

## News from our Chairman

Welcome to this WST newsletter as we draw to the end of a very busy term in what (as I reminded you in the last newsletter) is our 25th Anniversary year. Throughout the term we have carried out our normal activities of taking lessons and assemblies in many of the schools in the Watford area. If you want news of which schools we go into and what we do there, do ensure that you ask us to include you on the list for our regular email prayer update. We continue to value your prayers so much.

In addition, we had an exceptional week bringing the Prayer Space workshop to Knutsford School in February. Prayer Space is an excellent way of encouraging the pupils to develop their ideas of a God who cares for them and who listens when we speak to him. This is an important aspect of the work we do in schools but, as we continue to work to fulfil our aim of giving every schoolchild a clear understanding of the Christian faith, our Easter lessons, which are going on as I write, are introducing the Year 4 pupils to the Last Supper, to a Saviour who showed the love of God in a way which took him to the cross, before rising again to show his victory.



### Prayer Space Activities – Our Community Tree, Pray the news and a Lifeboat representing refugees and their journey.

Prayer Space involves so many people. There was the welcome and cooperation of the school, for which we thank them, and the hard work of our wonderful volunteers in arranging the prayer stations around the school hall. They staffed the event throughout the week and helped with the clearing up. Above all I would like to thank our workers, Tricia, Alison, Johanna and Sarah for their unfailing good humour through the event, which sees them working for the Trust above and beyond their normal working hours with its consequences in rearrangement of their family life and other commitments. We never know the full spiritual results of an activity such as Prayer Space but we are sure that the results are long-lasting in the lives of those who experience it.

One excellent aspect of this term's Prayer Space was the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions when we opened the event to our supporters, visitors from churches and to RE coordinators in other schools. We were so pleased to see so many of you there (about 60 on Tuesday evening) and we hope that you gained an insight into the work we do – do pass on the news to others. In recent months a team from the Trust have taken part in services in two of our supporting churches, with more to follow. Do let us know if you've got a slot we could fill either in a service or a meeting. As a direct result of the open sessions we have received invitations to run Prayer Space in three other schools; we are making arrangements for one of these to happen early in the summer term.

We have different events taking place over the year. Have a look at the dates on the next page to see how you can get more involved.

So, there is a lot going on in God's name in the schools and amongst our supporters. I thank you for all your interest in our work and wish you all God's blessings as the Easter festival approaches.

With all my best wishes,

John Way

## Prayer Space written by Tricia Bastable (schools worker)

As you have read last month we returned to Knutsford School to lead a wonderful week of Prayer Space. It shouldn't come as any surprise to read that it is one of our favourite activities that we do!

Over 500 children enjoying interactive stations that encourage them to think about themselves, their communities and God, it was a magnificent sight! Please continue to pray for the school as they build on all that was started during Prayer Space.



There are so many highlights but one of the surprising ones occurred at the Thankful Ducks station.

One girl caught the same duck twice. She read the writing under the duck, 'My bed'. She put the duck back in the water and said, 'I've already said thank you for my bed, I'm not doing it again!'

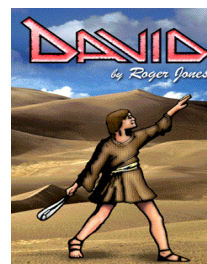
One of her classmates pointed out they had just visited the homeless prayer station and had climbed into a cardboard box to help them understand what living on the street might feel like. They said, 'I think you should say thank you to God again and again!' Another classmate added that the little Ugandan girl that the school support probably doesn't have a bed as nice as hers.

Prayer Space gives opportunities like this for children to really think about what they have and who to be grateful to.

In our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we are using this, not only to let members of the churches know what we do to inform their prayers for us, but also to increase our income to enable us to continue our strategic work in the schools. We are organising special events and encouraging new people to give to us (and add Gift Aid) regularly.

