



Annual Report



2020-2021

Many Thanks

Allchurches Trust, Broadwater Fair Trading, Bunyan Baptist Church, Churches Together In Stevenage, Hertfordshire County Council, Holy Trinity, Great Ashby Community Church, Longmeadow Evangelical Church, North Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit, Ravenstone PCC, St. Andrews Church Hertford, St. Hugh & St. John, St Martin's Knebworth, St. Mary's Graveley, St. Mary's Shephall, St. Nicholas, St. Peter's, Sirius Digital Solutions, Stevenage Borough Council, United Reformed Church, Trinity Church Knebworth, and individual donors for your generous support, .

Surviving the challenge of a global pandemic!

The last year has been a challenging time for us all – for some it has been a time of loss and great sadness. Thankfully, Bridge Builders, through the grace of God, has survived. Even though it is a tiny charity, through the skills and hard work of the staff and volunteers, blessed by your prayerful support, we have found new ways to help local schools educate children about our faith in Christ.

In April this year we, the Trustees, had the pleasure of appointing Steph Knell to become Director of the Trust's work. Steph had been acting Director since June 2020 and had done an excellent job under very difficult circumstances, so it was a very easy decision for us to promote her to Director, to continue to lead the Trust's work.

Finding resources to do our work is a continuing challenge. As a Christian charity it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain grants from national or secular grant giving bodies. We are therefore even more thankful for the local support of county and borough councillors, churches and more than 40 individuals who make regular donations, who see and appreciate our work first hand.

Please continue to pray for the work of Bridge Builders. Although the pandemic is drawing to end, (or maybe just entering a new phase!), we are operating at a time of great uncertainty and stress. If you feel able to do so, please also support us with a regular/monthly donation, however small. The challenge continues year on year; each year a fresh group of children are waiting to hear and be educated about Christmas, Easter and our wider faith as Christians.

The Trustees and I would like to thank all of our supporters for their continued and generous support for the work of Bridge Builders through prayer, volunteering and financial gifts.

Anthony Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Fundraising

We rely on donations to keep our work going. We cover the £8 cost for each child who attends one of our journeys. There are many different ways in which you can support us:

ONE-OFF
GIFT ★



Shopping online, select Bridge Builders as your beneficiary and we will receive a donation for every £1 you spend

If you're a UK taxpayer completing a Gift Aid Declaration means your donation is worth 25% more.



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Director's Report

The last academic year has been a challenge, as I'm sure many of you have found. At Bridge Builders there have been stressful times as we have spent hours trying to learn how to record, edit and release the Journeys. There have been joyful times as we have seen a greater take up of The Christmas Journey, or as the Lord has provided what we needed. There have been mind-bending times as we have made decisions about what the Journeys will look like in six months' time – will we be able to do them in person or not?

But it gives me great joy and a sense of encouragement to look back and say that Bridge Builders has responded well to the challenges. We have had to change what we do and how we do it. We have had to find different ways of letting local churches and supporters know what our needs are. We have had to learn a variety of new skills. The team has worked well and effectively, and has met the challenges head on.

1,200 children 'attended' The Virtual Christmas Journey, which was more than usual, and we worked hard preparing the craft for that – we missed our volunteers who could not come into the office. The half termly, online assemblies have been well received by a variety of schools, covering topics such as trust, change, friendship, and love as well as Christmas and Easter. We have also tried recording a lesson and putting that online.

The last year has given us time to pause, think and pray about what we are doing, and how we can be more effective. To that end, some of you will know that we are currently raising money for a new position at Bridge Builders. The online Journeys have worked so well that we want to create one for every year group in primary school. We have realised that there is a possibility of reaching 10,000 primary school children in Stevenage and the surrounding areas if we create a Journey for every year group. We are extremely excited about this possibility and would ask you to pray with us, and for us, as we recruit for the project.

