

"Sowing the seeds of love"

The words of this song from the 80s have been running through my head this week, as I've been thinking about the work and future of **SCAT**. It's by the appropriately named band Tears for Fears – well, appropriately for what I've been pondering, anyway! I'll explain in a minute. It's quite a political song, but the chorus states "Anything is possible, when you're sowing the seeds of love."

What Nick added to his comments – see interview on page 3 – brought these words right back to the forefront of my brain:

Nick: SCAT is operating in such an important and strategic ministry. What young people take away into adulthood of Jesus and Christians will be key to their eternal future. As with so many other activities it's not the opportunities but the resources and people that seem to hold us back. It's not about the same people doing more, it's about more of us doing and being what Jesus calls us to.

We're about to bid a sad farewell to Karen Hodges, our primary schools worker – see Primary Schools' Report on page 2. After five years with **SCAT**, she's moving on and we wish her well. Our prayers and thoughts go with her, and our thanks for all she's done across Woking in reaching children in just the ways Nick outlined above.

As we think about advertising for a new worker, and praying that we will discern the right person God is sending us, the name of the band becomes significant. Humanly, there are so many things that could go wrong in this whole process! But from a spiritual point of view, the only thing that can possibly go wrong, is that we stop getting the good news about Jesus out to the children and young people in Woking schools. We should be shedding tears – bucketfuls of tears – at the terrible circumstances faced by some of these young people. We should be shedding tears at the thought that, if we miss an opportunity, they may never hear about Jesus. We should be shedding tears over the mixed messages they are hearing from other sources.

But God doesn't expect us to wallow in despair! There is no need to *fear*. In The Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan tells us of Giant Despair that "Great-Heart was his Death". We can all be Great-Hearts if we cling to the promise in Phillipians 4:13 – "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Read Chrissie's report – page 2 – for how young people are reaching out in school to their friends, for encouragement and inspiration – a blueprint for how it's done...

What a challenge to all of us! Trustees, workers, volunteers, supporters, local churches, schools, people who haven't even heard of us yet... The eternal future of our young people and children is in our hands. Let's not let the chances slip through our fingers.

Val Harris



I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT OUR NEW TRUSTEES ARE BOTH THOUGHTFUL, PRAYERFUL PEOPLE – PLEASE SUPPORT THEM, AND THE REST OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AS WE SEEK THE RIGHT PERSON TO CARRY ON THE WORK IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND AS WE SUPPORT CHRISSIE IN OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, TOO.

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Primary

2

Secondary

2

Going

2

Interviews

3

Seeds of Love

4



SCATTER Summer 2008

News from the Schools Christian Action Team working in primary and secondary schools throughout Woking

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“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the field” Matthew 9:37-38 – you have all heard or read the passage. This is my prayer for the Primary work at the moment as volunteers move on and I look for people to take over so the work can keep going. (Hint, hint! – Ed.) The summer term for **SCAt** work is a time of reflection and change and it’s all systems go with the Primary work looking for two people who would be willing to do Storytelling at Hermitage and Oaktree schools on Monday lunchtimes.

Primary Schools

Karen Hodges

But it isn’t only volunteers moving on. I’m also moving on to pastures new after being with **SCAt** for five years. I am going to be working with Scripture Union in the East Midlands as a Schools Specialist. This entails supporting associates and affiliates (i.e. organisations like **SCAt**) who are doing schools work, and enabling and supporting churches wanting to do schools work and those who already are. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the encouragement and prayer support you have given me while being here. It has been lovely to see how God has touched and spoken to children I have been in contact with.

In the meantime, the work still continues with the Easter assemblies being well received. We went back in time to find the proof that Jesus did die and come back to life and is still alive today. We considered how there are some things you can’t prove, you have to discover for yourself. The children seemed to like the time machine we built, or as they would say, “the washing machine”!

Storytelling clubs have finished for the summer as schools’ summer timetables get too manic, but the lunchtime clubs and after school clubs continue to go on, with the children asking searching questions. We are currently planning and preparing for the summer assemblies that start on the 21st June for 3 weeks – please pray for health and strength for the whole team.

Secondary Schools

Chrissie Lacey

SCAt secondary is going amazingly at the moment

The numbers of young Christian people are exploding in the schools. We pray for revival... well it’s here!

