

# News of the Schools' Christian Action Team

# SCATTER

Serving Schools in the Woking Area

## From Val...

*It's a dangerous world out there.*

Our children and young people are more and more, it seems, being faced with a scary world to live in. Drugs, we're told by our media, are readily available in most schools ("head teachers ... are left to fight an illegal industry worth £6.6bn a year\*"); under-age alcohol consumption has reached unprecedented levels (half of 15 year olds drink alcohol at least once a week\*); numbers of teenage pregnancies in our part of Surrey are among the highest in the country (and British rates are the highest in Europe\*).

So, we shrug our shoulders, we tut-tut, we pour another glass of wine and switch the TV on... OR... we do something about it!!

*'I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.'* (Deut 30:19-20)

This verse doesn't appear to leave us much option – it's a "no-brainer", as the young people might say. Sensible people don't choose death when the choice is set so starkly before them. Christians don't choose curses from God. And the benefits of choosing life – the life that God our Father offers, through Christ Jesus our Saviour – are enormous, and transcend this earth altogether ... choosing life results in life for our children (whether physically born to us, or for whom we're responsible, like those in our community/town) and for us; choosing life means we can hear and listen to God's voice more closely and more carefully; choosing life means choosing to hold fast to God.

But, as Jesus said, "Those who are not with me, are against me" (Luke 11:23) – doing nothing is in itself a choice... **SCAT** tries daily to choose life, and it exists to help the children and young people themselves choose life, too. It's a tough choice for those still at school – please support all our children and young people in prayer as they may well be faced with tougher choices than you or I will meet with today...

In the words of one of my long-standing favourite worship songs:

*I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for you, Lord;  
I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for you, my master,  
Ready to do your will.*

# SCAT

SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN ACTION TEAM

## SCAT

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The Coign

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New Life

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St Andrew's, G.Prk

Sally Lynch  
The Coign

## From Karen...

Hopefully you know or remember the story of the enormous turnip? (Email Karen if you don't!! – Ed.) Well, the assembly team did a version of the story, called The Giant Carrot, for the harvest assembly which was taken into 12 schools. Instead of the mouse coming to the rescue by pulling up the turnip, a man who was homeless helped to finally get the carrot out of the ground. For the assemblies we're telling the children that God provides the harvest we need and that we are all important to Him – no matter what our circumstances are.

The team is currently rehearsing for the Christmas assemblies which will be taken into 37 schools in 3 weeks.

The after-school clubs and lunchtime clubs are all up and running and the number of children attending continues to grow. It would be a shame if we have to put a limit on the numbers that attend because there aren't enough leaders. As **Mathew 9:37** says "**The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.**"

One thing God has taught me over my time at **SCAT** is to be expectant and pray continually and things will happen, which is true as I have seen clubs grow and expand and new people come forward for the assemblies. But I am always looking for more to help with the important work that God has called us to do, of taking His love to the needy.

As I was writing this article it reminded me of the days when I did a lot of voluntary work. At that time, I remember reading the passage in Matthew and thinking it is all very well but God can't use me, I'm not important or good enough, there are plenty of others better than me! God has other plans as He reminded me when doing the Harvest assemblies - He can use us all to share the Gospel and his love.

So if you have some spare time and want to share God's word with others please contact me in the office. God can use all of us!

**Introducing... Mike Finch (But be quick, or you'll miss him!)**

**M**ike is our temporary secondary schools worker, who was interviewed and appointed in August to take us through our period of deliberation over the way forward. He's employed until the end of this term. Mike is married to Su, who may be known to many of you for her work in drugs education with DEW in the Woking area, and more recently with Hope UK on a local and national basis.



Mike and Su have two gorgeous children, and the family is soon to move to Northern Ireland to continue youth work there together. We wish them well and God speed in whatever God calls them to, but we'll miss them in Woking!

Mike was born in St. Peter's Hospital, and has lived in the Woking area all his life. He was delighted to be able to work with **SCA+**, even for such a short time, and has done great work in liaising with schools, church leaders, youth workers, and meeting and serving young people in all the secondary schools and in Woking College.

When I asked him recently what he most enjoyed about the job, his answer was that he felt inspired by the faith of the young people, and by their energy and creativity. Well, Mike, that's exactly what I love about **SCA+** too – that, and working with fantastic people like Karen and Mike!

