



# Newsletter

Spring 2022



## Director's Message

So, can we have a rest now?

What has turned out to be one of the busiest terms at SSW comes to a close, and with it we get a chance to reflect on what God has done, and how He has maintained, sustained and grown the work over the last 4 months, and how He is so obviously guiding, strengthening and leading us as we move forward.

Churches have continued to gradually get back in contact with us on a personal basis, rather than just via electronic means. We've been able to tell even more faithful friends about what we do, and how they can support us, and we have made new contacts each month, with more and more joining our wider, supporting family.

We have received more enquiries from our schools, with nearly all of them now back close to what we lovingly remember as the BC days (before Covid). It's been an absolute delight to work through 3 weeks of Easter Experience, bringing the wonderful news of our Saviour to over 1400 children from across the borough, who were given the opportunity to ask questions about faith and His story directly of believers who love Him. Very special to me was the fact that God kept all our cast members safe, and, despite all the concerns about health, we only lost one cast member due to poor health, on the very last day of North Cheam, and God wonderfully provided a perfect replacement for that role almost immediately.

Secondary school work has simply been full! Kate and Beca have performed miracles in keeping all the various activities going, and supporting the numerous groups we have contact with around the borough, and we continue to see growth in all of them, both numerically and spiritually. We've seen new faces come forward to assist us, and we are constantly amazed at how much God is enabling us to do. Please pray for the two ladies as they take a well-earned break.

Abby, Rachel and all our volunteers (who are simply fantastic) can also sit back a bit from what has also been an action-packed few months. Not only did they get involved with Easter Experience, they also managed to keep loads of activities going at various schools around the borough. Simply wonderful.

Sara has been magnificent as ever, keeping us all going (especially me) and even managed to take part in EE herself for the first time. And, as I shared in our April Prayer Update, it's a delight to announce that Sarah returns for next term, to be joined by Rachel, as God has enabled us to keep them both! I can't wait to get going again, and am so looking forward to being part of what God is doing in our borough.

What I have been able to see so clearly this term is that our borough enjoys a wonderful position in the kingdom. God has allowed and enabled us to be part of a wider Christian community that serves Him in innovative, collaborative and dynamic ways, and we are a voice in Sutton that is heard, respected and given space and time. It simply amazes me that He has put this all together, and it is an absolute privilege to be involved.

This term we have welcomed even more friends into our family, and SSW moves forward into the Summer term with joy, eagerness and excitement, as we know without a shadow of doubt that He goes before, beside and in us.

## Primary Work



### Easter Experience

After two years, the Easter Experience was back!

Nearly 1500 KS2 children from across the borough came to the Easter Experience at Carshalton Methodist Church, Sutton Baptist Church or North Cheam Baptist Church. Our fantastic teams of volunteers put on amazing performances, showing children the events of Holy Week and sharing the heart of the Christian message.

During the performance, the children moved around the building and were involved in each part of the story, and a few children (and teachers!) were invited to play a part in some of the scenes.

After each performance, the children were invited to ask the characters' questions.

We were asked some amazing questions, including:

*Why couldn't Caiaphas and Jesus work together?*

*Judas, why did you betray Jesus?*

*Jesus, how did you know that Judas would be the one to betray you?*

*Pilate, why didn't you let Jesus go?*

It was such a privilege to share the Easter Story with so many children across Sutton.  
We can't wait for next year!

'A really wonderful trip for us and the children were totally engrossed  
in the performance. Thank you'  
*Seaton House School*

'It was AMAZING!'  
*Year 4 pupil, Cheam Park Farm Primary Academy*

## **Carshalton Methodist Church**



**North Cheam Baptist Church**



**Sutton Baptist Church**



# CSI Easter



CSI Easter is an interactive workshop for Year 3. Children become detectives to try and figure out what had happened to Jesus' body when the tomb was found empty! Pupils learn about the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday through storytelling, video evidence and activities (codebreaking, searching the 'crime scene' for clues & identifying fingerprints). Each child makes their own conclusion before we share what Christians believe, clearly explaining the good news of Jesus.

