aim of the ExploRE project is to inspire local church leaders and their congregations to connect more effectively with the primary schools in their neighbourhood and for primary school staff to recognise and utilise the wealth of resources the church can offer to support their teaching of Christianity within the RE curriculum and in corporate acts of worship.

*'.....this subject plays a key role in promoting social cohesion and the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society...but many pupils leave school with scant subject knowledge and understanding.'*

Ofsted's 2013 report; Religious Education: realising the potential

The revised Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was published in Autumn 2013. We have worked hard to develop our projects in line with its focus upon the need for children to **LEARN** about the Christian faith and **EXPLORE** its relevance for Christians today. These two quotations help set those developments in their wider context.

## Easter 2014 – We launched the Footsteps Appeal

-  Step by step more churches are hosting events resourced by Bridge Builders.
-  **This year All Saints, Hertford brought the total number of host churches to nine**
-  Step by step we're training increasing numbers of volunteers to deliver attractive programmes tailored to meet the demands of the RE curriculum
-  **This year over 100 volunteers representing 16 churches attended Bridge Builders training events**
-  Step by step we're seeing an increasing number of schools welcome the assembly tour & children enjoying their school / church visits
-  **This year we have worked with 36 local primary schools, three for the first time**
-  Step by step the number of local teachers accessing the wide range of creative projects & resources we are able to provide is increasing
-  **TOTAL RAISED by the appeal - £3,000**

# Accounts

Income	2014	2013
Donations	31,652	29,592
Gift Aid	4,087	3,339
Activities	29,184	37,129
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>64,923</b>	<b>70,060</b>

Expenditure	2014	2013
Staffing Costs	48,251	45,103
Property Costs	4,200	4,201
Office Expenses	6,481	6,628
Legal & Professional	3,648	3,217
Cost of Goods Sold	3,885	2,521
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>66,464</b>	<b>61,713</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,542)</b>	<b>8,346</b>

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



Assets	2014	2013
Cash	42,139	42,009
Stock	-	1,044
Prepayments	15	129
Sundry Debtors	2,277	2,020
	<b>44,431</b>	<b>45,203</b>

Current Liabilities	2014	2013
Creditors	795	334
Receipts in Advance	2,210	1,900
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>41,427</b>	<b>42,969</b>

### Represented by General Fund

Balance Brought Forward	42,969	34,622
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	(1,542)	8,346
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>41,427</b>	<b>42,969</b>

### Finance and Admin Manager: Justine Hobbs

*"This year we have introduced an effective online booking system and improved our craft preparations, storage of resources and teachers' resource packs. If there was more volunteer support and finance we would love to develop our website and make our resources more accessible to schools and churches"*



***“We will tell the next generation the wonderful things that God has done”***



***Thank you to all who generously funded us in 2013-14:***

**All Saints, Datchworth**  
**All Saints, Hertford**  
**Bunyan Baptist Church**  
**High Street Methodist Church**  
**Holy Trinity & Christ the King**  
**Ladies Fellowship, St Paul's Church**  
**St Giles Church, Codicote**  
**St Hugh & St John's Church**  
**St Mary's Church, Graveley**  
**St Mary's Church, Shephall**  
**St Nicholas Church**  
**St Paul's Church**

**St Peter's Church**  
**United Reformed Church**

**Broadwater Fairtrading**  
**Church & Community Fund**  
**Churches Together in Stevenage**  
**HCC SACRE**  
**St Albans Mission Support Fund**  
**Trotts Hill Primary School & Nursery**  
**W & M Morris Charitable Trust**

**Individual Donors**

***Our work would not be possible without the support of donors.  
Please consider how you could help our projects grow in 2015.***

**Bridge Builders Christian Trust**

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