

Vision Morning

Engage's direction and future ministry were discussed by our Trustees and workers during a Vision Morning in September. The emphasis was on how God sees our future work and our responses. It was stressed that Engage is not "SCAt with a new name" and that we must build stronger relationships with schools and pupils/students through listening, sharing and planning together.

Two breakout groups examined our work in primary schools and secondary schools, reviewing the way we do things now and how we can adapt to respond to meet schools' challenges and how best to make use of the opportunities to spread the Gospel there. We sought The Lord's wisdom for how Engage can remain at the leading edge of His purposes. As a result of the morning, Trustees will be working on themes relating to assembly support, mentoring, prayer, School Chaplaincy and making the most of the whole team.

Prayer is important in everything we do and we must maintain confidence in our prayers. PLEASE PRAY for our workers and their commitment, for school staff and, of course, for the children and young people.

Secondary schools and Woking College

"The secondary schools and college have settled in well to the new academic year and are even now looking ahead to open evenings and interviews for their next intake of students," writes *Chrissie Lacey*. "I've been struck by this and how the schools and college manage to focus both on the present and the future; working with - and for - their current students, as well as looking to prospective students. It reminds me of how we, as Christians, live: in the world, but not of it; living alongside others and in our culture, but giving glimpses of the future to some when God's Kingdom is fully realised."

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.

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ENGAGEMENT



News from Engage Woking Schools

Autumn 2014

Miracle Maker presentations

Engage has presented over 30 local primary schools with a DVD copy of *The Miracle Maker*. The highly acclaimed DVD tells the life of Jesus through the eyes of a child.

Engage primary schools worker Patrick Coad and his team have produced a booklet to accompany the DVD. This supports the use of the DVD in classes, with Bible references for each part of the story and ideas for lesson plans.



Children from Ottershaw Primary School with the DVD and booklet, plus Engage workers

Patrick and the team presented the DVD and booklet to head teachers of all primary schools with which Engage is linked as a gift to mark the 20th anniversary of SCAt when it changed its name to Engage.

"This superb animated retelling of the life of Jesus provides an excellent teaching resource and we hope the schools will make very good use of it," said Patrick. Engage has been able to provide the DVD and booklet thanks to the generosity of supporters, following an appeal to commemorate our 20th anniversary.

Further material will be purchased and presentations will be made this coming term in secondary schools and Woking College.

Can you help?

Engage urgently needs people to join its assembly teams which present 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 (see back page) for details.

Are you sitting comfortably?

The Engage assembly team was kept busy presenting its Summer assembly at 31 schools in and around Woking over three weeks during June and July.



Peril on the waves at Horsell Junior



High Drama at Ottershaw



Is this really Patrick? (Surely not Boris Johnson!)



Ready for action at Knaphill Lower School



Time for a cuppa - note the "boat" prop!



St Lawrence, Chobham pupils get the message

Getting to know you ... Sally Lynch

Sally is the longest-serving member of our assembly team and is also one of our Trustees.

Sally joined as a volunteer for the 2001 Christmas assemblies and immediately loved it. "All the other original members have since moved on, others have arrived and gone while some have stayed like me. Everyone brings their own gifts to the assembly team and those who leave are sorely missed, both as team mates and because no one has come forward to replace them. We desperately need volunteers to join us now to help just a little, or a lot."

A couple of years after becoming an assembly team member, Sally became a Trustee. "I was very nervous about the responsibility: the acting helps when trying to be grown up and serious! But, again, I've loved it and hope I am doing an OK job!"

"SCAt has become Engage and I am still here. The 'Drama Queen' in me won't go away!"

Sally is always at her happiest dressing up. "It's sad, but true! Preferably as an angel with lots of tinsel and wings! That's partly why I've stayed so long: I love the dressing up, the drama, the children's faces when they see our assembly team."

"When we do an assembly for the children we are not just going in to have fun and to tell them nice stories: we are taking Jesus to them. That single assembly might be the only time they hear that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend. Who knows what a difference that might make to them in the future?"

Sally's favourite assemblies are for Christmas. "Although we've done lots of them – all were fun, and the children, teachers and ourselves really enjoyed them – the most powerful and well

received was when we simply told the Christmas story. It had more impact on schools than any other Christmas assembly we've done.

"Children go to Pantomimes and they have brilliant school plays, but they don't get the 'real' Christmas. It's the same at Easter, when we have learned we need to tell the 'real' story."



Sally stresses that being able to present the stories in a new and different way every year is only achieved with the help and skill of our amazing script writers over the years. "At present it's Ruth Kirtley and she's brilliant!"

Sally says she is always excited by taking the message of Jesus into schools. "I'm looking forward to sowing many more seeds in thousands of young hearts. Maybe when they consider 'Who is Jesus?', 'Is He real?', 'What can He do for me?' and 'How could He love me?', they might just remember the assemblies that 'those people' did in their school when they were young.

"Many children from the past (some are now adults) and the present come to us saying they remember us and they all have a particular assembly that they remember – quite often to do with pirates!"

"Roman 10, verses 14-15 says it all:

How can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them unless someone is sent to do it?

"Seeds have been sown – and I want to keep on sowing them!"