The observant among you will have noticed a new logo. Amazing Creative have been working on a new website, and they very kindly designed a new logo for us as well. In case you missed it, have another look at the front cover. Natalie has also adapted the logos for The Christmas Journey and The Easter Journey, to keep them in line with our 'new look', and also make them more user friendly for the online world we now live in.

It has been 20 years since Bridge Builders became a charity and we are very aware that we would not be here without all of you, so thank you so much for your ongoing support and prayer. We look forward to the coming years, and seeing all that the Lord will do.

Steph Knell
Director



THE REach

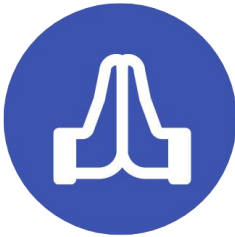


PROJECT



TARGET

We need your help to raise **£21,000** to support this three year project.



PRAYER

Please do pray for the work of Bridge Builders as well as for our local schools and children.



DONATE

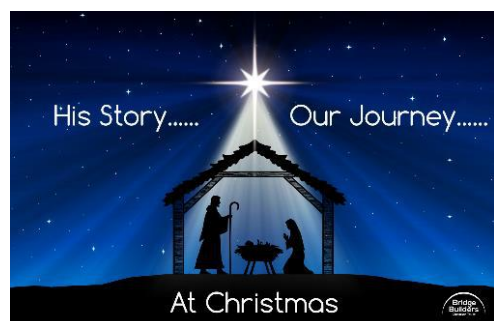
Please consider giving a monthly or one-off donation.

The REach project is an exciting opportunity to reach even more children, with the good news of Jesus, throughout Stevenage and surrounding areas.

Building on the success of the online Journeys, The REach project aims to produce an online interactive journey for each and every year group throughout primary school, reaching upwards of 10,000 children **EACH** year!

All Change in a Covid Pandemic

The Christmas Journey in 2020



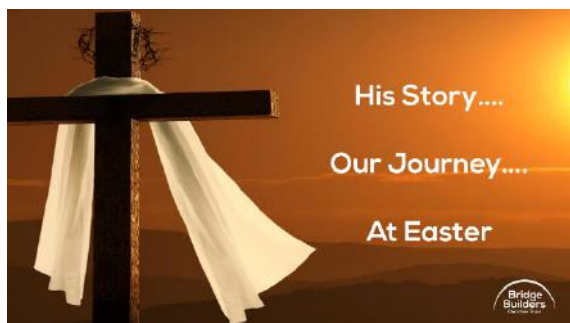
The Virtual Christmas Journey was a new venture for us, involving recording, editing and releasing YouTube clips to schools. We want to say a big thank you to the volunteers who took part, in quite trying circumstances. In particular, go and have a look at the narrators and shepherds on our YouTube channel, who were recorded individually on a green screen, and then 'stitched' together, due to adhering to the 2 metre rule!

6 hours setting up and setting down the equipment	2 days spent delivering the craft to the schools	13 volunteers helped with the recording
4.5 hours spent ironing a green screen	90+ hours spent video editing The Virtual Christmas Journey	1200 children attended from 21 schools

"I just wanted to send you an email to say a huge 'thank you' for the fantastic virtual Christmas Journey, which we completed with our Year 2 classes yesterday."

"We were extremely impressed with the high quality of the videos and the acting was brilliant! The children were so engaged and learnt so much. They loved the activities too, they were pitched at exactly the right level and kept them busy for most of the day. The instructions were clear, and everything was so well organised. I really cannot thank you enough for making it such a wonderful day for both children and staff."

