



Summer Newsletter 2026

Welcome to our Newsletter

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”
(Matthew 9:37-38)

When Jesus spoke these words, He had just looked at the crowds of people around Him with compassion. He saw people who were “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” He saw people who were weary and in need of hope. But before telling His disciples to go, He first told them to pray.

This is hugely significant. Jesus says that God’s work always begins with prayer. Indeed, God’s work has always begun with hearts that are moved by compassion and dependent upon Him. In the words of Oswald Chambers, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” The work that our Schools Team are involved in is spiritual work, and the foundation of it must always be prayer.

As supporters and volunteers of the Watford Schools Trust, thank you for being part of God’s ongoing work among the children within our local Schools. Whether you faithfully pray, give, or volunteer your time in any capacity, you are helping to create opportunities for the lives of children within Watford to be transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Much has been achieved this past year with many more children hearing about the Christian Faith in many interactive and creative ways. Yet in the words of a Hymn, we still face a task “unfinished” because the harvest is still plentiful! Every day there are children and families who need hope and someone to share the Good News of Jesus with them. So let us continue to pray that the Lord will raise up more people to support and complete this work. As we pray, may we also remain willing to respond ourselves. God can use each of us, whatever our gifts or talents, to make an eternal difference in the lives of the children we are seeking to reach. Thank you for partnering with us in this work.

We firmly believe that it is God’s work, and if God is in it then nothing can stand against it. Your faithful support is valued, and together may we continue to sow the seed of God’s Word into the lives of the next generation.

Rev. Gary Law (Chairperson of WST)

New Chair of Watford Schools Trust

My name is Gary Law and it is a joy to now be a part of Watford Schools Trust. I have recently become the Chairperson for the Trust and have been made to feel very welcome by the Schools Team and the rest of the Board of Trustees. I am looking forward to supporting the work of the Trust and seeing it flourish into all that God wants it to become in the future. It's an exciting time to be involved in this work as we continue to work alongside local Schools with the aim of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with as many children as we possibly can.



I grew up in Lurgan, Co. Armagh in Northern Ireland. I became a Christian at the age of fourteen largely due to the outreach and influence of the local Nazarene Church at the heart of the housing estate where I was born and raised. I very clearly heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour. As a young Christian I was very involved in serving in my local Church which is where I grew in my love for God.

It was also where I had a number of godly mentors who in later years supported me and helped me as I expressed a call to Christian Ministry and what that would look like for me. I was given opportunities to preach, teach and share in leadership responsibilities – experiences that helped shape me and mould me into the person I am today. My family and I relocated here in the Summer of 2023 after serving as a Pastor within the Church of the Nazarene in Northern Ireland for eight years. I currently live in Watford and serve as the Pastor of Woodside Community Church of the Nazarene.

As a local Church Pastor I have a real heart for our local Schools and for sharing the Christian Faith with them. I am actively involved in taking Assemblies and Lessons in three of our local Schools and continue to see first-hand the positive impact that this work has within a School. This is why I am excited to now serve God through the work of Watford Schools Trust.

I am convinced that every child in every School needs to hear of the Good News of Jesus because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith (Romans 1:16). I want to play my role in helping and supporting our Schools Team in sharing the greatest news ever told to every child in every School in Watford.

It's Your Move

We think this is our 20th year of running transition workshops for year 6 classes. They are based around Scripture Union's brilliant booklet, 'It's Your Move' (IYM).



Over the years our workshops have grown and developed from originally considering Changes, Challenges and Choices to now asking the children to use a simple acronym, A.C.T. to help them think about how they will 'act' in secondary school. A.C.T. stands for Attitude, Character and Trust.

We always invite the local churches who are paying for the books, to accompany us for the workshops. Last year a member of Carpenders Park Fellowship, Brian, attended the workshop in their local school. Afterwards he suggested that we should have a rap for our ACT acronym! He set about writing us one and this year we have used AI to record it and it is now part of our workshop.

