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<http://thebravetrust.org/>

**Spring 2011**

## The Chairman writes....

### In the front line

You will see from our Spring Report that Schools Workers Margaret McCormack and Martha Botros continue to be intensely and fruitfully occupied in our local schools. Their work has been hugely rewarded by the pupils' engagement in the various activities and by the continuing development of relationships with the schools. We give thanks for Martha's and Margaret's skills and dedication and we pray for them, the children they teach and for the schools.



**Pupils take part in Psalm  
Illustration**

### Financial update

You will remember that last year we resolved to put BRAVE in a financial position to continue its work right through the new decade. Having launched 'BRAVE 2020', we are already seeing some encouraging signs:

- ✂ For medium term funding we have applied for grants from three bodies. Already we have received two awards – with one application still pending. We are most grateful to the United Reformed Church Eastern Synod and to the

Church Community Fund for their support. This gives us real hope. However, we are by no means out of the woods yet. To be certain of our future we still need the assurance of regular income.

- ✂ We are delighted that more churches in our area are now providing financial support. Some churches are contributing for the first time and some are returning to the fold. We should like every church to show its commitment in this way. Remember, BRAVE's work represents, for many local churches, their mission to young people.
- ✂ We are very grateful to have received some generous gifts from individuals as well as the regular monthly donations made by some 20 individual supporters. I hope that more people will wish to follow suit and show their support in these ways.

### BRAVE Links

We have asked churches in our area to appoint a 'Link Person', to act as the main point of contact with the Trust and as a local advocate for our work. I am grateful to those churches and individuals who have responded positively to this call. This network when developed will be a very effective means of stimulating awareness and support.

***Has your church appointed a BRAVE Link? If not could you fill this role?***

### Situation Vacant: Secretary required

**><> Is it you? <><**

We still lack a permanent Secretary. There must be somebody in our patch who supports our work and would like to become actively involved! Please ask yourself whether you could take this on – or ask

other people whom you know. Telephone me on 01763 287 549 if you would like to discuss.

## **Church Fetes**

We have decided to take a stall at a few Church Fetes this summer. With some entertainment for young and old, we shall also be able hand out information and explain to people what we do and how they can help.

**Watch out for us at a fete near you.**

## **Coffee break**

Would you like to hold a fund-raising coffee morning for BRAVE? My arithmetic tells me that if one coffee morning raises £300, then ten coffee mornings will raise £3000. That's serious money. Offers, anyone?

Thank you for your continuing support

***Richard Genochio, Chairman,***

## **Reflections of Christmas**

### **Margaret says.....**

Celebrating Christmas was very special in the schools this year. Assemblies were taken in all the schools and the groups from Roysia Buds wrote an amazing poem called 'Angel Talk' that was their contribution to Royston Carols for the Community, Angel Voices. Greneway did drama sketches and performed Silent Night. It was lovely to have one of Greneway's talented musicians on violin with the band, to accompany some of her peers from the U2 Group. It really was a blessed time with more than 200 people celebrating with us.



**U2 pupils at Angel Voices community event**

In Roysia I took two lessons in the first two weeks of December with all year five, teaching them about the meaning of Christmas and the symbols used when making Christingle. It certainly was lovely as forty students stood in a circle and we lit all the candles and sang all the verses of Away in a Manger. We paused after every verse and I asked the children to express what they had learnt about the Christmas story and what it meant to them. It was a moving time. It was lovely to see the school decorated this Christmas in every area with clear Christian messages, angels and nativity scenes.

In March Martha and I are going on a training day at Kings College London called IMGAGE run by EastWest. They are very focused on schools work and the speakers are celebrated for their research into our culture and communicating the love of God into our society. There are other courses that we are going on in the next two terms. We will of course be looking for somewhere to have our weekend away to pray and plan.

## **Preparing for Easter and beyond**

### **Martha says.....**

There has been a lot of planning and preparation in progress at the beginning of this Spring Term between our team and the schools and churches. There has been a good turn out in all the groups that we work with within the schools. We have had formal planning meetings with the Heads at Edwinstree and Greneway and an informal one at Roysia. We are delighted that the Rev. John Kibble, the Bishop of St. Alban's advisor on mission, has accepted an invitation to take part in an Easter Service for Edwinstree coordinated by our team. This is being held at St. John's church in Royston, on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, as none of the churches in Buntingford are large enough to take the whole school.

Assemblies are in place this term for Edwinstree and Roysia. A series of Easter lessons are booked in for both of us at Greneway. Also I will be working on an Easter Drama Production with the children that can be performed to the whole school. Margaret will be exploring professional drama groups to invite for separate events in each school. Each will

encompass the Easter Egpressions theme but have an individual interpretation. It is an exciting time with a lot achieved already, but with an enormous amount still to be done in the months ahead. Out of school I've agreed to speak about my role as a schools worker as part of a Sunday Service next month at Royston Evangelical Church.

### **Phew! Stop and take a breath.....**

Reading Margaret's and Martha's reports help us realise just what busy lives they both lead.

Organisation skills and energy are definitely key qualities they both have in abundance.

We need to keep them both and their families in our daily prayers: for health, their safety, both physical and spiritual, and continued inspiration to reach out to our children and to know God's continued presence in their lives.

### **Does the BRAVE Trust regularly appear in your church intercessions and Prayer / House Groups?**



**Psalm Illustration at Edwinstree**

### **A prayer for us all**

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Ignatius (1491 – 1556)

“**Living God's Love** is an invitation to journey. In particular, it is a call to the parishes, schools and people of the Church of England Diocese of St

Albans to *Go Deeper into God, Transform Communities and to Make New Disciples*”. So said Alan, the current Bishop of St. Albans Diocese, when he launched his new initiative back in January. We have been struck just how the BRAVE Trust fulfils a number of the Bishop's objectives. Do you agree?

### **Communicating with our young people**

The satirical online Christian magazine, Ship of Fools ([www.ship-of-fools.com](http://www.ship-of-fools.com)), recently ran a

dad@hvn,ur spshl.we want  
wot u want&urth2b like  
hvn.giv us food&4giv r sins  
lyk we 4giv uvaz.don't test  
us!save us!bcos we kno ur  
boss,ur tuf&ur cool 4  
eva!ok?

competition for the best text message version of The Lord's Prayer of 160 characters or less. Quite a challenge since the original is over 370 characters long! Whilst most of us reading this newsletter might balk at the idea of the Lord's Prayer being reduced to apparent grammatical nonsense, this is the language our young people use each time they communicate with their peers.

**Bridging the gap between the conventional language of the church and the social networking young people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is just one of the challenges we all face.**

