

DONATIONS



Thank you to everyone who supports us financially. We can now accept **online donations** - the easiest way to access this facility is by clicking on the BT mydonate logo on our website www.svst.org.uk There is no cost to you to donate this way and we will receive 100% of whatever you give, plus gift aid where appropriate. Alternatively, cheques made payable to **Stort Valley Schools Trust** can be sent to:

Lynn Petts,
1 The Gardens,
Great Hyde Hall,
Sawbridgeworth,
Herts, CM21 9JA

... from whom Gift Aid and/or Standing Order forms can also be obtained.

As well as praying for special events, we would also appreciate your prayers for our regular secondary school clubs which take place on the following days:

Monday: Hockerill (After School)
Tuesday: Herts & Essex
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport
Birchwood (After School)
Wednesday: Bishop's Stortford High School
Thursday: Leventhorpe
Saffron Walden County High
Friday: Birchwood

Stort Valley works in association with Scripture Union



Contact us at:
SVST Secretary
43 Leigh Drive,
Elsenham
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM22 6BY
Email us at: enquiries@svst.org.uk



Church Support

Stort Valley Schools Trust was set up as a gift to the local churches, with the idea of working in partnership to offer Christian input to local schools. We'd like to say a big thank you to the churches, church leaders and members of congregations who have done or currently support the work in any way. Whether it's giving time to volunteer; praying for us; offering the use of buildings, facilities or resources; donating money; supporting our schools workers or anything else, we are extremely grateful, thank you.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are a number of ways that your church can get involved:

- Please pray for us, the work and the schools that we visit including the staff and pupils. Prayer is the backbone of all we do and without it, the work could not continue. We'd love to send you occasional emails full of news, dates for your diary and prayer requests so if this is of interest, please let us have your email address.
- We'd love to visit a Sunday service or mid week group to talk more about what's happening in local schools
- We hold termly 'Pray for Schools' events – could your church host one of these evenings? This involves providing a venue, refreshments and someone to lead worship; we do the rest!
- **Volunteers** are invaluable to us and we are very appreciative of the time and contribution that they give. If you, or anyone else would like to get involved, **please speak to one of the Schools' Workers** in the first instance. We would love to have some more volunteers to support our secondary school lunchtime and after school clubs in particular.



Focus on Faith



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Notes from a Trustee
- Congratulations!

Notes from a Trustee

Hello dear friends, partners and supporters,

My name is Rosemary Jones and I am one of six Trustees for SVST. All six of us have, at one time or another, been involved "hands on" during the 25+ years of the work of the Trust and I consider it a great privilege to continue my connection in the role of Trustee.

A few weeks back I attended a management meeting, which I try to do from time to time. What a great evening! A long agenda reflected the variety and expanse of the work being undertaken in our local schools.



The reports from Nicola, Andrea and Tina were so positive, full of praise and joy for the opportunities to bring the good news of the love of God to pupils and staff and to hear of the encouraging responses and enthusiasm which just bubbles over—Praise the Lord, it was so good to be there.

So, what do Trustees do, other than occasionally turn up at committee meetings and eat all the biscuits! Well, we are charged with the oversight of the Trust, to be a listening ear and critical friend to the Schools' workers and members of the management committee. We meet formally once a year to review the work of the Trust and to pray together but we keep in contact with the management team via email on a regular basis, so we know what's going on and, like you, can be effective in our prayers and support for this great shared work of ours.



Yours, in Christ,

Rosemary

SPRING News from Nicola



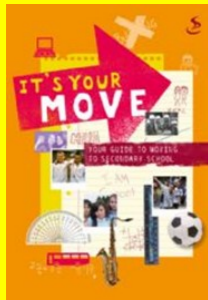
The spring term has been productive with four lunchtime and two after school clubs continuing to run in Stortford and Sawbridgeworth. Time over recent weeks has been spent focussing on the Easter narrative including looking at the mystery of the resurrection, the depth of God's love for us and considering how much we would be willing to give up for others to help us reflect on Jesus' sacrifice. I feel really privileged to be able to spend my time with so many talented and wonderful young people – every day in school brings plenty of fun, laughter and great conversation. I'm so grateful for the wonderful volunteers who help me with the clubs – it makes such a difference having their support.

Churches are another huge source of support to us as an organisation and to us Schools' Workers as individuals. I have been invited to several churches and youth groups over the coming months – if you'd like us to visit your church or midweek group to share a bit about what is happening in our schools, we'd love that opportunity – please do get in touch. Our work wouldn't be possible without the partnership of churches and their congregations.