The children have loved that Brian, who is now 83, has written a rap for them!

You can listen to Brian's rap here: - [click here to watch the video](#)

This year we ran 56 workshops in 33 schools, that's 1680 children who have benefited from the generosity of local churches funding this project.

The workshops have to be squeezed into the second half of the summer term before the second Thursday in July as that is usually the accepted 'Transition Day' for Hertfordshire schools. So to be honest, it has been tricky and exhausting fitting everything in this year.

And although we've been doing the workshops a long time, they still surprise us. Children have a range of different ideas and expectations about secondary school!

One boy told me he was going to have to start shaving in September, as his secondary school doesn't allow facial hair! He is 11 and has no sign of growing any facial hair, just yet!

In one part of the session, we give the children the opportunity to tie a Tie. Lots of children had never done this before and hadn't realised that they might need to! It is always a good opportunity to try it and to encourage them that this, and many other challenges they'll face are achievable!

In one school we were joined by the OFSTED inspector who witnessed the children attempting to correctly tie Ties round their necks!!



An eyebrow was raised but as the accompanying Head Teacher pointed out, this was part of a workshop run by an outside charity group who were helping the children prepare for secondary school!

Children always ask us practical questions about finding their way round their new schools and homework etc. But they also ask about God and faith, those questions are always welcome and do need careful answering. We value your prayers for real wisdom in all our conversations with the children!

Thank you so much to all our supporters who bought summer hanging baskets from Alison recently. £350 was raised to further the work of Watford Schools Trust.

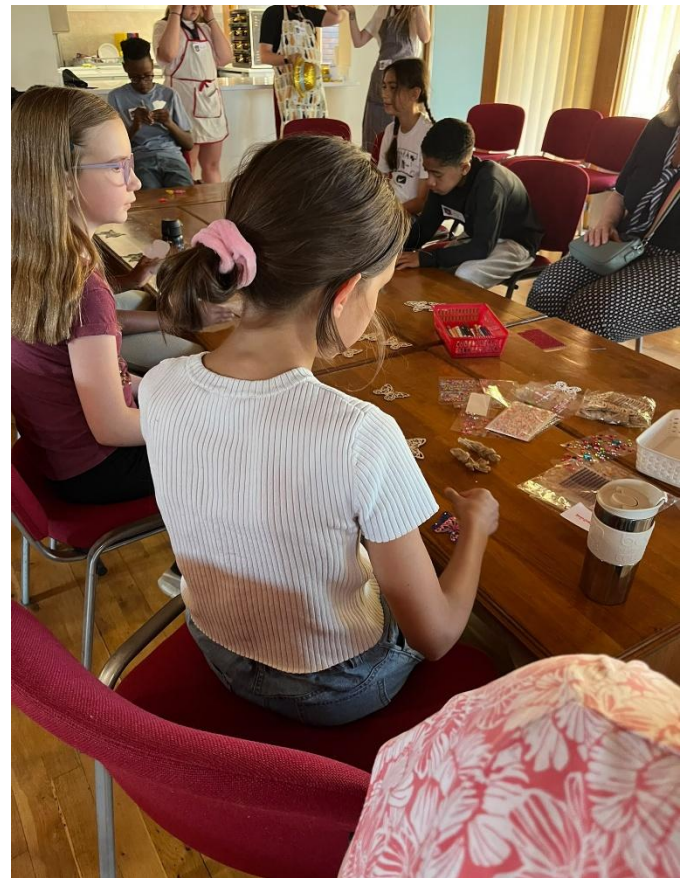
6>7 Transition Evening

This year, working in partnership with Woodside Community Church, we also ran a '6>7 Transition' evening for local and Church. Year 6 children.

We welcomed 15 children to the 'Babylon Academy' where we looked at the Bible story of Daniel and offered some reflective ExploRE activities to support their preparation for secondary school.