**M**ike joined us in September on a temporary contract for this term. When Chrissie (to whom we record many thanks and lots of love!) left full-time employment here at **SCA+**, we needed time to decide what the way forward might be. So we sent out questionnaires to the churches in Woking, and asked what it is that you value about the **SCA+** work in secondary schools. Thank you, all of you, for your responses and comments – we value your thoughts and prayers so much.

Stuart Rawlings, one of the trustees (see opposite page), will be putting together a full picture of the results once they're all received at the **SCA+** office, but very early on in the process it seemed clear that the churches agreed with the trustees that one of **SCA+**'s main tasks in secondary schools is to co-ordinate the work of all the youth workers across Woking. We know that many churches want to work in the local schools, and it's good to act in partnership together. So our **SCA+** worker has a great role to play, we think, in liaising between schools and churches; finding sufficient people (suitably CRB checked) to go in and do relational/ detached work with the young people, and cover for any illness etc. But we don't want to duplicate work, or have too many leaders for each Christian Union or club.

So we've advertised for a part-time secondary worker to fulfil these roles, starting from January. We should be interviewing as **SCAHER** goes to press – please pray for the selection and appointment process, and for the right person to come forward for this vital aspect of God's work in Woking.

Of course, we want to extend a HUGE thank you to all the youth workers, gap year workers and volunteers who currently work in all our secondary schools, and in Woking Sixth Form College. Without you – just where would we be?!

**Thank you.**

## ***Introducing... Vicky Henry***

I was born and bred in Woking, attending St Mary's Providence Convent in Pembroke Road, until it was pulled down the year I left (!) and then Guildford High where playing games was the best part of the time-table! I left Woking to train as a P.E. Teacher and spent four happy years in Eastbourne before taking up my first teaching post in a girls' school in Harrow, Middlesex. After four years I moved back to Woking with my husband, Brian and baby son, Nick. A few years of serious house renovation then began with odd bits of supply teaching and tennis coaching here and there. We were extremely fortunate to have my parents living the other side of Woking who were very willing to help out with Nick - and Georgie who had arrived two and a half years later!



When Georgie started full time school at Halstead I also began a job there teaching P.E. to all the 3-11 year olds and I thoroughly enjoyed all their enthusiasm and commitment to their lessons and teams. I left Halstead in 2003 after teaching there for eleven years, having decided to become a full time Mum and to pursue other plans and interests.

It was during my time at Halstead, ten years ago, that Brian and I became Christians and started attending the Coign Church. It was an incredible and amazing change in our lives.

Having given up teaching I have been able to get involved in all sorts of things. As well as being a new **SCA+** Trustee, I am able to help out with some of the ministries at church and I can also be found over at Chase Children's Hospice where I either man the telephones (or rather cut people off!) or drive the mini-bus at Christopher's. I am also enjoying learning a new game ...golf and enjoy playing anywhere and with anyone - so any offers?!!

Brian works as an accountant in London and both Nick and Georgie are now at University.

I joined **SCA+** as a Trustee sixteen months ago and am thoroughly enjoying the role of supervising Karen, our Primary School worker. If you haven't seen her and the fantastic volunteer assembly team in action... you should!! They are doing an outstanding job in bringing Christianity and the exciting truth of Jesus' life into our local Primary Schools through assemblies and clubs.

## ***Introducing... Beryl Hunwicks***



**M**y teaching career began in Watford in a Secondary School over 35 years ago where I was Head of the R.E. department. Having moved to Woking in late 1971, I taught in a girls' school in Guildford before taking a career break to bring up my family.

When I returned to teaching it was in the Primary sector, first at Cable House and then for eighteen years at Halstead Prep. School where I was Head of English and for the last seven years, Deputy Head.

Since leaving Halstead I have done supply teaching and coaching and I also regularly teach English to adults from other countries (ESOL) at the Maybury Centre. So my teaching experience has certainly covered the age ranges!!

My husband, Alan, is one of the Elders at the Coign Church where we attend and our two daughters live and work in London - one as a city lawyer and the other as a teacher in a Primary School in Tower Hamlets. They actually work less than two miles from each other but in worlds that couldn't be further apart!

Having spent my working life in education, I now enjoy going in to see assemblies that Karen, our Primary School worker and her **SCA+** volunteers run, in a large number of Primary Schools throughout the area.

As Trustees we are committed to seeing the Christian faith promoted in our schools and I have enjoyed working with its members over the past 16 months.