

## Spotlight on our Voluntary Schools Workers...

**Geoff Morris** has taken on the role of leading *JesusQuest* as Linda Morris has stepped back owing to work commitments. Our grateful thanks go to Linda for her commitment to the project over the last 12 years.

Dates for *JesusQuest* this term and the first half of next term are:

1<sup>st</sup> December—Giffard Park  
19<sup>th</sup> January—Olney Middle  
9<sup>th</sup> February—Cedars Primary

If you are interested in becoming a JQ volunteer, contact Gill.

As well as *JesusQuest*, Geoff has continued to deliver assemblies in the eight primary schools he visits regularly—two of these schools are new to him. Dates for the remainder of this year are:

18<sup>th</sup> November—Giffard Park  
21<sup>st</sup> November—St Mary Magdalene and Lavendon  
22<sup>nd</sup> November—Newton Blossomville, Stanton and Olney Middle

Currently, Geoff is looking forward to helping lead Christmas Cracked in Newport Pagnell.

**Ricky Rew & Matt Jarvis** co-run *Emulate* Christian Unions with Tony in two secondary schools. Ricky is involved with running the *Emulate* at Leon School, and Matt with running the *Emulate* at Shenley Brook End School.

**Anna Bayman & Jane Castle** have sketchboarding assembly dates for the remainder of 2011:

**Jane Castle:**  
24<sup>th</sup> November: Kents Hill  
28<sup>th</sup> November: North Crawley CE  
30<sup>th</sup> November: Sherington & Emberton  
**Anna Bayman:**  
9<sup>th</sup> November—Shepherdswell  
11<sup>th</sup> November—Simpson  
14<sup>th</sup> November—Wood End First  
16<sup>th</sup> November—Langland Community  
17<sup>th</sup> November—Towcester  
22<sup>nd</sup> November—Moorland Infant & St Andrew's CE Infant  
23<sup>rd</sup> November—Ashbrook  
7<sup>th</sup> December—Shepherdswell  
9<sup>th</sup> December—Simpson  
12<sup>th</sup> December—Deanshanger Primary

**Carolyn Green** has a total of 23 sessions of Biblos and five sketchboard assemblies booked into 2012! Below are her dates for the remainder of 2011:

7<sup>th</sup> November: Sketchboard @ Haversham Village School;  
Biblos @ High Ash CofE School  
14<sup>th</sup> November: Sketchboard @ Merebrook Infant School;  
Biblos @ St Mary & St Giles CofE Junior School  
21<sup>st</sup> November: Sketchboard @ Castlethorpe First School;  
Biblos @ Green Park School  
12<sup>th</sup> December: Biblos @ St Mary & St Giles CofE Junior School

## Spotlight on our two Students...

**Lex writes...**This last half term has been busy to say the least! We have had a full on start to this academic year and are excited about what the rest of the year has to bring! Since September we have delivered assemblies in six schools, with the majority of those having five assemblies spread either over a week or the whole half term. Altogether we led 26 assemblies over 35 days last half term; 12 of those assemblies happened in one week!

We love being this busy and are grateful for your generous support and God's wonderful providence and blessing!

**Tony writes...**It's a strange feeling entering my fourth and final year with Bridgebuilder, but it's shaping up to be the most exciting yet. The first half term started with a bang—in just one busy week in October we saw approximately 4900 young people through assemblies and since the beginning of term we have seen approximately 9000 students in total through the range of services we provide. This is an unprecedented amount of young people.

I am encouraged by how much God is blessing our work and excited for what is yet to come.

Bridgebuilder Barn Dance—Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell... Contact Gill to book tickets!

The 100 Bridges Challenge raised £4,121.75 for Bridgebuilder... Thank you to all who took part in this!

Keith Bedford swam the British Gas Great London Swim for Bridgebuilder on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and raised £528.42...well done Keith!

A Trustee and a young person celebrated important birthdays recently (60 and 18!) and instead of gifts, they asked for donations to Bridgebuilder, raising £830 between them!

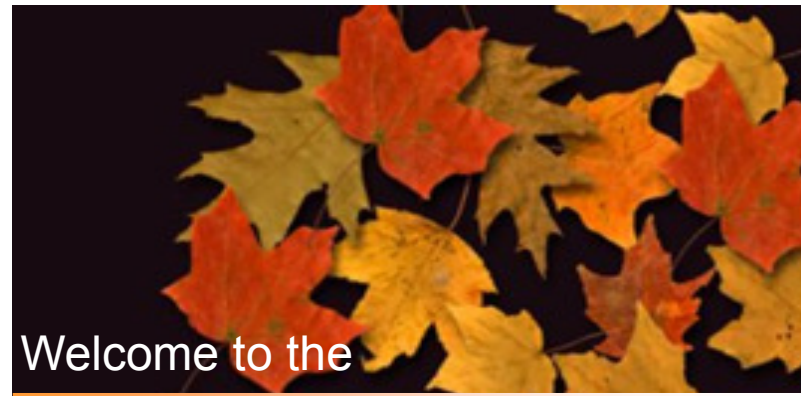
## Last word from Gill...

