

Treasurer's Report Autumn 2019

Sometimes, as the Treasurer, I am so focused on worrying about the financial position of the charity that I forget that it is God not me who is in charge. We are very fortunate to have so many generous supporters - individuals and churches - but, and there always is a but, we need more!



With the emphasis on maintaining our expansion to cover activities at both primary and secondary schools we would like to start approaching other funders such as grant making charity trusts or local community organisations. Do you have any contacts that you think might be helpful?

The accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 show total receipts of £40,751 and expenses of £46,632 and we have been able to cover the deficit of £5,981 from reserves. The budget for the forthcoming year shows a similar deficit and, clearly, this position is not sustainable. Ideally we need to generate income of £50,000 each year.

We value your support greatly but would be very grateful if you could think of ways in which to raise funds - perhaps, asking your church to make a donation if it isn't doing so already, organising a quiz or a coffee morning. If you need any publicity materials please don't hesitate to ask us.

Lynn



DONATIONS / ENQUIRIES



Thank you to everyone who supports us financially. We can accept **online donations** - the easiest way to access this facility is by clicking on the logo on our website www.svst.org.uk. There is no cost to you to donate this way and we will receive Gift Aid where appropriate. Or pay directly into our Barclays Bank Account.

Sort Code: 20-17-35 Account Number: 93400956

Alternatively, cheques made payable to **Stort Valley Schools Trust** can be sent to:



SVST Secretary
43 Leigh Drive,
Elsenham
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM22 6BY

Email us at: enquiries@svst.org.uk

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



Stort Valley works in association with Scripture Union



We would appreciate your prayers for our regular secondary school clubs which take place on the following days:

Monday: Hockerill (After School) - H4

Tuesday: Herts & Essex - H6

Joyce Frankland—A11

Birchwood (After School) -D4

Wednesday: Bishop's Stortford High – Rm 10

Thursday: Saffron Walden County High – Q4

Birchwood – C16



Focus on Faith



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Coming soon!
- Pray for Schools Event
- Treasurer's report

Dear Partners and supporters,

From The Chairman:

Nicola, our full time school worker and leader of our team of workers, is expecting her first baby early in the New Year. We praise God for this wonderful news and send our very best wishes to her and her husband Matt. Please pray for them as they prepare for this exciting new stage in their lives together. Nicola is planning to continue working until the end of this autumn term before then starting maternity leave. The Trust is very fortunate in that it has appointed Katie Haynes to cover Nicola's leave. Katie (Kt), an experienced youth worker and primary school teacher, lives near Saffron Walden with her husband and children. The family are members of the Saffron Walden Community Church. We give thanks to God for his provision and ask you to pray for Katie as she plans to start in her new role at the beginning of the January term.

From news of 'new beginnings' to 'all good things come to an end'. After very many enjoyable and very rewarding years working with the Trust I will be standing down as Chairman and Trustee at the end of this year. My association with the Trust started as a member of the then, Management Committee, when Geoff Napper was Chairman. I later became a Trustee and for the past twelve years have led the Trust as Chairman. Much has changed during this period; the work expanding from one school worker to three, plus many volunteer workers and now covering work in primary schools as well as the secondary schools. Increasingly we find that the majority of young people in our schools know little about Jesus or His church and this is now as true with primary children as it is with older pupils. This is a huge mission field and is growing each year as our three towns grow in size and new schools are built. The Trust now has the challenge of bringing to schools the life changing message of Jesus, in new, relevant and more effective ways. In answer to prayer we have good support from the local church along with excellent School Workers with a real heart and enthusiasm to see more young people come to know Jesus. The Trust is in a strong position to see the work expand. Now is the time for a younger person with fresh ideas to move the Trust forward.

What you have heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus, Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (2 Timothy 1: 13-14)

David Williams

News from Nicola



The summer term had its challenges (thank you to everyone who reached out in support and prayer) but also many reasons to celebrate. Lunchtime and after school clubs were well attended and we had some great discussions, trying to answer questions such as; 'do all religions lead to the same place?' and 'what makes someone a Christian?', as well as looking at topics including; the life and person of Jesus, anger and the Holy Spirit.

During the summer break I was involved with the 11's tent at HBW – once again this was a very enjoyable and fruitful week following the theme 'The Incredible Journey'. It was also a great opportunity to get to know the young people and publicise our lunchtime and after school clubs, in anticipation of their move to secondary school this month. I also went to Soul Survivor with a group of young people from my church - there was some great, thought provoking teaching which left me feeling refreshed and recharged.