All Change in a Covid Pandemic



The Easter Journey in 2021

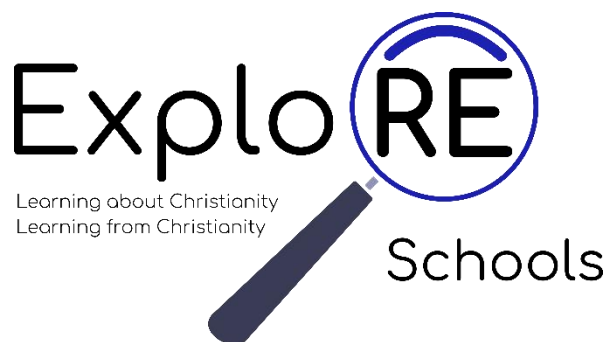
We decided before Christmas that it was unlikely The Easter Journey would be in person so decided to make that virtual. We planned to record in person, in January, and the schedule was set in early December. However, plans had to change again, due to lockdown, and rather than using those who had volunteered, we had to use mainly local clergy who we knew had the right equipment. They sent their recordings into the office to be edited. Thanks to all those who were happy to help!



If you wish to have a peek at our Journeys please visit our Bridge Builders YouTube channel.

We have also spent hours writing, recording and editing assemblies for local schools. There has been good feedback from a couple of schools.

"I had planned to contact you with regards assemblies as we would like to continue accessing these. Many thanks for providing them, and I can honestly say the children really do like and appreciate them.....we would still be interested in any other assemblies that you provide."
From a local teacher.



In addition, we have finally managed to record a year 6 lesson on 'Overcoming evil and promoting good'. One or two schools have used that over the summer term. Please pray for us as we work on getting more lessons recorded.



Volunteer

At Bridge Builders our volunteers are a huge part of our ministry. The time and skills of our volunteers are a valuable resource, helping us with a wide range of tasks throughout the year.

Visit our website to find out more about our volunteering opportunities. We would love for you to be involved in our ministry work, helping to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the children across Stevenage.





