

News of the Schools' Christian Action Team

SCATTER

Serving Schools in the Woking

**The life of the
Primary
Schools worker,
when not
rehearsing or
doing
assemblies...!**

“WHAT?” I hear you say, “there’s more to the

primary work than assemblies?” The answer is YES! There is more to the primary work than assemblies and rehearsals. I’m also involved in leading and running lunchtime clubs and after-school clubs, and visiting the prayer groups for the various schools in Woking.

You may be wondering what is involved in the Clubs. Well... I hope you are sitting comfortably and I will begin...!

Lunchtime clubs can be either of two things: some of the lunchtime clubs are storytelling, i.e. retelling a Bible story to the children in imaginative ways without reading from the Bible (see Deuteronomy 11:19). We have a team of storytellers who are currently going through Old Testament stories like Joseph, Ruth, Samson, Samuel, Jonah and Naaman. As it gets closer to Christmas, we will tell the Christmas story. Each story is followed up by a worksheet which is given to the children to take home and do – this also allows parents to see what story they heard about. Storytelling happens at The Hermitage, Oaktree and Horsell Village schools.

I also do lunchtime clubs where we have a theme that we look at, like “choices”. We will do a game that links into the theme, and then we look at Bible verses related to the theme, and talk about what that means to the children. I will then set



The primary team have to be very artistic in presenting Assemblies.

A scene from a recent Harvest Assembly

them a challenge for the week; for example the challenge for “choices” is: “God gave us freedom to choose and make decisions. Sometimes our decisions and choices affect other people, so this week, every time you make a decision or choice, think about who it might affect.” Such a club runs at Bisley School.

In the after-school clubs, I follow a similar plan, and we normally do an art/craft activity related to the theme – some of the things we have made are door hangers saying “I am special to God”, prayer parachutes, and more. After-school clubs include Spotlight at St Johns School, Noah’s Ark clubs at Marshfields and Junior Cruz.

When I am not doing the clubs, there is plenty to do in terms of co-ordinating with schools and my co-workers, planning the themes and sessions, and preparation of worksheets, and materials.

Karen Hodges – Primary SCAI Worker

Want to join the team? Excited by what goes on in Woking primary schools? Give us a call at the SCAI office – we’d love to hear from you! Or use the enclosed prayer book-mark to pray for the clubs and other work in your local primary school – or come to a monthly prayer meeting – and be a SCAI prayer warrior!

SCAT

SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ACTION TEAM

SCAT

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BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW ...

The nearer I get to my half-century (yes, next birthday!), the more attractive a prospect this verse becomes! Coming almost at the end of the Bible – Revelation 21:5 – it's obviously intended to be a significant reassurance to us, as Jesus' disciples, that this world is not all there is. But it's also a challenge – life doesn't stand still; God doesn't stand still; so neither should we!

Change is an important part of any organisation. It's how you *deal* with change that makes the difference! **SCAT** is experiencing change in lots of areas at the moment – and it's all just great!!

We're about to reach Advent, the traditional start of the church's calendar, when we celebrate the coming of Christ our Saviour as a tiny, helpless, new-born baby. So what a perfect time to let you all know – if you haven't heard before – that our lovely Secondary worker is expecting her first baby! Chrissie will be taking maternity leave from February 2006, so your prayers for covering all the work she does would be appreciated. She'll be a tough act to follow – even temporarily – but the dedicated team of youth workers and other helpers who assist her already will be stepping in to fill the breach. Thank you for all you do, youth workers of Woking! Please pray for them and we'll feature them more next **SCAHER** to let you *all* know who they are.



Secondly, we have two new trustees – see the column on the left for a full list of all of us. Both Beryl and Vicky have teaching experience, so we've deepened our expertise in that direction on the board of trustees, and both are wise and spiritual people. Please support them – and the rest of us “old hands”! – as we meet and oversee the work of **SCAT**.

As you can see from Karen's article on the front page, she's developing clubs at a very fast rate. These have been running for a while now, but suddenly there seems to be more demand for them, and it's a wonderful opportunity for Karen to meet and talk about Jesus in more depth with small groups of children. It's a much more face-to-face encounter than is possible in assemblies, and is a very exciting direction for the Primary schools work – the equivalent, I suppose, of the Christian Unions that Chrissie runs. Please pray for Karen as she prepares for the clubs, and as she gets to know the children more as individuals.

And finally – we are praying for new supporters and new funds to help us to expand the work of **SCAT**! Please use our new brochure, enclosed in this edition of **SCAHER**, to spread the word about all we do to your friends, neighbours and people in your churches. You'll see there's a form in the brochure, which you can use to pledge prayer or financial support, or to contact us for more information, or to volunteer to help in your local school.

So – God is making all things new! Wanna join in?

Val Harris

We'd like to let you know about important developments at **SCAT** as they happen. Prayer support is so important to us, and it just isn't possible to justify postage costs of circulating information in between editions of **SCAHER**. But if you have an email address, then we can let you know immediately and regularly. Our wonderful Administrator, Jane, would love to hear from you with your email address if you'd like to be added to our prayer/information list.

Contact her at office@scat.org.uk.

Thank you!

THE SIMPLE LIFE – BACK TO BASICS ??

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

This is such an exciting time of year!! And yet there's so much to do ... But reading Chrissie's and Karen's articles it's easier to catch the excitement than the panic. How about joining in the fun?

Here are a few ideas of how your Christmas preparations might help to regain that wonderful child-like thrill of the Christmas message. And incidentally, you might save money, too – which you could donate to a charity of your choice ... !