This term holds much to anticipate and pray about; as well as the usual clubs and activities, I will be leading some assemblies, which are a great way to publicise the clubs to a wider audience. We are also looking forward to the National Pray Day for Schools on the 19th November and our forthcoming Pray for Schools evening on 24th November. Can I encourage you to come along and join us? We'll be hearing from a teacher and some students, plus there will be worship led by young people and all the latest news and student feedback from our school groups and activities. Full details can be found below.

I still am desperate for volunteers to join me in school, to help with our lunchtime and after school clubs. This would involve joining me for an hour a week, to be a second pair of hands and a second adult for the young people to get to know. It presents a great opportunity to pray more specifically for the students, staff and school as you will have a first-hand understanding of the needs and issues that arise. I promise that you will discover it to be extremely enjoyable and time well spent. If you would like to know more, even if you're not sure what you can offer, please email me (nicola@svst.org.uk) and we can chat further.

Things to pray for:

- Our weekly lunchtime and after school clubs:
- After School Club at Hockerill – Mondays
- Lunch Club at Herts & Essex – Tuesdays
- After School Club at Birchwood – Tuesdays
- Lunch Club at The Bishop's Stortford High School – Wednesdays
- Lunch Club at Birchwood - Thursdays

Coming Soon!

Look out for our promotional video.

An opportunity to show your church or group what the work of Stort Valley Schools Trust is all about.



News from Andrea



Summer has flown by and although I enjoyed spending time with family and friends, I'm also ready to start a new school year and see what God has in store for us. However, I want to share with you some of the things I've been doing since our last newsletter.

Joyce Frankland: The club has started well which is always very encouraging. We now have a new room and it's a lot easier for the students to find us. JFA has a new Head Teacher and he is very supportive of our work, as are the Pastoral Department.

We were able to run our second Prayer Space in the premises and we had a good number of students coming everyday. The pupils were able to experience prayer in a more interactive way. Hopefully we will be able to run it again in 2020. (**Lunch club runs on Tuesday Lunchtimes in A block room A11**)

County High: The club restarted really well after the summer holidays and we are hoping to get new members. Flyers have been sent to the students with information about the club.

Back in May, we had the opportunity of running our second Prayer Space. We didn't have as many students as we expected, but the opportunity to have done it again is a reason to celebrate. (**Lunch club runs on Thursdays at 1:15pm Room Q4**)

IYM: I was able to visit quite a few primary schools in the area to talk about the transition from Primary to Secondary schools. The presentations went really well and the feedback was fantastic.

VBS: VBS has come to an end and it's a bitter sweet feeling, as we are so grateful for being able to have reached so many children with the message of the Gospel. This would not have happened otherwise & it's the end of an era. I feel really blessed to have been a part of this amazing team and to have met so many young people who I come across at the schools, shops and in the streets. Sharing with them the love of God through Jesus. Andrea Gasson. andrea@svst.org.uk

Primary School News from Tina



WOW

Over June we presented our assembly to the following schools: Sheering; St Mary's HBO; Little Hallingbury; Reedings; High Wych; Birchanger; Hillmead and St Michael's CofE School.

Our Assembly was based on anger and seeing different aspects using Bible verses. We used a bag and rocks to illustrate how carrying around lots of anger can weigh you down. We also used a trick, where the bag blew up saying that sometimes anger can be destructive and hurt others when we explode. We used balloons to show that many little things can cause us to get angry and talked about some of the ways we can let go of things so we don't get to a point where we cannot control our emotions and actions.

Some of the feedback from the teachers was as follows:

"Fantastic engaging assembly, a clear explanation about anger and the children understood the importance"
 "Really engaging and a great way to show how forgiveness is the way forward and how anger can eat away at you, thank you"
 "Fun and engaging, using the stones to explain anger made it easy to understand. Great use of children and props"

It's Your Move

The schools workers and volunteers were able to present the It's Your Move sessions to 834 children in 27 schools in the Stort valley in the summer term.

We had some first time visits to one or two schools which was encouraging and we hope to offer the session to them again next year. Along with this we had some new volunteers to present the session, it is great to grow the team.

Here are some of the comments from the teachers of the schools.

"Very informative and all the questions were answered well. The presenters were very approachable".
 "Very engaging and related to experiences that were relevant to the pupils." "This was my first It's Your Move session and I thought it was very useful. You covered a lot in the timescale which meant the children did not get bored, please come again next year." "Thank you all very helpful and clear".

Tina Baptiste tina@svst.org.uk



EVERY SCHOOL A PRAYED FOR SCHOOL...

STORT VALLEY

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS EVENT

Sunday 24th November 2019

Parish Rooms, St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, CB10 1JP

Refreshments available at 6.30pm for a 7pm start

Please join us as we learn about and pray for the vital work going on in our local schools

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN...



WWW.PRAYFORSCHOOLS.ORG