

**Annual Report
2018-2019**

Bridge Builders

Christian Trust

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH FAITH, HOPE & LOVE



Year 6 pupils from Abel Smith School in Hertford during the Easter Journey



Starting children off

Proverbs 22:6 says: *“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it”*.

This is exactly what Bridge Builders is aiming for in Stevenage and surrounding areas, both supporting and supported by many individual Christians and churches in this work. Our object is to reach as many young children as possible, introducing them to the love of God as shown in the Bible, through the life and message of Jesus. This will help them discover an understanding of the Christian faith, and our hope is that they may be able to develop a deep love for God, and a faith commitment of their own, to sustain them throughout their lives. We commence 2019/20 with even more determination to succeed.

This past year our team has settled down well. We now have three part time employees working regularly in schools and churches with children and teachers. In addition, we have two employees responsible for communications, fund raising, accounting and IT. However, during the past 12 months we have worked without a Resource Centre Manager. This is a vital part of our operation, necessary for the smooth running of The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey and much of our work in schools. All this has had to be covered by the others, thus limiting them in their outreach work. We hope to find someone to fill this role, possibly as a volunteer, during the Autumn Term of 2019.

Steph Knell, the ExploRE Manager (Schools), assisted by Natalie James, will be continuing to conduct school assemblies. As the lessons pilot has been so successful, they are also aiming to increase the number of primary schools booking Christian RE lessons.

In this new school year Inga Voss, the ExploRE Manager (Journeys), is planning and organising The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey as usual. She is also currently exploring the possibility of starting ‘Prayer Spaces’ in schools as an additional project. A prayer space is a designated area which children can use for prayer and/or reflection. Through symbols, activities or silence they can discover more about God, their relationships with others and the world. The organisation, Prayer Spaces, has been running since 2007 with widely recognised success.

We have one prime and urgent problem. While we were well funded at the beginning of last term, we now will need a substantial increase in funding soon so that we can continue to cover our existing work and increase our outreach. We look to our many supporters for help with this work of fund raising in churches, through personal contacts, and through fund raising activities.

Please pray for God’s continued blessings on our ministry.

Peter Gordon

Honorary Director



Focus on Fundraising

We rely on donations to keep our work going. We cover the £5 cost for each child who attends one of our journeys. There are many different ways in which you can support us:

01 STANDING ORDER

Set up a Standing Order to give an amount to Bridge Builders Christian Trust on a regular basis

02 ONE-OFF GIFT

Give a one-off gift, or choose to support a specific project or sponsor a child to attend one of The Journeys.

03 ONLINE GIVING

Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

04 GIFT AID

If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.



www.thegivingmachine.com

£1 + giftaid it = £1.25p

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

 easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping

Staff Spotlight

Amanda Bryant Communications Officer and Administration



Amanda has been with Bridge Builders since 2006, starting as a volunteer. Since becoming a permanent member of the team, she has worked in a variety of jobs including administrative assistant and fundraiser for local events and grant funding.

Her current role involves a myriad of tasks: dealing with emails to our admin@ address; publicising events; supporting the project managers, liaising with school and church partners; local fundraising; networking with our VIP's and Patrons; updating our social media and responding to extra tasks as needed.

Amanda works remotely as she and her husband relocated to Lincoln in 2016 to care for their mums. Amanda has a 26 year old daughter, and two cheeky rescue dogs. She is passionate about animal welfare, enjoys genealogy, reading, crafting, growing veg, cooking and baking and thinking about exercise.

Janice Hawketts Finance and IT Manager



Janice joined Bridge Builders in 2009, also as a volunteer. Initially her permanent role was in IT, supporting staff with technology and keeping the website up to date. Then an opportunity came up to also assist with the bookkeeping, a role that has grown and now she works as the Finance and IT Manager.

Visitors to the office will normally find Janice immersed in QuickBooks, as she manages the charity's financial transactions, runs payroll and produces management reports. She also continues her IT responsibilities; maintaining the website, as well as dealing with any internet and computer issues we may have.

Janice is married to Simon & they have two teenage children, who are currently studying for A levels & GCSEs, and have a lively Cockerpoo dog called Freddy. As well as walking the dog, Janice enjoys baking, crafting (especially making cards), and researching her family history.

We printed 106 documents for churches and individuals.....
24,880 A4 sides printed in black and white

Resources lent to over 20 individuals, schools and churches.

Fun Facts!!

