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Christmas
2009

Supporting children & young people, supporting UK schools

one to one

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Note from the Chief Executive

End of an era?

I am struggling to find the words that will express how deeply grateful we are for your practical and financial help, personal support and ongoing encouragement. To say a heartfelt 'thank you' feels inadequate in the light of the visits, the letters, the telephone calls and the gifts we have received since the 1980s.

I know that some of those of you who have given us financial help have done so sacrificially, a fact we sincerely appreciate. I know too that some of you have regularly included our pastoral work with individual children and young people in your thoughts and daily prayers. Bless you.

Now, however, I must share

*with you the reality of the situation currently facing Schools Outreach, a situation that has been developing over recent months: that **in less than a year, unless a real miracle occurs, this charity will be forced to close down altogether.***

Since 2006 we have been unable to acquire any project establishment funding, this preventing us from placing new pastoral care specialists into schools. Charitable grant-making trusts have seen their income from their capital investments collapsing and many of them have drastically reduced or ceased their donations. The charity that has been most consistent over the

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years in providing financial support for us has recently reduced its commitment to us by 50%. The Credit Crunch has only made the situation for Schools Outreach and many other charities considerably worse.

We have, during the same period, made deep cuts in our expenditures, including reduction of salaries. Recently having vacated our offices, both Andrea and I now work from home, a saving of many thousands of pounds over time.

More of our workers have been taken on to the staffs of their schools, the fulfillment of a long-standing objective, this resulting in the shrinking of the number of specialists we directly employ. The funding we have in hand for the remaining workers runs out in the summer of next year. We must, of course, maintain all our responsibilities towards them as their employer, including their pastoral support and professional development and must, therefore, continue raising the funds necessary for our day-to-day needs. Once this charity no longer employs the remaining workers next summer, Andrea and I, together with the two

part-time Staff Carers, will be made redundant, unless a major source of new funding can be found.

Meanwhile, as well as continuing the support of those we employ, we are providing help and encouragement to past employees. I give time to individuals from other charitable organizations, as well as receiving visits from people who work with the young and ask me for practical help and advice.

*I have decided that, at 3pm on Sunday the 27th June 2010, at Holy Trinity Church, Lickey, near Bromsgrove, we will hold a **Celebration and Thanksgiving Service**, celebrating all that has been achieved through Schools Outreach over so many years. It is hoped that our President, David Suchet OBE, will attend and speak. We shall hear too not only from one or two of the school-based specialists but from some pupils who have benefitted from the presence of a specialist in their schools. Please enter this date into your 2010 diary.*

Dr Gordon Bailey

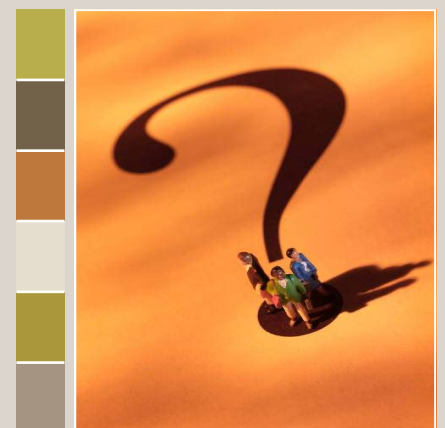
Where are they now?

For the 27th June 2010 Celebrations we are hoping to produce a 'book of remembrance' about the work of Schools Outreach.

Any contribution about our work would be appreciated. We would especially like to hear from:

- Previous pastoral care workers—what are you doing now?
- People we have trained—short courses or full training—how did the training benefit you?
- Schools—what impact did your pastoral care specialist have on your pupils, staff and local community?
- Individuals—how has Schools Outreach benefitted you?
- Organisations—how has Schools Outreach helped you in your work?

Please send your comments to Andrea at the new Schools Outreach address or email to info@schoolsoutreach.org



Case study

Notes—Kelly's story is true, just her name has been changed in accordance with our confidentiality policy. The case study was written by one of our pastoral care specialists. The Pastoral Care Specialist at Kelly's school was based there full-time, offering one-to-one support and peer group sessions to those young people who were suffering abuse, neglect, bullying, were bereaved or had low self-esteem.