It's been a really busy Autumn term—lots going on in schools with harvest assemblies, other assemblies, lessons, Emulates, after school clubs and soon Christmas Cracked will be taking place across the city.

Rachel was asked to write assembly outlines for a Scripture Union project based on the Olympics, and she has enjoyed this challenge very much. Rosie is settling into the dual role of being a mum and being back at work. And our new website is now re-launched! Do take a look at it—[www.mkbt.org.uk](http://www.mkbt.org.uk).

We are truly grateful to you, our supporters, for all that you do in praying for and supporting the work of Bridgebuilder, and to our donors who give us the means to continue in our work. You will have read in Chris Holmwood's article on the front cover that we would like to fulfil our redefined vision statement by growing the size of our team through employing another two schools workers. **Are you able to help us by making a donation or setting up/increasing your standing order?** Thank you if you are able to help us in this way.

BRIDGEBUILDER TRUST—EDUCATING, EMPOWERING & ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE



## Welcome to the Bridgebuilder Bulletin Autumn 2011



## Our website has been relaunched!

[www.mkbt.org.uk](http://www.mkbt.org.uk)



**Chris Holmwood, Chair of Trustees, writes...**

Did you know that Bridgebuilder Trust is nearly 20 years old?

In preparation for our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in 18 months' time, we have been reflecting on our past and planning for our future. We are proud of what we have achieved, but aware of the scale of what there is still to be done!

As part of this process, we have redefined our vision statement (page 3). In order to fulfil this vision we need to grow the size of our team, and the challenge for us is to fund another TWO workers; one for primary and one for secondary.

With this in mind we have restructured our leadership roles so that Rosie and Rachel are now Team Leaders for their respective areas and Gill's leadership is with the office team and in co-ordination of events.

With planning for the future of Bridgebuilder in mind, we are re-launching our website, and urge you to take a look at it.

We hope that you find it easy to navigate, and welcome any feedback you may have.

## Bridgebuilder is poised for growth...

### Through its trustees...

The structure for our eight trustees has been reviewed and updated, and a new structure put in place. There are now five sub groups—Trust Strategy, Ministry Support, Administration, Events and Supporter Development. The trustees envisage that this re-structuring will enable them to be more strategic in the way Bridgebuilder

moves forward, whilst administering the Trust effectively.

### Through its volunteers...

The recruitment process for volunteers has also been reviewed and updated, and Jane Castle is now the trustee who offers spiritual and pastoral support to the volunteers.

The initial part of the process involves completing an application form and having a meeting with Jane to discuss the appropriate area for volunteering. For volunteers who have gone

through the recruitment process, we now provide annual training and a termly get-together.

Our hope is that Jane's involvement, the annual training and regular social get-togethers will establish a better support network for our volunteers to ensure they feel part of the Bridgebuilder family.

Would you like to enquire about volunteering? Contact Gill if so.

Bridgebuilder Trust  
Bridge House 1 Second Avenue Denbigh West  
Bletchley Milton Keynes MK1 1ED  
☎ 01908 270670  
office@mkbt.org.uk www.mkbt.org.uk  
  
Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust  
is a registered charity No. 1008157  
  
Trustees: Chris Holmwood (Chair), Lesley Blight  
Jane Castle, Trevor Crowter, Stephen Dunham  
Rev Bev Hollins, Angela Miller, Dr David Ormerod

Would you like to have your Bridgebuilder bulletin e-mailed to you instead of via snail mail? Contact Gill to let her know and she will make the change!

## Educating and Empowering—looking back on M.O.U.S.E. 2011...

### What is M.O.U.S.E.?

M.O.U.S.E. is a transition project for year 6s as they look to move up to secondary school, and is led by a team of young people (the MICE) in year 11 and year 13 (post GCSE/A level students) from different local churches.

- This year, 3 teams of MICE made up of 14 team members and 4 team leaders
- 48 schools out of a potential 60 booked M.O.U.S.E.
- Over 2,300 year 6 pupils saw the M.O.U.S.E. Team in action
- 2,270 Scripture Union *It's Your Move* books were handed out to these year 6s



A group of year 6s during M.O.U.S.E.

### What did Kate, a 'MOUSE', say?

"It meant new friends, good memories and a fantastic God-filled environment. The best part was the effect the presentation had—it was worth the repetition and the embarrassing drama to see the effect on the children. When the new intake of year 7s arrived at my school, many remembered I was in their M.O.U.S.E. Team, and knowing we had helped bridge the gap was what made it worthwhile."

### What did we say?

Lex and Tony ran M.O.U.S.E. this year, with Lex being primarily responsible for recruitment and content, and Tony focusing on mentoring. Rachel's role was to support them both.

Tony said, "M.O.U.S.E. felt very God-centred and spirit-led—and my favourite time was the worship session on the last morning where we all took part."