927 Year 6 children, from 25 schools attended the Easter Journey

Over 100 volunteers involved

12 schools booked assemblies

36,000 items of craft are prepared, by our volunteers, for The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey. This comprises of more than 138,000 different steps.

Nine churches in Stevenage, Knebworth and Hertford host The Journeys

963 Year 2 children, from 20 schools attended The Christmas

Two schools booked lessons, eight different lessons prepared.

The Widows Mite

At times, Bridge Builders can feel like a very small and vulnerable charity, always on the edge of running out of funds. However, we are blessed by the staff and many volunteers who give their time freely and generously to help bring a knowledge of the Christian gospel to the children of Stevenage and wider Hertfordshire. The feedback we receive from both the children and teachers is always appreciative and very encouraging.

In a secular world it is becoming harder and harder for Christian organisations to obtain grants from large wealthy organisations, even when, as with Bridge Builders, their work is fully inclusive and clearly benefits the whole, diverse population. Sadly in 2019 we have not been successful in receiving grants from any large organisations. There is one clear exception, we received over £1000 from the many Stevenage Borough councillors who continue to give generously from their small budgets towards the work of Bridge Builders. This year their gifts have been used to support the purchase of new costumes for the enactment of Christmas Journeys. Thank you.

The other exceptions of course are the many local churches and several individuals who continue to support us with their gifts. My great desire is that this number will continue to grow, to the point where we are supported by all the churches in and around Stevenage and more than 100 individuals; 1000 individual donors would be a real blessing.

Reflecting on the parable of the Widows Mite (Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4), Jesus recognises the personal commitment of the widow who gives out of her poverty. A gift of love and prayer, as well as money, illustrates the Godliness of personal giving which is an example for us all.

I would like to thank all of you who give your time and money so freely to the work of Bridge Builders. I have already mentioned the staff and volunteers, but we must include my fellow Trustees, the Director and the Patrons.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Penny Paton and Helen Gale who have kindly agreed to become Trustees of Bridge Builders. Both Penny and Helen have been volunteers and Journey co-ordinators with Bridge Builders for many years, and their experience will be invaluable in making future decisions for the Trust.

Anthony Taylor

Chair of Trustees

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2019*

Income	2019	2018
Grants and gifts received	£22,968	£47,945
Tax refunds under Gift Aid	£2,827	£3,400
Other receipts	£4,048	£6,484
Total Income	£29,843	£57,829

Expenditures	2019	2018
Employment costs	£29,248	£36,298
Rent	£5,210	£4,800
Insurance	£1,138	£1,116
Office expenses	£2,927	£3,249
I.T. equipment	£654	£4,805
Legal & Professional	£1,797	£2,836
Project and funding event costs	£1,589	£2,065
Other costs	£1,187	£1,650
Total Expenditures	£43,749	£56,819
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(£13,906)	£1,010

Assets	2019	2018
Cash	£35,396	£48,660

Represented by General Fund	2019	2018
Balance brought forward	£50,110	£49,099
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(£13,906)	£1,010
Balance Carried Forward	£36,204	£50,110

***The accounts this year were submitted for examination on a accrual basis. As the previous year's accounts were on a cash basis the figures for 2018 shown above have been adjusted for the change of basis. The full set of accounts can be seen on the Charity Commission website.**

The Bridge Builders Team

Patrons

Cllr. Sharon Taylor, O.B.E

Mr Stephen McPartland MP

Right Revd, Dr Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford

Trustees for 2018-2019

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)

Revd Don Dowling

Revd. Steven Cooper

Mrs Alexandra Horlock

Honorary Director

Mr Peter Gordon

Chaplain

Mr John Forster

Project Managers

Mrs Stephanie Knell: ExploRE Manager—Schools

Mrs Inga Voß: ExploRE Manager—Journeys

Resource Centre

Mrs Janice Hawketts: Finance and IT Manager

Mrs Amanda Bryant: Communications Officer and Administrator

Vacancy: Resource Centre Manager

Schools Work

Ms Natalie James: ExploRE Schools Worker

Many Thanks to:-

Allchurches Trust, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Churches Together In Stevenage, Hertfordshire County Council, Holy Trinity, Great Ashby Community Church, Longmeadow Evangelical Church, Ravenstone PCC, St. Andrews Church Hertford, St. Hugh & St. John, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, United Reformed Church, Trinity Church Knebworth, and individual donors for your generous support.

Bridge Builders Christian Trust

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