### **Sunday 1st October 3.30pm at St Luke's Church, Watford 25th Anniversary Celebration Service**

Guest Speaker: Rev Tim Hastie-Smith, the National Director of Scripture Union



### **Saturday 14th October 2017 Musical-in-a-day Fundraiser for WST a Roger Jones musical on the life of David in St Luke's Church Watford**

There will be workshops for singing, dance and orchestra throughout the day.

A public performance will take place at the end of the day.

## Walk 25

**8am start at Garston Community Church Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Kelvin Hirst, one of our trustees, would love as many people as possible to join him. He's calling it "Walk 25" (so guess how far!) but it will be divided into easily manageable sections for those of us who aren't up to the full length. He is planning to walk past as many schools as he can. More details on how to sponsor him and get involved coming soon.

**But now it's over to you. ....**

**We want our supporters to be involved in organising their own sponsored or money-raising events on the theme of "25".** We have 25 ideas on the next page but I'm sure you have many of your own. Also, **if you fancy organising a quiz to support us**, we are hoping to produce a pack of possible questions and hints to help you with this, later in the year. Do let us know what you are planning to do to help us.

# 25 ways to support Watford Schools Trust in our 25th Year!

We'd love to encourage you to help raise funds to support our work so we've come up with 25 ways you can get involved, but we're sure you can come up with even more imaginative ideas! There is considerably more demand for our work than we can currently meet, and we really need financial support to sustain and expand what we do so that we can ensure every school child has a clear understanding of the Christian faith and what it might mean for them.

## Raise £25 by Week 25

The week ending 25<sup>th</sup> June is the 25<sup>th</sup> week of the year; could you save up £25 by week 25?

## Teddy Bear's Picnic

Do you know 25 teddy bears who might enjoy taking tea?

## 25 metre challenge

Can you save up enough 10p pieces to stretch out for 25 metres?

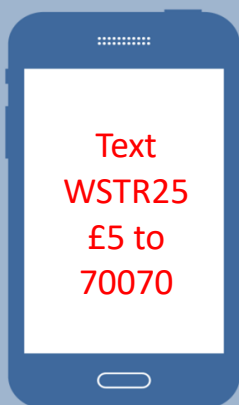
## 25 hours of peace

Why not hold a 25 hour sponsored silence?

## Do-si-do

Get your dancing shoes on and hold a barn dance and light supper in aid of Watford Schools Trust

**Text to give** £5 to our anniversary fundraising campaign  
See below



JustTextGiving  
by  Vodafone

## Treasure Hunt

Go on the hunt for some shiny silver treasure

## Car wash

Maybe you could wash 25 cars – why don't you challenge the youth group to help you?

## Smartie Tube Challenge

Could you fill a tube of smarties with 25 x £1 coins... you get to eat the Smarties too!

## Silver Party

Throw a party on a silver theme for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## Walk 25 (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017)

Join Kelvin Hirst (one of our Trustees) as he walks 25 miles to support the Trust. You can join in for a shorter 5 mile stint if you prefer.

## International Evening

Invite people to share food and traditions from 25 different countries

## Bad hair day

Get friends and family to sponsor you shave your head, dye your hair or wear a sparkly wig!

## Cook book

Could you produce a collection of 25 great recipes?

## Movie Marathon

Dig out some films from 1992? Disney's Aladdin could be a great choice!

## Quiz Night

Would you be willing to run a quiz in aid of Watford Schools Trust? We can provide a quiz pack if you're interested.

## Bake Off!

Maybe you could bake 25 cakes, or eat 25 cakes, whichever you prefer!

## David in a day

Take part in our musical in a day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

## Easter Egg Hunt

Organise an Easter egg hunt and ask for a donation to take part

## Who's who in 1992?

What did you look like 25 years ago? Hold a photo challenge competition

## Pound for £

Ask your friends to sponsor you to lose weight, achieve a personal goal and raise money at the same time!

## Read-a-thon

How many books can you read in 25 days?

## Silver change challenge

Collect your loose silver change in a jar and see how much you can save

## 25p text

The first text message was sent in 1992 – can you put aside 25p for every text you send in a month?

## Celebratory giving

Have you got a birthday or significant milestone coming up – ask for donations instead of presents