26 churches came on board to sponsor the *It's Your Move* books for a total of 38 schools between them.

**Could your church support its local school in 2012? If you were unable to support the full cost, perhaps a contribution could be made instead and you could still present the books to the children on behalf of your church?**

### What did the schools say?

- Very friendly; clear deliveries; calm; lovely with the children... the team were very professional and conducted themselves well.
- Brilliant—very enthusiastic and well organised...each year this presentation gets better.
- We were impressed with how confident the young leaders were in their presentations.

## Educating and Empowering—looking ahead to M.O.U.S.E. 2012...

### Lex gives her thoughts...

#### Secondary school involvement:

Next year it would be wonderful to have more teachers from secondary schools at the sessions taking place in their feeder schools, and becoming involved in this aspect of transition with these schools. This would also help with our response to feedback from some year 6 teachers that it would be nice where possible to have school

specific advice. It could also lead to follow up work by Bridgebuilder with the year 7s in secondary schools in September.

#### Focus on peer pressure:

There was much call this year from the teachers' completed evaluation sheets for a greater focus on the issues surrounding peer pressure and bullying, as it is a real concern for children as they move up. As a team, we hope to dovetail next year's Bible story for

M.O.U.S.E. with more of a focus on peer pressure and bullying.

#### Four M.O.U.S.E. teams in 2012:

There is a possibility that next year we could run four separate M.O.U.S.E. teams, which would mean we could offer team spaces for up to 20 young people!

It would also result in us being able to visit more schools, bringing the possible total of schools visited to all 60 who have children in year 6!

## Engaging young people with the Christian community—looking ahead to Christmas Cracked 2011...

Having updated Easter Cracked earlier in the year, Rachel has now reviewed and updated Christmas Cracked, with the help of Geoff Morris who revised the PowerPoint.

The new presentation includes games, quizzes, activities, a great film clip and a dynamic drama

monologue from one of the shepherds.

Last year eight churches delivered Christmas Cracked sessions and reached just over 30 primary schools. This year we will see those numbers increase as the churches from the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership offer

Christmas Cracked to their local schools for the first time, and Stony Stratford Community Church may also offer the presentations to local schools.

Together, these new churches will offer this project to approximately ten more primary schools.

## The Bridgebuilder Trust—our vision statement...

### Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust...

- Educates young people in Christian faith and values
- Empowers young Christians to share their faith
- Engages young people with the Christian community

We are a Christian charity which has been working in the primary and secondary schools of Milton Keynes since 1993. Faced with rising demand for our work across its 100 plus schools, our vision is of a Trust that can meet the challenge of supporting the personal, social, moral and spiritual development of children and young people in our growing city.

### Educate

We exist to educate young people in Christian faith and values. We explain the Christian faith in an accessible and memorable way and show how Christian values can shape both a moral and spiritual approach to life. We believe young people should have the opportunity to learn about God's love for them through Jesus and the relevance of what the Bible has to say about the many choices and issues facing them today. We communicate this in a manner sensitive to the needs and contexts of schools and young people through assemblies, RE lessons, and a rich variety of themed projects.

### Empower

We empower young Christians to share their faith. Our visits to schools help to give Christian young people the confidence to discuss their own beliefs with others and for their faith and values to gain the respect of their peers. We lead and support Christian Union programmes which provide the opportunity for young Christian people to explore their faith together and to which they can invite their friends. We provide specific training for young leaders and also develop teamwork, leadership and communication skills through a range of projects. We aim to support the development of confident Christian young people and to encourage their participation in the local Church community through church based youth events. We liaise with and support church youth groups and their leaders.

### Engage

We engage young people with the Christian community. We believe young people of all backgrounds benefit from positive Christian role models who are willing to support them through the challenges of growing into adulthood. The Trust has a large group of Voluntary Schools Workers who are appropriately trained and equipped to represent the Christian community in our schools, supporting young people through our own projects and school mentoring programmes. We engage young people with their local Christian community by developing opportunities for them to visit local churches through our projects at Christmas, Easter and throughout the year.



## Welcome back to Rosie...

It has been an exciting and busy return to work! After 9 months I was a little nervous about speaking to assembly halls full of young people but the great thing about this term is that I didn't get time to worry.

As well as settling back in, I have started creating a young leaders' package called Cultivate which is designed for young people who volunteer in schools with Emulate and M.O.U.S.E. or are young leaders for projects such as X:site. We would like to support these young people in developing their Christian leadership potential



Rosie, Sean and Aliyah

through training and discipleship. Cultivate will be split into four evening sessions throughout the year and will culminate in a weekend away. There are many different types of leadership qualities, so we would like to spend some time encouraging young people to hone their gifts so they can share them too.

I am also looking into the possibility of creating a gap year opportunity at Bridgebuilder.

So, lots on and more to come—I am very excited about this year and all that God holds for us here and for the schools we serve.