

Beryl Hunwicks retires from the Trustees

Beryl Hunwicks has sadly tendered her resignation as a Trustee of Engage “with a heavy heart”. In her resignation letter Beryl said that she was no longer able to give Engage the time she would wish, due to other increasing pressures and commitments.



Beryl joined SCAt, as it was then, in 2005, bringing with her a wealth of experience from a long career in education. As a former teacher Beryl worked in primary and secondary schools in the state and private sectors, including being Deputy Head and Head of English at Halstead Preparatory School.

After leaving Halstead, Beryl continued to work in education, teaching English as a Foreign Language to adult learners at The Maybury Centre in Woking. She is a Trustee of the The Woking People of Faith Forum and since 2007 has sat on Woking Borough Council as a councillor representing Horsell West.

The Trustees unanimously offered a vote of thanks to Beryl for the very significant and meaningful contribution she has made to the running of the charity over the last 10 years. In wishing her well, they also expressed their hope that Beryl would continue to maintain her links with Engage.

Can you help?

We urgently need people for our assembly team which presents the Christian message to some 8,000 primary school children each year, or our programme may have to be drastically curtailed. If you have acting experience, a heart for children and any free mornings (8.45-11am), please contact Patrick Coad at our office for details.

Over to you ...

Do you have a story of how Engage is working in schools? Perhaps you volunteer for Engage or work in a school. We'd love to hear your news and to consider it for the next issue of *Engagement*. Please send it to the editor, Royer Slater, c/o the email address below.

Engage Woking Schools
St Andrew's Church
Goldsworth Park Centre
Denton Way
Woking
Surrey GU21 3LG

Tel: 01483 762424
Email: office@engagewoking.org
Web: www.engagewoking.org
Engage Woking Schools
Registered charity no. 1156005

ENGAGEMENT



News from Engage Woking Schools

Summer 2015

Books and Bible gifts are welcomed

Engage has presented gifts of books and Bibles to Woking College, and Woking High and Winston Churchill Schools. The gifts mark our 20th anniversary last year.

“We gave the secondary schools an excellent set of Scripture Union books which bring several Bible stories to life for young people today,” reported Engage’s secondary schools worker, Chrissie Lacey.

“In Woking College we provided 15 Bibles for Christian Union sessions. All the gifts were gratefully received. I have seen at first-hand how the Bibles have been helping the Christian Union students in their discussions and how excited they were at this generous gift.”



Chrissie Lacey of Engage presents Scripture Union books to the school librarian at Woking High

Easter in context

Patrick Coad and his team of volunteers presented Easter assemblies at 30 local primary schools this year.

The Engage team not only told children the Easter story itself but explained it in the context of the whole Bible - going back to Adam and Eve and the fall of man.



The summer term with Chrissie Lacey

Chrissie spends most of her week in Woking College and Woking High School as Pioneer Schools Minister (PSM).

Mentoring is an important part of Chrissie's work. She currently mentors about 20 students at Woking High School. "I meet them 'one-to-one' weekly, fortnightly or monthly, catching up on their lives, playing games and chatting about their problems," she explained.



Chrissie spends some of her day in staff rooms, getting to know the staff while they get to know her. "We discuss how their day is going, the main things happening in their lives – and have fun together too!"

Engage runs a Christian Union (CU) at Woking College. "The members are very passionate about sharing their faith and coming together to worship and study the Bible," said Chrissie. "This term, as exams hit the college, CU members are looking at how they can bless the students and staff, as well as balancing their own lives with exams, work, life and faith."

Last year Chrissie helped set up the Year 11 Prom at Woking High School. This year staff and students have asked her to stay for the whole evening as well. "It's an amazing privilege to share a key moment of Year 11's departure from

Woking High and into the next stage of their lives," she said.

Also last year, Chrissie accompanied Woking High School's wind band on its tour of Spain. This year she has been invited to accompany nearly 60 students and five staff for a whole week as the band tours Italy at the end of the summer term. "The tour is such fun and a great way to demonstrate my faith in some very different settings and situations," she said.

Chrissie manages the "It's Your Move" process which supports students moving from their primary to secondary school. "The Engage team takes a lesson with the whole of Year Six in each of the main junior schools whose pupils will be moving up to Woking High School and Winston Churchill School. The lesson is interactive and encourages students to consider what they will miss in their old school, what scares them about their new school and what they are looking forward to. It's a fantastic opportunity to get to know hundreds of students before meeting them again in their secondary schools in September.



Chrissie recalled other things likely to happen in this busy term. "I'll be going to the gym with Woking College staff, helping at its Sports Day, serving meals in the canteen, providing cakes at break time, speaking at the RE

lesson/revision classes and driving a minibus! And of course I'll be discussing why I believe what I believe in the playground, classroom, staff room and canteen.

"There may be other things: God knows what else is in store for me this term!"



The Engage team prays before going into Woking College

Chrissie's motivation for getting involved in these activities is to show God's love for people by serving them where they need and enabling them to get to know the faith she and other Engage team members have in real life situations.

"A lot of what we do is spending time with people in different places and contexts, which is what Jesus did when He came down as a carpenter and lived among ordinary people."

Please pray for Chrissie and all those she encounters during her work.

Friendly, fun and inspiring!

We asked students at the Woking College Christian Union (which Engage runs) what they liked about it. Here are some of their replies.

"I'm sure to have fun, great food and to discuss questions I've been pondering, with a group of people I can trust. CU is like a sanctuary in college."

"CU is a comfortable place (in a sometimes uncomfortable environment) to worship God and be in good company."

"I love the modern and fun way the CU is presented. We are able to understand God better while also getting to know others and being able to support them."

"Everyone is so friendly and welcoming, which is great as a first year student, and the leaders are really good at covering topics within society and college life."

"I like CU because it's great to meet with other Christians who are in the same situation as me. It's also a great conversation starter with my friends."

"CU is an amazing place to be. I love learning more about God and how we can spread the word. The leaders are so enthusiastic and inspiring and help create an amazingly safe environment and community."