Having fun at the Transition Workshop



Noah's ark

Our very popular Noah's ark lessons were offered again to Reception classes. Johanna visited 27 Reception classes, which meant cutting out 810 rainbows, 810 boats and ordering 4860 animal stickers and 8 bags of cotton wool. Children loved joining in with the singing, acting out animals, magic trick to make a rainbow and making their own craft of Noah's boat.



Nascot Infants school

This year we have been able to regularly visit Nascot Wood Infant school for lessons and assemblies - a school we hadn't been to for years. So we are grateful for this new connection. The teachers asked us to teach the children more about Jesus' life as the children would be taught Christmas and Easter lessons, but little about Jesus' life in between. For us this meant creating new resources and rewriting some of our existing lessons. Something we gladly did.

One of the new lessons we created was on the Parable of the Great Feast. We asked children to draw a picture of a feast or party in a castle outline and think about who they would invite. (Note that some children were inspired by a football theme as the lessons took place during the World Cup season). The children were challenged to think of how in the story, the king invited some unlikely guests and how we can show kindness to others in this way. They learned that the Bible teaches that God welcomes everyone.



Supporters Tea Party

We had a lovely tea party to say thank you to our supporters.



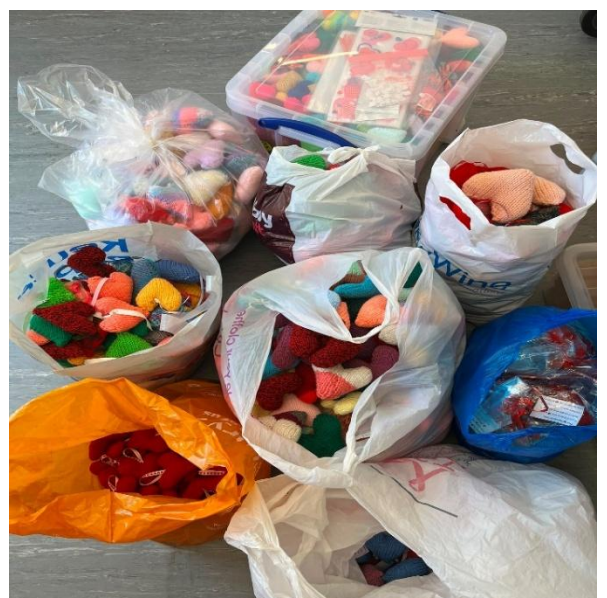
Mary won the challenge to tie a tie correctly

A big thank you to all our knitters

We now have plenty to last us for this year – so please pause until 2027.

We also have enough bottles tops for the time being.

We will let you know when stocks need refilling.



ExploRE

In September we are excited to be taking ExploRE to Rickmansworth Park Primary and we need volunteers. We are there from Tues 8th to Fri 11th September. We need volunteers to help with set up and take down resources along with volunteers to work with the children while they are experiencing the activities, finding out about themselves, the world they live in and learning more about God.



If you would like to find out more please get in touch.
Contact Alison info@watfordschoolstrust.org

In 2027 it will be the 35th anniversary of Watford Schools Trust
We will be arranging some special events throughout the year.

Pray for Watford Schools Trust

- Pray for the children who are leaving Year 6 and moving on to secondary
- Pray for Gary as our new Chair of the Trustees
- Pray for the workers as they plan for lessons in the Autumn Term and ExploRE at Rickmansworth Park Primary in September
- Pray that more volunteers come forward to help with ExploRE

We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter

Watford Schools Trust Team

Trustees:

Rev Gary Law (Chair) Angela Steed (Secretary), Joanna Woolcock (Treasurer), Helen Horton, Ben Dear and Helen Walker

Schools Workers:

Tricia Bastable, Johanna Nieuwelink Jordan and Fiona Penny

Administrator:

Alison Harvey



info@watfordschoolstrust.org



07732 021 488



Watford Schools Trust



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