

Chairman's Report on behalf of the Trustees

The academic year of 2024/2025 has proved to be one of much blessing, provision, protection and growth as our glorious God has led and directed us throughout. It is he who has prospered the important work of this charity and so it is to him that we bring the glory.

Unlike so many charities, which were pushed to extinction during the Covid 19 crisis which resulted in extended lockdowns and temporary but lengthy restrictions upon individuals and corporate bodies, BSYW not only survived but ultimately thrived as new and alternative ways were discovered and implemented to take the message of God's love into local schools across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. Many businesses and organisations suffered immense financial loss and encountered closure but through the practical and sacrificial giving of churches and others from the local Christian "family", God has enabled this valuable work to continue both then and since. It has been possible to continue to remunerate ministries on an interrupted basis and to purchase much needed equipment to support them to do so.

We are mindful of the vital part that volunteers have continued to play in their assistance with so many of the visible and "behind the scenes" activities that have enabled the on-going ministry into local schools not simply to persist but to grow and expand. I feel sure that the Trust's new director will grant us far more detail about such activities as school assemblies, workshops, "Walk Through the Bible", "It's your Move", "Christmas Journey", "Step into Easter" and so much more. As trustees, we have been delighted to play our part in overseeing the finances and resourcing of such a fine work and count it a privilege to be involved, albeit often "at a distance".

On 7th March 2025 we were able to celebrate the trust's 30th anniversary and to practically express our love and appreciation for Sue Richards who, after acting as the BSYW's director for three decades, was approaching imminent retirement. It was an exciting and highly emotional evening as many of those associated with the charity (both past and present) met together or sent messages to celebrate God's gracious blessing upon this schools work for so long and to express appreciation of Sue's visionary leadership throughout.

Changing circumstances were to dictate that Sue Richards' retirement was facilitated slightly earlier than expected and the trustees are eternally grateful to our new director Helen Lewis for stepping into the breach at very short notice to

lead the trust's activities just as we are eternally grateful to Sue Richards for the thirty years of devotion, commitment and enthusiastic vision and leadership that she has brought to BSYW and our prayers for her are for a long, fulfilling and meaningful retirement as she doubtlessly will seek out new and creative ways to serve the saviour that she so evidently loves.

The transition to this new leadership of the trust has proved to be smooth, energetic and successful which is very much due to the zeal that Helen has brought to this task, to the ever evident professionalism and support that her team of workers bring, to the powerful wave of intercession upon their behalf that is constantly brought by our faithful team of prayer warriors and, of course, the overriding care and enabling of God who loves and inspires the vital work that this charity pursues and each of the children, families and staff of the schools that it embraces.

In anticipation of Christ's second coming and in response to his triumphant declaration as found in Revelation 22 v 20 when he promises, "Yes, I am coming soon!" we all respond with one voice as we focus upon the escalating importance of this work in reaching out (often singularly) into our local schools – "Amen! Come Lord Jesus".

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kemp (Chairman of Trustees)