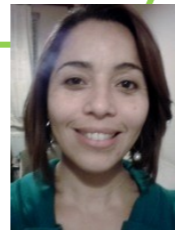
Stay Tuned
for something
AWESOME

I've had the opportunity to attend a couple of training days recently which have given me inspiration to try some new projects in school. I will be meeting with teachers during the summer term to discuss ideas – stay tuned for some news in the autumn! I'm also looking forward to meeting up with Schools' Workers from other organisations to find out more about what Schools' Work looks like for them.

Looking forward to the summer, preparations are already well underway for Holiday Bible Week. Once again, I will be a part of the youth tent team and will also be co-leading the games in the main tent. The event seems to come around more quickly every year – your prayers would be appreciated for the whole team as we meet and plan over the coming weeks. The summer term also means the start of 'It's Your Move'. We'd really appreciate your prayers as we begin to book visits which are a fantastic opportunity to share something of God with lots of year six children, as well as to help them practically with their move to secondary school. Nicola Davey nicola.stortvalley@gmail.com



News from Andrea



Joyce Frankland : During our last Pray for the Schools in Saffron Walden, I was able to invite a student from Joyce Frankland Academy who came. The club is increasing in numbers and very interesting questions and discussions are taking place.

County High: The Club is doing really well and young people are really engaged. Despite their busy timetable and all the clubs running on the same day and time, students are still coming. The RE department are allowing us to have our first Prayer Space which is very exciting.

Prayer Space: On March 20th, myself, Matt Williamson and Rev. Tim Hardingham went to Colchester and helped with a Prayer Space at the local Secondary School. During the event, we had the chance to see how it can be done and also to observe student/staff reaction.

We left feeling very encouraged and willing to reproduce a similar space at County High. The RE department gave us permission to do this for the week of May 15th-19th during lunch time. We are very thankful for the opportunity and the door opened by God. So please keep us in your prayers for this event.

Pray for Schools: Our 'Pray for the Schools' event happened on the 12th March at Saffron Walden Community Church and it was very encouraging. About 30 people attended the service and it was a great opportunity to share the work, talk to some local church leaders and strengthen contacts.

Andrea Gasson. andrea.stortvalley@gmail.com



Primary School News from Tina



WOW

It was great to start off the spring term with presenting a WOW assembly to schools in Bishops Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and the six villages. It was great to have Heather the Children's worker from the Bishop's Stortford Baptist church as part of the team.

The Assembly was based on trusting in God. In the Assembly we had Teachers participating in a call my bluff game. We retold the Blondin story with props including a wheelbarrow with the children taking part to emphasize trust. We presented to the seven primary schools in Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth. The response from the primary schools was good, with the scores from the feedback forms either excellent or good.

Here is some of the feedback from the teachers:

"Thank you for helping us to explore our Christian values"
"The children enjoyed the assembly"

Easter Cracked

We decided to put on the event at Sawbridgeworth with the help and support of the Congregational church. I updated some of the resources for the event using different images for the craft. I have also updated and changed some of the games. We held the event on the 27th March and offered the event to Reedings school. There were around 60 children who attended with the help of around 8 volunteers. I still feel privileged to present the real meaning of Easter and its important message to children.

Some of the comments from the teachers:

"As always a fantastic morning with fun activities and good teaching on the meaning of Easter"
"Excellent, Very well put together using varied ways of telling the children about Easter"
"Fantastic, long enough for most children to complete the activity, kept the children occupied, all engaged during videos and talks thanks"

Comments from Children:

"Christians celebrate Easter because Jesus gave his life to his people to save them. We learnt about the true meaning of Easter"
"We learnt why Easter is so important to Christians, how Jesus died for his people and how he came back to life so they celebrate his death."
"Jesus was nailed to a cross at the skulls he died on the cross Jesus resurrected, when he died everyone's sins were forgiven"
"I really enjoyed it and I want to do it again"

Pray for Schools

About 35 people attended the Pray for Schools event in Saffron Walden. I created a display to show the work from last term such as the WOW assemblies and Easter cracked event. It was great to meet the supporters and volunteers in Saffron Walden and pray for the schools and the work of SVST.

Tina Baptiste tinasvst@gmail.com



Volunteers



A big thank you to all our volunteers. You are invaluable to us and we are very appreciative of the time and contribution that you give. We couldn't do as much as we do without your help.

We are always looking for more volunteers. The more help we have, the more children hear the message of the gospel.

Do you have time to spare? Would you like to help in any of the schools or as a Trustee or on the Management Committee?

If you, would like to get involved, please speak to one of the Schools' Workers in the first instance.

Our congratulations to Nicola Davey and Matt Williamson as they marry in May. We pray God's blessing on their marriage.

