



The BRAVE Trust

Newsletter January 2020

A TRUSTEE WRITES

Happy New Year!

The start of a new decade provides a time for both reflection as well as looking forward. The BRAVE Trust started in 2007 as an initial three-year project, but was successfully extended to where we are now, celebrating 13 years supporting the middle schools in Buntingford and Royston. During this time, we have seen God at work touching the lives of children and staff in the schools, through our schools workers Ann Bullen, Margaret MacCormack and Martha Botros, with many answers to prayer through the ongoing financial and prayer support received from grant-funding bodies, local churches and individual supporters.

We thank God for the life of Margaret, who went to be with the God she loved and served in January 2018, following a short illness. Margaret's faith and enthusiasm inspired us all and touched the lives of many young people. It was a privilege to have her working for the BRAVE Trust. Martha bravely continued the work of the BRAVE Trust in the schools until she moved with her family to Wales. We wish her God's blessings in her new endeavours!

Following a period of prayerful reflection and updating of essential documentation, it was with great excitement that we appointed Rachael Went as our new part-time schools worker in September 2019. Thank you to everyone who came and supported Rachael at her Dedication service in November, lead by our patron the Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Smith, Anglican Bishop of St Albans. What an uplifting service it was!



Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Smith



Clergy and Trustees pray for Rachael

As Rachael said afterwards: "The Bishop gave us a clear gospel message which was warmly received by all. It was great to see and chat to so many supporters of the BRAVE Trust, as well as having my own family and church family there too!"

The BRAVE Trust Management Committee

The BRAVE Trust Management Committee continues to evolve. Going forward into 2020, we have two vacancies – one for a chairperson and the other for a new treasurer.

Richard Gennochio stood down as our chair during the autumn term. Richard joined the BRAVE Trust nearly ten years ago and steered us admirably through various journeys, including finding new finances. We are eternally grateful to Richard for his leadership and wish him a long and happy retirement. In addition to Richard retiring, another long-standing committee member, Mike Askew, also retired and settled elsewhere. These losses highlighted some gaps in our Management Committee, which we have partly resolved through the recruitment of the Revd Joshua Jones, pastor of Therfield Chapel, who has joined the committee, bringing his own schools worker experience. Day-to-day Joshua will act as Rachael's manager. In addition, Mrs Carol McKimmie has joined the committee. Carol worships at the Methodist church in Royston. Both these appointments have helped us build stronger bridges with churches who hadn't been involved with the BRAVE Trust previously.

Another loss will be our treasurer, Neha Vijh, who will be moving to London in the next few months as she is getting married. We found Neha through a local community volunteer website. She admirably filled the shoes of treasurer for two years, but now we also need to find someone willing to take on this role as well.

As Jeremiah reminds us: "For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Ch 29:11). With this verse of encouragement, please pray that the Lord will guide us to volunteers who can fill the roles of Chair and Treasurer, helping us to continue the work of the BRAVE Trust into the next decade.

Our new BRAVE Trust school worker Mrs. Rachael Went



Rachael and her family live in St Neot's in Cambridgeshire and are active members of St Neot's Evangelical church. Rachael brings extensive experience of primary and Sunday school teaching. Over the autumn term, Rachael has been busy in Edwinstree School, with the blessing of head teacher, Mrs Jo Gant, helping with a group of children prepare a Collective Worship session communicating the message of hope in Jesus and helping children at the Co Wo club prepare their own prayers for the whole school carol services in December at St

Mary's church Aspenden.

Please pray for Rachael as she not only continues her work with the children at Edwinstree but also her introductory meeting in January, at the new King James Academy in Royston, which combines the former Greneway and Roysia Middle Schools along with the Meridian Upper School. Please pray that this meeting will be the springboard to Rachael setting up Christian activities in the school.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

No newsletter can be complete without reflecting upon the finances of the Trust. At the time of Rachael's appointment, we had enough money to employ Rachael for one year on a part-time basis, which will run out at the end of the summer term this year. In real terms that's not very far ahead and we want to continue the work in the schools, especially given the wonderful start Rachael has made and the historical impact of our work in the local schools.

The BRAVE Trust's aim has always to be independent of grant funding and to be self-financing. Obtaining monies from grant-funding bodies is proving to be increasingly difficult and so we are essentially reliant on support from local churches and individuals. At Rachael's Dedication, I was able to reflect that if every individual supporter present was able to set up a standing order for as little as £10 per month, we would be able to make a big dent in our financial needs. Are you able to help us please? If you currently support the Trust please could you prayerfully consider increasing your gift? Do you contribute Gift Aid, which will cost you no extra, but will benefit the Trust by an additional 25%, coming directly from HM Treasury? Does your employer support charitable giving in a matching plan? Can you influence your church to make a regular donation? Can you support us when you shop online?

If you can, please get in touch with Gill via Secretary@thebravetrust.org.

Thebravetrust.org website and Supporter mailing list

Our web site is very basic and is primarily a source of information for people visiting from outside, who might have heard of the BRAVE Trust and want to know a bit more about us, for example, our statement of faith, safeguarding statement or who would like to get in touch. We do not regularly update it, choosing to carry out our communication through email.

Our supporter mailing list is now compliant with the current data protection regulation. As a result our supporter mailing list has shrunk from 150 to 40 individuals. Please circulate our Newsletters electronically to your church friends and family. If anyone wishes to be added to the distribution list to receive newsletters then they can contact me (webmaster@thebravetrust.org) to be added.

Simon Rice, Trustee

PRAYER NEEDS

1. For Rachael, her family and for their health, physical and spiritual wellbeing
2. For the children in our local schools that they would be open to God's still, small voice
3. For the meeting to be held in early January at the King James Academy between Rachael, Jonathan Scott, pastor of Royston Evangelical church, and the Head Teacher.
4. The BRAVE Trust and its Management Committee. For energy to drive the project forward, to seek new funding.
5. For new members of the Management Committee, including a new chair and treasurer.
6. For local churches and their congregations to have the means to support the work of the BRAVE Trust.

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 (Miss. Gill Stemp, 15 Meadow View, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9SQ)

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.