- ✚ This half term, our primary team visited **10 schools** to deliver CSI Easter. We ran **24 workshops** involving more than **800 children!**
- ✚ Praise God for the opportunity to share the Easter story and the gospel message with so many children (and their teachers!)
- ✚ Please pray that the seeds that have been sown would grow and develop; we trust that God will work in the hearts of all those we have encountered this term.



## Easter assemblies



This half term we shared the Easter story during our primary assemblies. We challenged children to make difficult decisions about giving things up which they love or enjoy. We also encouraged pupils to consider who loves them and what sacrifices people make for them, as well as who they love, and how they could show their love to others.

We shared the amazing truth that we are so loved by God that He sacrificed His one and only Son, Jesus, for us.

✚ We visited **16 schools** this half term and shared **24 assemblies**.

✚ Please pray that the truth and significance of the Easter message would continue to impact primary school children throughout Sutton.

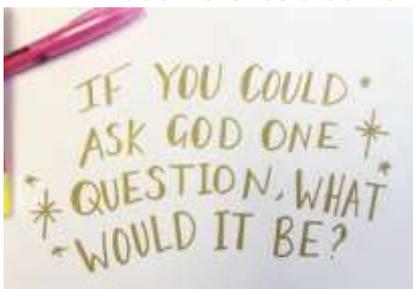
## Secondary Work

### Christian Unions

Our Christian Unions have been back in full swing since September. We currently run 4 Christian Unions in a number of Schools, all of which have their own style. We are also really looking forward to supporting 3 Christian Unions in other Schools after the Easter holidays. These groups are staff or sixth form led, so we go along every few weeks to show our support and to pray for them all.

One group that we run on a Tuesday lunchtime is at Overton Grange. We have recently completed a series on Identity for Year 11 students. This series has been full of encouragement as they approach exam season. We've covered topics such as Spiritual Gifts, Armour of God and being made in God's image. After the Easter break, the CU will be opening up to all year groups so we are really looking forward to getting to know more students.

Also on a Tuesday (after-school) we run a group at Carshalton Girls High School. We have recently been looking at a series called Seven signs of John where we have explored the miracles that we read in John's Gospel. We've had some wonderful conversations with the students that attend, giving them opportunities to apply the Bible to their own lives and what difference that makes.



Another Christian Union that we run is at Harris Academy. This group launched back in November 2021. We begin each session with a game or icebreaker. This has really helped us to build a good rapport with the young people attending. This group takes a more informal style, where we bring a 'Big Question' each week. Some of these questions have included; How easy do you

find it to forgive other people? If you could ask God one question, what would it be? There have been real opportunities for us to share testimony and answer questions throughout the conversations we have been having.

On a Friday lunchtime, we run the Sutton Grammar Christian Union. This is well attended, with a real variety of age groups, from year 8 to year 13. Students have been really engaged each week as we discuss different topics. Some students have been leading the sessions themselves on a topic that they have chosen which has been really wonderful to see as we hope that throughout the sessions we run, they too will feel equipped to become leaders themselves.

## Lessons

We have been busy running lots of different lessons in the past few weeks, both RE and PSHE. These lessons have included; Abraham & Choices. This session is for Year 7 and we ran these workshops in Sutton Grammar. This was the first time we were working with year 7's since they moved up from Primary School, so it was wonderful to see many hands go up when we ask 'how many of you are familiar with SSW?'



Another lesson we have had is Science & Faith. This can be for a variety of year groups, however this particular time we were running it for Year 8 students at Oaks Park High. This topic sparked off many questions and some great conversations. The aim of the lesson is to encourage students to see that you can be

both a Christian and a Scientist!

We also ran some SRE workshops at Oaks Park High. This workshop is taken from our LIVE Project (PSHE based lessons, all taught from a Christian perspective). This session explores the topic of Healthy Relationships and enables young people to think about that for themselves, whilst encouraging them to make their own choices. We base some of this lesson around Romans 12:2, do not be conformed to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

As we are writing this article, we are currently half way through a week of Easter Resurrection lessons with year 7 at Cheam High School. This is the first time we have been able to run this workshop in person (as we've previously done it online) so it's really great to have this opportunity. We explore some different theories of the Resurrection, giving students the chance to think for themselves what they think of the Easter story. We have ended each lesson with a Q&A which has enabled us to be able to share our personal opinions and why Easter is such an important time of the year.