We have Christian Unions, “Just Looking” courses, worship in schools, outreach AND detached. It’s fantastic. This year we are planning on just continuing what God is doing in the schools and hopefully branching out into another school.

And the team of youth workers is pretty incredible too. Here is the mammoth list of youth workers who give so much time to discipling and speaking to the young people in the Woking schools:

And on top of all those lovely people is a troop of about 10 gap year students!!!

We had some cool stuff going on over Easter in Woking College! The CU gave out free pancakes (which they cooked themselves on a row of 4 camping stoves – in a classroom – with permission!), we had a Palm “Tuesday” parade when we walked around college with an almost life size donkey on wheels, and after Easter there was a balloon release to celebrate that Christ has risen.

And in Woking High the Christian young people are so on fire for sharing their faith and bringing their non-Christian friends to services and anything where God can be shown and spoken about. And in all of the schools the staff and students appreciate us coming in and value our work with the young people.

God has given us this opportunity and I feel we are using it and are making best use of it. Let’s pray we can continue and develop the work even better. ‘...making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.’ Eph 5: 16

Alastair Etheridge	Christ Church
Tim Simpson	Christ Church
Soul Magura	St Mary of Bethany
Cassie Leach	The Coign
Helen Morrow	St John’s
Clive Beasley-Long	Knaphill and Brookwood
Matt Chessum	Trinity Methodist
Phil Ray	URC Woking
Joe Watts	St Paul’s

Yes! Today, ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to present to you not one, but TWO new trustees!

Interview New Trustees

For some time now, we haven’t had an ordained minister on our board of trustees, and so we were delighted when Nick Grew, Vicar of Knaphill and Brookwood and long-time friend of **SCAt**, joined us last autumn. When Bob King sadly left the board in January, he suggested Siân Bates as a “replacement”. She joined us this spring – and though I hadn’t recognised her surname, I recognised her face as the ex-Sunday School teacher of my children! She seems to have survived this experience so well that she even became a primary school teacher, and now teaches part-time in a job share.

I fired some questions at both of them via the magic of email.

Ed: Apart from your job, what other aspects of your life and experience are relevant to the work of **SCAt**?

Nick: I’m a Governor of Knaphill School. I regularly conduct assemblies at Knaphill Lower School, and get involved in RE lessons at both Knaphill Schools and also Brookwood School. All schools in our parish have visits to our churches.



Siân: Other than professionally, I have done a lot of work with children through Church, e.g. Sunday school, Kidz Klub, holiday clubs...

Ed: How long have you been a supporter of **SCAt**? In what way(s)?



Nick: I’ve been a supporter for as long as I’ve been in the borough and inherited a church where there was strong support through financial giving and people involved in the work of **SCAt** from Assemblies, to Trustee, to Storytelling. Whenever the **SCAt** team come to do an assembly in one of the schools in our parish I like to be there both to support them and to reinforce the visible link between the mission of **SCAt** and the local church.

Siân: I’ve been aware of **SCAt** since it started in Woking. I have seen many of the assemblies through my teaching work – they are always very impressive! As a parent, I also appreciate the work **SCAt** does in bringing Christian truth into schools.

Ed: What excites you about being on the trustees’ board?

Nick: The chance to not only support at grass roots level but also to help shape and grow the direction of **SCAt**’s mission according to God’s plan. I get to hear so many good stories about what God’s doing – how good is that!?

Siân: Because **SCAt** touches me personally and professionally, I’m excited about being able to support the work in this very practical way. I’m looking forward to helping the work grow and develop.

Ed: What challenges or opportunities do you see for **SCAt** in the next 5 years?

Nick: We have to continue to make the most of the current open doors into schools and build upon the goodwill that **SCAt** has built up through the excellent work of the team and the volunteers. There are many schools where more could be done through clubs and storytelling and I think **SCAt** can encourage, train and oversee local church initiatives to bring direction and quality to these.

Siân: At the moment we are very privileged to be allowed to take Christianity into our schools and we need to seize these opportunities while we can. I’d like to think that every child in Woking knows key Bible stories and understands that Jesus is ‘the way, the truth and the life’.

Ed: Thank you both very much!