Kelly is a 13-year-old girl, referred to me for one-to-one work in one of the Middle Schools because of her difficult home background. She has a violent father with whom she now has little or no contact and is being brought up in less than ideal conditions by her grandmother following the death of her mother five years ago. On my first encounter with Kelly she appeared very quiet, somewhat unkempt, with signs on her hands of self-hurt. She was suspicious of me — 'was I a 'shrink' assigned to sort her out?' - was her fear as I later discovered.

For the first three weeks I used 'get to know you' exercises to begin to build a relationship. Responses were at first minimal but began to extend as her confidence grew and she began to feel more at ease with me. Her self-esteem was clearly very low so I affirmed her for the qualities that emerged through the exercises and our conversations. We then looked at 'feelings', touching on grief as we talked about her mum, and it became apparent that she feels things deeply but hasn't been encouraged to express her emotions. This was also apparent when we looked at anger — Kelly was enabled to see that she does get angry, but internalises it rather than lashing / shouting out. She was keen to note down various 'cool-downs' I suggested as ways of expressing / processing some of her anger and other emotions. (By now there was another girl with us — she didn't enter into things as fully as Kelly, but it seemed that Kelly herself felt more at ease with another pupil present.)

Kelly took part in the school's residential weekend. At times she struggled with some of the aggressive and insensitive behaviour of others, but for me provided the highlights of the weekend. She enjoyed the beauty of the countryside that was so different from her home environment. She overcame her fear of heights to jump from a crag into the river when gorge-walking, and she would lay back in the water unaware that anyone was watching, floating with a big grin over her face, relishing that moment of pleasure and freedom and tasting a world beyond her usual experience.

As sessions confirmed it became clear that certain things were making sense to her, and that she was being helped to realise positive things about herself—smiles widened and chuckles increased. There is still a long way to go, she is still a very needy girl, but by the end of term I could see glimpses of change and growth. Even more encouraging Kelly herself said that she had found our times together helpful, that I have been someone she could talk to and who would listen — I sense that it is important for her to be able to relate to, and feel safe with a man who is not abusive or violent, and that I can continue to be a helpful, trustworthy adult figure, alongside her grandmother, as she enters High School in September.

Take a look at ...

Gordon suggests you might like to look at a musical project in schools undertaken by a dear friend of his, Andy Silver.

Jason Orange from 'Take That' says that Andy's work is "a great project giving so many kids an opportunity to sing on their own album—brilliant!"

The website address is www.popconnection.co.uk. News about this exciting work with children can also be located at www.innervation.org. You could also request information by writing to Pop Connection, c/o Innervation Trust, Suite 8c, No 1 @ The Courtyard, Earl Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6GN.

Date for your diary:

27th June 2010

Thanksgiving & Celebration Service

Holy Trinity Church, Lickey



finalthoughts...

*With best wishes for a very happy
Christmas and New Year from all at
Schools Outreach*



A lack of consideration

A verse by Gordon Bailey

*Just fancy being born at
Christmas!
(The time of those five go-old
rings.)*

*There's plenty to think of at
Christmas*

*So why go and complicate
things?*

*He could have been born
during August,*

*Or in March, or even
September;*

*With greetings, and parties,
and presents,*

I've already lots to remember.

Then:

I'm eating, or watching the

*telly,
Or hanging the glittery trim,
Or doing the last-minute
shopping,
And they start going on about
... Him.*

*You'd have thought he'd
consider the timing*

*Of the date that he chose to
appear;*

*You'd have thought he'd have
known about Christmas ...*

*It's our busiest time of the
year!*

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It's all change ...

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Please note: the
photographs used in this
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About us:

Schools Outreach was established in 1973 to support the pastoral work of Gordon Bailey in schools. The work expanded in the '80s and since our first full training programme in 1988 we have placed workers into 24 counties of England and Wales. A full list of the areas where we have had an impact is available on our website or contact the office for further information.

Our specialists:

- Working one to one with pupils who are struggling to cope with emotional problems
- Working in groups with those children needing peer support
- Getting involved in extra curricular activities to build good relationships with the children, their parents and the local community
- Working alongside the school and other community organisations to provide extra assistance

