

The Chairman writes.

In this summer edition, you will find some really cheering reports from our Schools Workers, Margaret MacCormack and Martha Botros, about what has been happening with the pupils in our local schools, some of their plans for the new term and an exciting opportunity to take part in a session organised by our schools workers later in the autumn. Please see the advertisement for this event later in this newsletter.

Celebration of Easter

Various events were staged by pupils of our middle schools, on the themes of Easter and the events leading up to it. These were clearly of very high quality and of an extraordinary nature. The service in St. John's church, Royston for the pupils at Edwinstree was outstanding and very well received. This owed a lot to Margaret's and Martha's planning and coaching as well as to the enthusiasm of some very talented children.

BRAVE appoints a new Secretary

Also very heartening news is the appointment of Gill Stemp as the new Secretary of the Trust. Many of you will know Gill through her various activities in Aspenden and Buntingford, such as a former Girl Guide leader and Church Warden. We thank God for answered prayer and welcome her aboard for what I am sure will be a productive tenure of this key office. Many thanks to Linda Stratton for standing in, prior to Gill's arrival.

Money matters

And now, back to my usual topic, money. I am delighted to report that St. Christopher's Educational Trust has awarded the BRAVE

Trust a grant of £2000 per annum for each of the next three years. This, with the two grants we were awarded earlier this year, makes a huge contribution to our finances. We are most grateful for this generosity.

Our "drop dead" date has moved two years

Such support gives a huge boost to "BRAVE in Schools 2020", our campaign to continue our work at least right through the present decade. In 2010, on the basis of available funds and on current levels of income, I had to report that we would not be able to sustain our work beyond the end of 2012. With this extended funding we have extended that "drop dead" date by two years, to the end of 2014. This is good news, but we are by no means out of the woods. Pleasingly, annual contributions from churches and individuals have been increasing and I am very grateful to those who have responded to our call. But we should still like **all** churches to show their support and more individuals to come aboard. Whilst I am fully aware of these austere times there are many ways you can support us financially, some without any direct cost to yourself. Please see the advertisement later in this newsletter.

Please do your part to make this happen. Above all, please keep BRAVE, particularly our Schools Workers, in your private prayers and in your church's congregational prayers. Finally please make sure that this Newsletter is prominently displayed in your church!

Richard Genochio, Chairman,

Martha reflects on Easter



Edwinstree pupils celebrate Easter at St. John's church Royston

One of the girls in our year 8 group at Greneway, Eleanor, was inspired to write a whole play on the Easter story and was very thorough in listing the props and characters. This play was prepared and performed independently at all three middle schools, including the Edwinstree service at St. John's church in Royston. The Headmistress, Mrs. Michael, wrote in the school newsletter "*The term ended with a most memorable service at the parish church in Royston. Our thanks to Canon John Kiddle for his contribution as well as the ASK group who performed so well. The congregation sang the hymns so magnificently; it was a very moving experience for all present.*"

We were able to thank the script writer later at a Greneway school assembly. We were in turn presented with gifts and cards by the Headmistress Mrs. Kennedy, who also publicly thanked us for our teaching support within R.E. lessons.

More challenging was the Easter assembly at

- Why do we have chocolate eggs for Easter?
- Who invented Easter eggs?
- Why does the egg represent life?
- What is the significance of the Easter Bunny?



Roysia. With less than twenty four hours notice these are some of the questions the pupils posed to Margaret and me. I think we did a pretty good job in answering them in an interesting and engaging way, (you'll have to ask us personally if you want the answers!). We were putting our faith into action by the events that took place last term as they were preceded by much prayer among the groups, and we all had to work together as a team in order to achieve good performances.

