



# Summer Newsletter 2025

## Welcome to our Newsletter

Over the past few months, Watford Schools Trust has continued its mission to share the story of Jesus with children across Watford and the surrounding area.

We've had the privilege of delivering engaging assemblies and leading lessons in schools, including sessions exploring the story of Deborah, helping children see how God works through ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

It's Your Move supported pupils as they prepared for the big step from primary to secondary school. It offered space for honest conversation, reflection, and reassurance through a Christian lens. 31 schools were visited and 1400 Year 6 children.

ExploRE brought school groups into Croxley Green Baptist Church for a fun, creative, and thought-provoking experience of the Christian faith.

It gave children the opportunity to ask big questions and encounter the message of Jesus in a fresh and memorable way.

None of this would be possible without the incredible work of our team.

We want to say a huge thank you to our staff and volunteers for your energy, creativity, and heart for the mission. Your hard work is making a lasting difference in the lives of local children.

Finally, thank you to our supporters. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity enable us to keep planting seeds of faith in young hearts across the local area.

Join us as we pray that, by God's grace, those seeds are growing, shaping lives with hope, purpose, and the love of Jesus.

Ben (Trustee)



How to get on touch with Watford Schools Trust  
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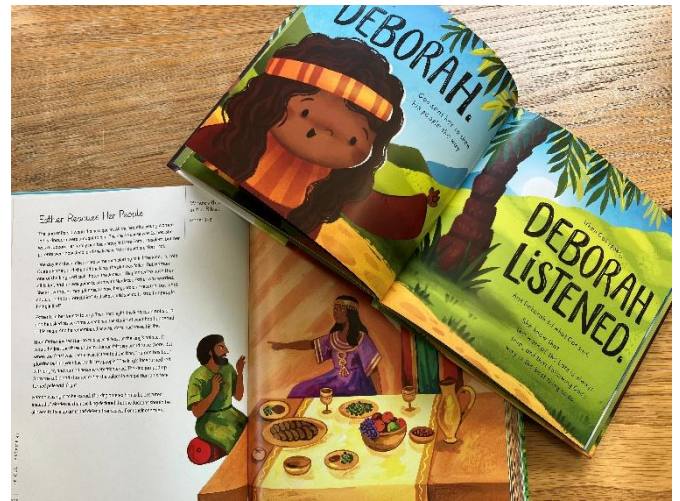
07732 021 488  
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## New Lessons about Deborah

When my contract ended with WST just before Christmas I left the team a challenge, to bring more Bible stories of women into our curriculum. So, when I came back a few months later it seemed only right that I take up the challenge.

We agreed to try to develop some lessons for year 1 to sit alongside our Bible series

which included David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den and the parable of the Lost Sheep. Johanna wrote a lesson around the story of Esther aimed to help the children think about the idea that God always has a plan. Meanwhile I wrote a lesson around the story of Deborah aimed to help the children think about the idea that God will give us wisdom when we listen to Him. Two kind schools let us experiment on them running these lessons for the first time. While both lessons went down well we decided that we preferred the Esther lesson and will see if we can add this into our offer for next year.



The challenge was a good one for us, to get us thinking about the women whose stories are told in scripture. But it also reminded us why we hadn't taken this on before! The bible tells far fewer stories of women than men. Many of those stories include war and violence, difficult and complex subjects to deal with in a one hour primary school lesson. Most have strong contextual elements which bring up issues about how women were treated in that culture, often a woman's treatment related to sexuality and procreation, another challenging topic for primary school aged lessons!

This shouldn't stop us taking on the challenge of telling stories about biblical women, but it certainly requires some extra work and care. I wonder which biblical story about a woman you most enjoy? What do you learn about God from that story and how might you retell that story to an eight-year-old? Maybe you could send us your suggestions so we can write some more lessons about biblical women.

Thanks Fiona



## Noah's ark lessons in Reception and Nursery

Johanna has been visiting 28 Reception classes and 1 Nursery class this summer term to tell the story of Noah's ark and to introduce children to the work of Watford Schools Trust. The lessons are fun and interactive with songs, lots of action and some magic. We use Bob Hartman's Storyteller Bible's version of the story of Noah's ark and discuss how we can look after our wonderful world. Children are then offered the opportunity to make a paper plate craft of Noah's ark with the rainbow of God's promise to look after our wonderful world. We used a lot of paper plates, cotton wool and stickers this year!

A lovely comment received from one of the schools said,  
"You were fantastic and had great activities for the children to choose to do with you. Thank you so much!"





We hosted another wonderful **ExploRE** event at Croxley Green Baptist Church (CGBC) which meant that all 360 children from Little Green school could visit. As usual, we visited the school the week before to give each class a brief introduction and explain what to expect. We left them with the challenge to write or draw something they are grateful for. They created hundreds of pictures which we displayed at the Church.



We were so grateful to the team of volunteers that came to help us, particularly as we set up on the hottest day of the year!! Even the ice-pops provided didn't cool us down much!

We prayed that, despite the heat, the children would feel calm enough to **ExploRE** the BIG R.E. ideas about themselves, our wonderful world and about God.

Sure enough, every class was calm and engaged beautifully with all the activities.

One teacher remarked that she had NEVER seen her class this calm!

A recent addition to the stations is the 'Our Town' map.

Many children like looking at the map, finding a favourite local place and then making a Play-Doh model to mark it. As they walked from their school to the Church, several children identified the route on our giant map. Lots of mini-footballs and houses were added to the map!