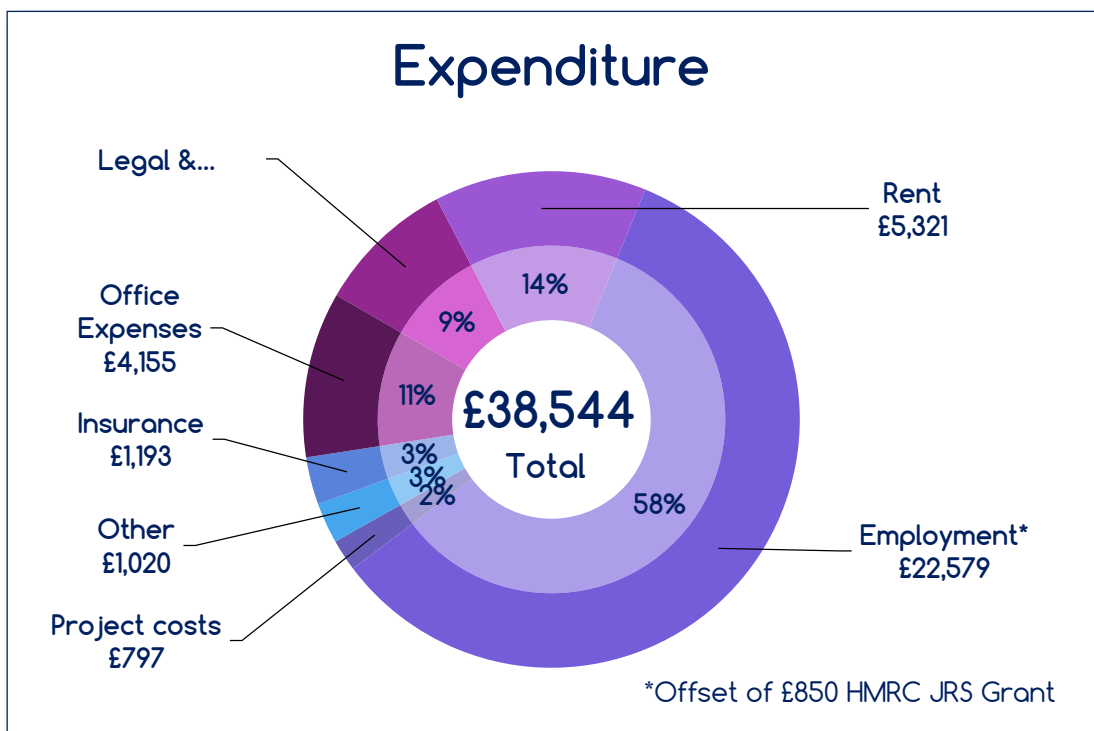
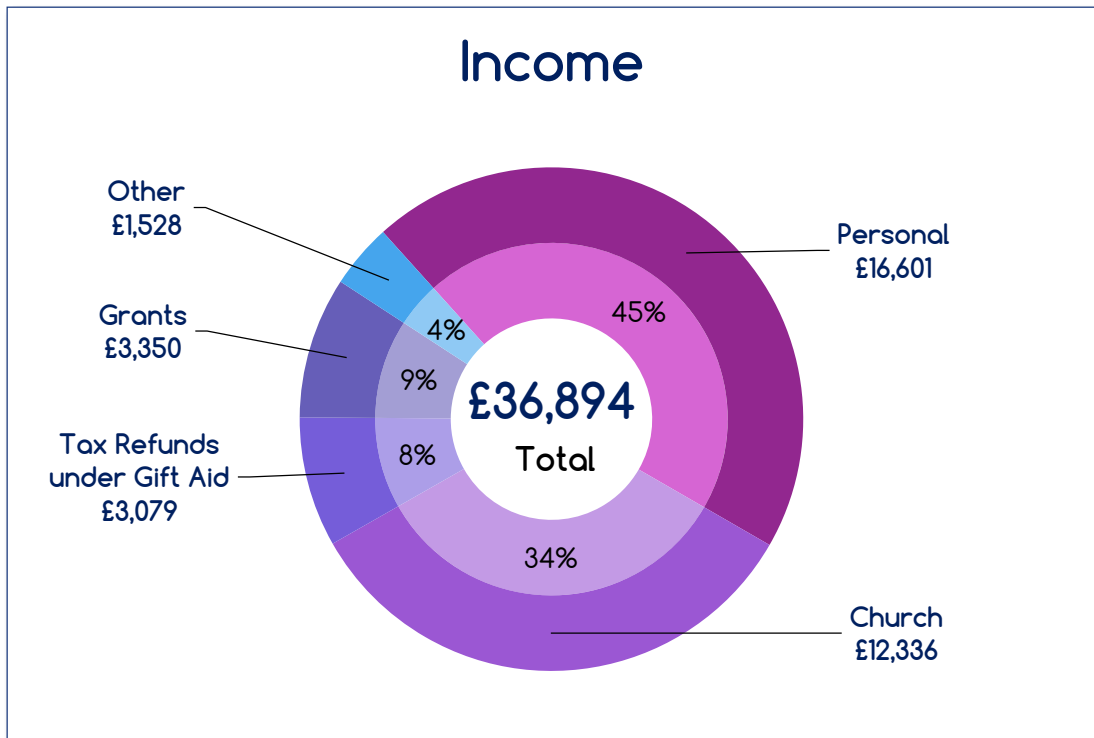
Prayer Meetings & Fundraising Events

The friends of Bridge Builders meet regularly to support, fundraise and to pray for the work of Bridge Builders.



Accounts

Income and Expenditure (£) for the Year Ended 31 August 2021



The Team

Staff Team

Mrs Stephanie Knell—Acting Director until May 2021/ Director from June 2021

Mrs Janice Hawketts—Finance and IT Manager

Miss Natalie James—Schools Worker

Mrs Karen Ashton—Administrator (resigned May 2021)

Mrs Amanda Bryant—Communications Officer and Administrator

Trustees

Mr Anthony Taylor (Chair)

Mr Peter Gordon

Revd. Steven Cooper (resigned December 2020)

Mrs Penny Paton

Mrs Helen Gale

Mrs Judy Brown



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