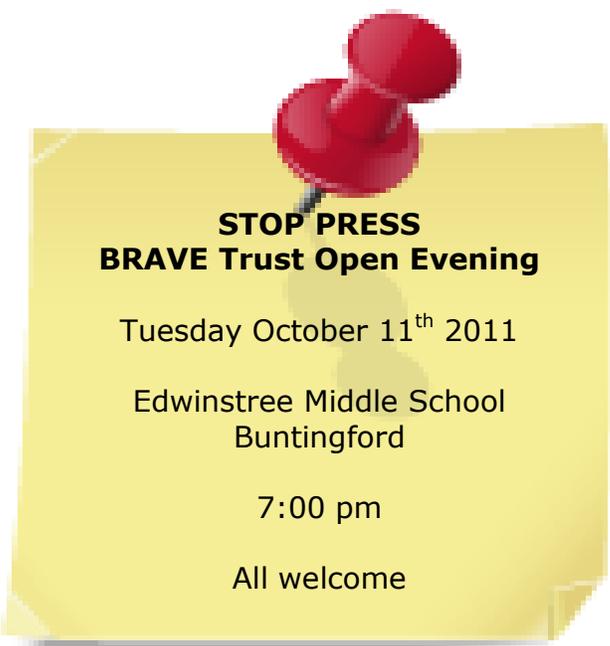
Work doesn't stop during holidays

I spent the Easter Break catching up with friends and family and sorting out new telephone and broadband access, along with maintaining my car in order to be ready for this summer term. As part of the 400 year anniversary of the Kings James Bible I was able to attend a recital of the Gospels at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Prayer surrounds our work

The prayer group in Royston that we attend has been very supportive of Margaret and my endeavours and have really been an encouragement at this extremely busy period in our schools work. It's good to know that others are covering us in prayer as we face the challenges in our schools work.

- What is Christianity really about?
- Why was Jesus crucified?
- Did Jesus deserve to be crucified?
- How did Jesus come back to life?
- Why are Christians so into Jesus, but Jews are not?



STOP PRESS
BRAVE Trust Open Evening

Tuesday October 11th 2011

Edwinstree Middle School
Buntingford

7:00 pm

All welcome

At the sharp end

We also spent much of our time at Greneway in a teaching series. Margaret taught year 5 whilst I was working with year 8. I found it very challenging as the group were rather reticent at first, but I tailored lessons to make them as accurate, relevant and interesting as I could. Eventually they seemed to warm slightly to the subject. From a choice of ten possible topics they all voted for "what do Christians believe about temptation?" This proved a good opportunity to reiterate God's desire to offer us forgiveness through our relationship with him which empowers us to resist sin. They have enjoyed the activities so far and showed some understanding and insight and I have given them lots of handouts to refer back to.

Margaret ponders the summer term

We have had in-depth conversations with the pupils and members of the staff and we have been pleased to gain the trust of the students. It is indeed interesting to hear the questions the children are longing to find answers, and enable them to find reasoned and well thought out answers.

We have been seeking to teach the students in all the schools the truths of Christianity and enable them to find out facts for themselves. We have used drama, painting, Bible studies to enable them to see for themselves how God's word speaks to us. It is so rewarding to see their designs, drawings and hear how God is revealing himself to them.

In May I went to a Scripture Union conference at Histon Baptist Church. Much of the discussion and sharing was about engaging with the students and seeing how we can work with the changes in education. We spent some time arranging a sketch on speaking to the school governors about a project that we wanted to do in a school.

The power and presence of God was so real

Martha and I spent a weekend at the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation in Hampshire. The power and presence of God was so real during the whole weekend. Jennifer Rees Larcombe is a very powerful speaker but she does have such a gentleness of spirit. It was so easy to be ministered to and to also feel a part of ministering to others around us.

During July we organised visits to Edwinstree and Greneway of ROUGHSHOD, a drama group from Riding Lights. We also organised special celebration events for the Year 8's who were leaving and moving to their respective upper schools. We are hoping to continue this latter group after school in the new term at Greneway school when they are at Meridian school.

Jan Baker from Edwinstree retired this term after 22 years of service. We will miss her. She has been so supportive and it has been a pleasure to work with her.

Supporting the BRAVE Trust's work

PRAYER

Legacy:

Could you leave a legacy for the BRAVE Trust in your will?

Please contact our Treasurer Mike Maze for further details.

Planned giving:

This helps us know what money we have to spend in advance and so offers us the greatest benefit. This could be a regular monthly or annual payment.

How about a one-off payment from the proceeds of a coffee morning or other local event?

Online shopping:

If you shop online you can raise funds **without any additional cost to yourself**. If you or your family shop at Amazon, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Curry's, iTunes or countless other shops online we are missing out on extra cash for the BRAVE Trust.

Not sure how to set it up?

Contact Simon (simonqrice@gmail.com), our webmaster, who will help you directly to set it up on your PC.

Corporate Charitable Giving:

Many corporate organisations will match a payment from its employees or donate to causes employees are involved.

Does your employer operate a scheme that could help the BRAVE Trust?

My Response

✂.....✂.....

I would like to make a donation of £.....

I am a UK tax payer and all donations I make from this date until I notify you otherwise should be treated as Gift Aid donations

Signed.....Name.....

Dated:.....Address.....

Please send your donation to Mr. Mike Maze, BRAVE Trust Treasurer, 16, Shrubbery Grove, Royston, SG8 9LJ (Mikefmaze@aol.com)