Make ten Christmas cards for friends or family. You could print them on a computer, or decorate them by hand. Cut out a simple silhouette of a manger in black paper, stick it on a gold square of paper, and stick that on a sheet of card. Fold in half, write a Bible verse inside (try Isaiah 9:6?) in gold glitter pen, and send it with love.

- Give home-baked gifts instead of bought ones – time is so valued these days and your friends will be delighted to receive something that's taken you time and trouble. Try the following recipe for Chocolate Truffles – find a pretty jar or box and decorate with Christmas ribbon. Or buy attractive cellophane, place the truffles in the centre and tie up with Christmas ribbon. (Of course, you could make little tree- or star-shaped biscuits instead, or use an old family recipe!)
- Hand-deliver your cards locally – the walk will do you good, and saved postage can go to **SCA!** Or another charity, of course. If you knock on the door, you can give a personal Christmas greeting too – renew old friendships at this special time of year.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING – WHY NOT JOIN US?

On the first Tuesday of every month a Prayer Meeting is held in the Chapel at St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park.

Usually attended by both Karen and Chrissie and our Administrator, Jane, we meet for one hour, from 12 noon to 1.00 pm to pray for **SCA!**. The Prayer Meeting is attended by any of the Trustees who are available and members of the Operations Group. The meeting, however, is open to anyone who has a heart for **SCA!** and would like to come along and pray for whatever the current needs are for the Primary Schools Worker, the Secondary Schools Worker, or **SCA!** as a whole.

If you can't stay a whole hour that does not matter! Please feel free to come and join us as time allows. We would love to see some of our supporters – so do please check your diary and see if you can join us one Tuesday. Maybe December 6th? or January 10th?

- Make or fill your own crackers – get blanks from Traidcraft (www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) or buy cheap ones and carefully tease them open before putting your own gifts in. You can personalise the crackers for your guests, writing star-shaped labels in your gold glitter pen, and actually have cracker gifts that don't go straight in the bin!!
- Come to Christ Church Christmas craft evening in the centre of Woking (December 5th, 7.30pm). I'll be there, and there will be so many ideas for things to make and people to help you make them on the night. Better still, get inspired and set up your own evening in your local church or among your friends - spread the home-made message this Christmas!

RECIPE FOR CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

(You can keep these for a couple of weeks in a tin. Makes about 30)

200g dark chocolate – Fair-trade, of course! – grated
4 tbsp condensed milk
1-2 tbsp orange juice, or orange liqueur if you're pushing the boat out!
Some sieved fair-trade cocoa or chocolate powder

- Put the chocolate, condensed milk and orange juice or liqueur in a pyrex bowl. Melt it carefully together in a microwave (a few seconds at a time), or over a saucepan of boiling water. Stir it occasionally to mix.
- As soon as all the chocolate has melted, remove it from the heat and beat it till it thickens to a sort of fudge. (This is a good time to taste it!!)
- Use two spoons to form the mixture into neat balls and leave them on a sheet of greaseproof paper to solidify and cool.
- Put the cocoa or chocolate powder in a wide, shallow bowl and roll the truffles in it to coat thoroughly. Pop each ball into a little petit-four paper case, or add extra powder so they don't stick together in the tin.
- Store in an airtight tin till you're ready to wrap them in pretty boxes for giving to friends and family.



“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

I love this passage (from Luke 5:32) at the moment as I think it speaks a lot about the task set to the secondary schools work of SCA+.

After completing a year here I have seen how the schools work, how **SCA+** works and what the young people are like. I am really excited about the next step of changes that are coming to the secondary schools of Woking.

I see the work of **SCA+** reaching two groups of people, the Christians and the not yet Christians. This is what Jesus did when he came to earth. He did come for the sick, as is stated in the above passage, but he also worked with the healthy too. In the example of when Jesus had dinner at Levi's house (Mark 2:15-17) he went to seek out the sick and teach them about the Kingdom but in doing so he took the disciples with him so that they could see and be trained in what Jesus was doing. This is exactly how I see the work of secondary **SCA+** developing. Going to the sick – the not yet Christians – but discipling the healthy – the Christian young people – by taking them along for the ride! It's so simple really. By training the Christian young people in sharing their faith, their own faith develops. And with all the Christian young people going out and sharing their faith with their friends we are reaching the 'sick' who don't know about Jesus. It's a brilliant idea! And I give all the credit to the best missionary ever ... Jesus!

So how exactly are **SCA+** going to reach the healthy and the sick? Well ... I have taken another passage from the Bible (it's a really good book you know, for all sorts of things, not just help in writing a **SCA+ER** article!).

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' (Matt 12:29)

My aim at **SCA+** is for every young person and member of staff to be able to do this and have the incredible relationship with God that follows on from it. So I see a link in that we at **SCA+** should use these areas as focus areas where we direct our work.

For example for the not yet Christian young people the areas need to be prepared for action to do the loving of God. This could mean us being involved in their education (mind), their personal life (soul) and in valuing and teaching them about their body (heart/body). For the Christian young people the areas need to be recognised, developed and strengthened to enable the young people to give all their loving to God.

There are loads of ways in which we are able to do this and we would love to be involved in more ways – so prayer for the development of the work of **SCA+** would be great.

So there you have it! The role of the **SCA+** workers and volunteers is as a doctor to the sick and a trainer of doctors to the healthy – hence the stethoscope/**SCA+** badge hybrid illustrated here!

Chrissie Lacey – Secondary SCA+ Worker