

## **BSYW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 07/11/2024**

### **Report from the Chairman of Trustees.**

Once again, it has been an absolute privilege to serve as the chair of trustees for the last twelve months. The trustees are a skilled and dedicated group of individuals that give up much of their time and energy to prayerfully pursue the protection, equipping, training and care of the committed group of prayer warriors, volunteers and staff of BSYW; it has never been an onerous task but a highly delightful and rewarding one which we each take on willingly. The progress, success and welfare of the entire team are highly important to us and so our excitement blends with our great frontline team of schools workers at the immense blessings and advances that have been made once more throughout this year. Every visit spreads the love of God to children, their families and the extensive staff teams of the schools concerned. Once again God's wonderful providence has been witnessed and practically demonstrated as funding for ministries, equipment and resources has proved more than possible through the generous giving of so many.

The year has witnessed so many visits to assemblies , opportunities for workshops in specific classes, preparation visits for those about to embark upon secondary education during the new academic year as well as occasional visits to assist with spiritual aspects of the curriculum. This has been coupled with a continuation of the highly successful and now well established "Christmas Journey" which takes the children through an interactive and lifelike representation of the nativity – this is a powerful event where demand regularly outstrips availability, with maximum bookings being snapped up speedily.

In addition to this energetic programme, the schools team have devised and experimented with a new presentation, "Step into Easter" where the Easter story was presented in dramatic form in local churches close to many of the schools regularly visited; this is a high quality presentation which has attracted a number of schools into churches in their locality and which has, in turn, introduced a number of churches to the staff and pupils of schools within their immediate proximity. I was able to witness this production at first hand as the team brought it to the church that I

attend in St. Annes. This has surely proven to be a most wonderfully successful pilot project which is likely to prove a regular part of the school team's annual activities in future.

The availability of a charitable grant has made it possible for two further members of the volunteer force to be trained in the "Walk through the Bible" scheme so that this ongoing project might also be strengthened and enlarged.

It was wonderful to be able to join with the team at an end of year fellowship time as we all enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea at the Art Deco Café in Blackpool's Stanley Park – an event which I sincerely hope to see established firmly in the BSYW calendar from now on!

The practical support from and partnership with Scripture Union has built upon an already firm foundation throughout this year and will be something which we would seek to perpetuate into the coming years.

This A.G.M will be Sue Richards' last as director as she retires at the end of the Easter term next year, when Helen will step up to assume this same role as the Trust celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We extend to Sue our sincerest thanks and appreciation for such lengthy and effective service and pray that her retirement will prove to bring all the new opportunities and joys that she hopes for. Similarly, the trustees would wish to extend their total confidence in Helen as the mantle of leadership passes to her – it is a task in which she has already more than proved herself to be most suitably qualified.

Most of all, we commend to God our deepest thanks for his supreme faithfulness and myriad blessings upon each of us and this great schools work which is his own. We share his longing to see his kingdom extended amongst the youngsters and those who teach them here in the North West. We are mindful of the amazing open doors here around Blackpool that God has given to us and ask you to pray along with us that these might remain open always.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kemp

(Chairman of Trustees)