



**The BRAVE Trust**

## **Autumn Newsletter November 2021**

### **A TRUSTEE writes....**

Dear Supporters,

As I sit and write this paragraph for our November newsletter on the first Sunday in Advent, winter has arrived in Buntingford with cold blustery winds. However, for some unfortunate souls in the north, storm Arwen has brought a reminder of the power of nature, losing their power, heating and for some tragically, their lives. Similarly a new variant of the virus that has caused the COVID-19 pandemic has been identified and we're waiting to see if this variant can escape the protective vaccines, that we have been blessed with receiving. Very tragically just last week, 27 people lost their lives crossing the English Channel in a flimsy dinghy, hopeful for a new life in Britain. Sometimes, reflecting on the news, the world around us can seem a cold, dark place, with little hope.

Yet throughout all this darkness, sadness and death, there is consistency, light and hope in the love of Jesus Christ. This is the Good News message that the BRAVE Trust wants to share with our school children. It is a message that the Trust has shared for 14 years, pretty good going considering the project was only meant to last for three years. Rachael is very active in Edwinstree in Buntingford, as you'll read later, with some significant plans to run a school chaplaincy, but for the moment we have lost our links with King James Academy (KJA) in Royston. Therefore, in a move away from our previous path, the Trust has decided to see if we can forge links with the four lower schools in Royston, with the hope that this might help us form links with KJA in the future.

This last month has seen us say *bon voyage* to Joshua as he and his family move back to the USA and an exciting new chapter in their lives. Whilst we wish Joshua and his family all God's blessings in their new role, Joshua's move leaves the Brave Trust Management Committee a little light, so we are now seeking to strengthen it with a number of individuals who might have some spare time to help us move forward. We would be particularly keen to hear from anyone with teaching experience, who could help us. If you would be interested in finding out more please do make contact with myself via [webmaster@thebravetrust.org](mailto:webmaster@thebravetrust.org).

With all good wishes for a blessed Christmas

Simon

## SCHOOL WORKER UPDATE



**RACHAEL writes.....**

Over the past term I have been into Edwinstree to run the Collective Worship club every Monday Lunchtime. For the first three weeks, only one Year 7 lad attended but he helped me with my first Collective Worship about "Koinonia" and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The following week, this boy had recruited 4 friends to join in, which meant the drama I had planned on "Zacchaeus" was a hit 😊 These other boys have continued to come since then, which is a real answer to prayer and very encouraging. They have participated in a Collective Worship about remembrance and will be participating in one on 'Service'.

Edwinstree have asked for "The Sense" (Youth for Christ) to come and be involved at the school for three days and I have provisionally booked that for Weds Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> to Fri 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. The band members will perform lunchtime concerts and lead RE and personal, social health and economic (PSHE) lessons over the three days and this is a wonderful opportunity for the students to see young adults talking about their real and active faith in Jesus.

To progress my idea of setting up a chaplaincy service in schools, I have spoken to Katie Haynes from the Stort Valley trust, which is a similar organisation to The BRAVE trust and has a chaplaincy service running in some schools in East Herts and Essex.

I am now fully enrolled on the Chaplaincy In Education course and consistently have work my way through some videos and online tasks, as well as some recommended reading about the role of chaplaincy in schools. I am also attending fortnightly Zoom lessons on Thursday evenings. So far it has proved to be a very useful and thorough training.

I have also had contact with Jos Perris, a contact of Christian Coles, the Youth Mission worker at the Diocese of St Albans. Jos is a school chaplain in the Elstree area. I am visiting him and accompanying him to various schools, within one Academy Trust, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. This Academy Trust incorporates both community and faith schools so I am hoping to get an insight into how Chaplaincy can work in both settings.

I have also contacted a lower school in Royston – Icknield Walk Lower school – and I am waiting to hear from them.

Prayer items:

- **Thanks for Cowo group at Edwinstree**

- **Thanks for the support of the BRAVE trust by the Head and Deputy headteachers at Edwinstree and their support of the Chaplaincy development**
- **For the chaplaincy course to go well and to be useful in establishing myself as a school chaplain**
- **For contact with KJAR and the lower schools in Royston.**

### **Our financial position**

The BRAVE Trust finances continue to be in a healthy state, thanks to our regular donors, both individuals and churches. We expect to finish 2021 with a small surplus of funds and a reasonable balance in the account. However, we would still like to broaden our supporter base so we can better face whatever changes and challenges the next year might bring.

So, I would like to ask you to think about the following:

- **Please pray for continued financial blessing.**
- **If you do not already, could you make a regular donation to the BRAVE Trust? Even a small amount makes a big difference.**
- **Encourage your friends or your church to become supporters, perhaps by sharing this newsletter with them.**
- **If you shop online, please use Easy Fundraising or Amazon Smile to support BRAVE.**

Please contact me if you want to set up a Standing Order, make a Gift Aid declaration, or make a donation through Stewardship, CAF or online fundraising sites

Thank you once again to all our supporters.



Paul Brown,  
Treasurer,  
[treasurer@thebravetrust.org](mailto:treasurer@thebravetrust.org)

**YOU CAN SUPPORT THE BRAVE TRUST'S WORK IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:**



Standing Order forms can be downloaded from the website: or alternatively, our secretary, Gill Stemp, will be happy to send one to you [Secretary@thebravetrust.org](mailto:Secretary@thebravetrust.org)

**Online Shopping:** If you shop online, you could be raising additional funds for the BRAVE Trust without further cost to yourself by using EasyFundRaising.org.uk. Simply log on to the website and complete a simple registration process. By logging on to the EasyFundRaising website every time you shop online, you will donate additional funds to the BRAVE Trust! Please contact Simon Rice at [webmaster@thebravetrust.org](mailto:webmaster@thebravetrust.org).