



## The BRAVE Trust

# Newsletter November 2020

### A TRUSTEE WRITES

As the nights draw in and we continue in Lockdown Two, I am encouraged by Jesus' words "I am the light of the world". It is this Christian message that the BRAVE Trust through our schools' worker, Rachael, continues to strive to make known to the young people in our schools in Buntingford and Royston. Whilst Rachael has not been able to return to school in person yet and the schools have been busy adjusting to school life in a Covid-secure way, as you will see below, she has been busy with a lot of preparatory work. Rachael has recorded a great video which is now available on our You Tube channel ( <https://youtu.be/98b-8gKAsk4>) – please do share this with your friends and your church and continue to support Rachael with your prayers!

We give thanks to God for answering our prayer for a new chairperson. Jonathan Scott, who is pastor at Royston Evangelical church, who volunteered to take up this mantle and has already been busy getting up to speed with the business side of the Trust. Jonathan joins Simon Rice, Paul Brown and myself as Trustees of the BRAVE Trust.

The Trustees and the Management Committee continue to meet via Zoom to support Rachael and make future plans to keep the Trust running. Following our last meeting, Carol McKimmee, who worships at Royston Methodist church, regretfully stepped down from the committee due to her increasingly important work with the cancer bereavement charity Cruise. We thank Carol for her support over the last couple of years and pray for her in this vital work, especially in these hard times. If you have a few hours to spare and feel called to support the work of the BRAVE Trust by joining the Management Committee, we would love to hear from you.

The BRAVE Trust continues to work to be less financially dependent on grants – see Paul's update later in the newsletter. If you are finding yourself doing more online shopping, especially as Christmas approaches, please consider nominating the BRAVE Trust as your charity on "Easy Fundraising", "Amazon Smile" and Give.net– as that well-known advert says "every little helps"!

Finally, following a data protection clean up, our distribution list is looking a little spartan. If you have family, friends or church members who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to contact Simon via email, [webmaster@thebravetrust.org](mailto:webmaster@thebravetrust.org)

Thank you for your continued support!

Take care and keep safe.

Gill



### **Rachael writes**

Since September 2020 my contact with schools has been minimal. Schools have had much to adjust to with Covid regulations and receiving visitors has been, understandably, low on their list of priorities.

So, having contacted both schools early in September, I awaited their responses. In the meantime, I continued to edit all the talks for the youth version of Christianity Explored, which is the material I will use for Christian Union at King James Academy, and finished writing a variety of Collective Worship sessions based around Edwinstree C of E Middle School's Christian values. This amounted to about 15 different sessions, with accompanying presentations and video links, including sessions on Advent and Christmas.

As well as this I have spent time drafting an electronic communications policy and have recorded and edited a video which explains what the Brave Trust is all about and my role within it.

In the week before half-term, I received emails from both schools. The Head at King James Academy is still very cautious about having visitors into the school but is keen to receive any help or resources for teaching RE and PSHE. I am currently looking at some material by the Message Trust to see if it is suitable.

My contact at Edwinstree is very keen for me to come back into school in person and to add me onto the Collective Worship rota again. We also discussed restarting the Collective Worship planning group using online technology and ways in which I can contribute to a virtual Christingle service.

Sadly, due to Lockdown Two beginning on November 5<sup>th</sup>, I haven't been able to go into Edwinstree in person, but on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November I was able to deliver a whole school Collective Worship session on Hope online. This went well and, thankfully, all the technology worked!

Hopefully I will soon be able to participate in some of the Christmas activities in Edwinstree school.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS FROM RACHAEL**

- Give thanks that Edwinstree School is still keen to have my input and that King James Academy has not closed the door to me.
- Please Pray that I will have more regular input at Edwinstree in the next few weeks.
- Please pray that I will find ways of working within King James Academy, despite the current restrictions.
- May I find a Christian Staff member to connect with at KJA.
- May I continue to rely on the Lord for ways of working in both schools.
- Please pray that the Lord continues to bless this ministry and that children and young people will be clearly pointed to Jesus through it.

Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Rachael

## **OUR FINANCIAL POSITION**

As a registered charity, the BRAVE Trust is totally dependent on you, our supporters. We are very grateful for the regular financial support we receive from both individuals and churches in the area. This along with a generous grant from the Brian Leslie Racher Trust has left us in a relatively comfortable position, as we approach the end of the year.

2020 has been a challenging year in many ways and so we are particularly appreciative that most of our regular support has been unaffected so far. But as we look to next year, we are anticipating a slight down-turn and we would prefer to be less reliant on grant funding. So we would ask you to think about the following.

- Please pray for our continued financial buoyancy.
- If you do not already, could you make a regular donation to the BRAVE Trust?
- Could you encourage your friends or your church to become supporters? Perhaps by sharing this newsletter with them.
- If you are already a regular supporter, could you increase the amount you give?
- If you shop online, please use Easy Fundraising or Amazon Smile to support BRAVE.

Here are some of the ways that you can support us financially:

- You can set up a Standing Order to pay direct into our account. Account details or a Standing Order form can be obtained by contacting the Treasurer, Paul Brown, [treasurer@thebravetrust.org](mailto:treasurer@thebravetrust.org)
- If you are a UK tax payer, we can claim Gift Aid on your donations. A form can be found on our website or from the Treasurer.
- If you have a Stewardship or CAF account, you can donate to us by logging into your account and searching for BRAVE.
- Online donations can be made at [www.give.net/20182770](http://www.give.net/20182770) or you can set up your own fundraising campaign on our behalf!
- If you are shopping at Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and select the BRAVE Trust as your chosen charity.
- For other online shopping, go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) and search for BRAVE.

*Thank you once again to all our supporters.*

Paul