

Chairperson
Margaret Surrey

Treasurer:
Angela Fisher

Secretary:
Jean Clark

IT & Web design
Jason Coleman

Other committee
members

Lyn Barnett
Richard Chatterjee
Phil Jones

Co-ordinator
Bobby Jones

Children & YP
project workers
Angie Henley
Debbie Lawson

Events Organiser
Eddie Parsons

Office Administrator
Yvonne Harrison

Introducing.....

Debbie Lawson

our new project worker



Debbie joined our Children & Young People's project team in April this year. She comes to us with 24 years of experience of teaching children. Debbie grew up and went to school in

Croydon and now lives with her 13 year old daughter in the Shirley area of Croydon.

She attends St John's Church, Shirley where she also has a wealth of experience in all types of parish work. She is currently a lively member of her Parochial Church Council and is involved in every aspect of church life.

Welcome Debbie! we are very happy that you have joined us and look forward to adding your expertise to our growing children's work.

**Don't forget about
"Friends of W.B.S." - to
find out more ring
Yvonne in our office.**



Registered Charity No 1041666

Woodside Bereavement Service Newsletter

May 2009

Prayer changes things!

Do you ever get excited when reading the word of God?

The W.B.S. counsellors have a prayer breakfast every quarter and at our latest morning meeting we were listening to what God might have to say to us. This is a process which both the counsellors and the committee have consistently done over the years that W.B.S. has been serving the people of Croydon. We are always thankful for the way God has provided for our needs and excited by the new paths that He leads us into. God encouraged us by giving us a scripture from Isaiah 49 v 8 - 11. Do find time to read it for yourself.

From the start of W.B.S. God has spoken to us about roads and highways and leading us into places where He will set the captives free and where they will find peace. The major highway of our Service has always been working with all age groups. We continue to go down the road which is clearly marked with our children and young people's work but we feel that God may be leading us along another highway also, a parallel road. We believe that God may be asking us to work alongside older people too. The committee have agreed that we test our road sense and begin to seek funding for an older person's development worker. Please pray with us that if this is the time of His favour then the money will be forth coming. These are exciting times and He has never failed us yet!



The Listening Ear,
W.B.S.
143, Tennison Road,
London SE25 5NF

Tel No: 020 8662 1648
wbs@thelisteningear.org.uk
www.thelisteningear.org.uk

Thank You

Ed's Quiz Night

Saturday 9th February saw over 70 of us enjoying another evening Quiz with a Banger's and Mash supper. It was good to see many new faces among the more seasoned of our supporters. Thank you to so many of you who took the trouble to build a team and come along with family and friends.

Money, money, money!

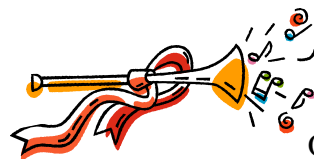
Thank you to everyone who has been praying about our financial needs. We are very grateful to the Lord for providing money for 2 children's workers. This means that Angie Henley, our existing Children and Young People's worker will be able to continue with us the further 3 years which we applied for, funded by Churches Together in England. We have had a favourable response from the Wates Foundation who are willing to fund an extra worker (or give one of our existing workers an extra day) beginning from January 2010 for 2 years. This is an amazing answer to prayer. The Children's work is expanding at a rapid rate and with 2 workers in post we should be able to offer our service to many more schools and individual families.

Training Day at Jury's Inn

We were very fortunate to be able to fund a training day for the Children's Team on Friday 24th April. We had an outside facilitator from the Child Bereavement Charity to help us consider some relevant issues to children who are bereaved or who are now living with one parent following the break up of a relationship. We are very grateful to our funder Churches Together In England who have enabled us to hold this event.

Premises

Many of you will remember that last year we asked you to pray. God has been faithful once again and our landlord, whilst increasing our rent, has offered us another 3 years at 143 Tennison Rd.



Fanfare

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 11th March in Woodside Baptist Church. Our business took up only a small part of the evening and we were able to listen to a very interesting and entertaining talk from Peter Woods, bereavement co-ordinator for Rowland Bros. funeral directors. It was good to know that he also offers a service to those who used their business with regard to claiming benefits after a death.

There were a few changes in our committee this year. Sarah Kiffin & Danna Plummer both resigned from the committee and we still do not have a vice-chairperson either. If there is anyone out there who would like to join a very enthusiastic small charity's management committee we would love to hear from you.

Advance Warning

Phil & Bobby are holding a fundraising Barbeque in their garden on Saturday 4th July. Do put the date in your diary and plan to come along and spend a pleasant evening chatting with friends of W.B.S. and bring family and friends along too!

Come & visit our cards stall on Woodside Green after church on Sunday 14th June from 12.30 pm to 5 pm.

Training Course 2009

WBS is always looking for new volunteer counsellors to work with adults and/or children. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to train with us later in the year. Anyone over 18 yrs welcome. This year in addition to our usual evening course we are hoping to run a condensed day time course - starting soon! The evening course will also include our residential weekend at the Emmaus Retreat Centre in West Wickham where our counsellors had a reflective weekend 2 years ago. Request your information pack from the office now or speak to Bobby or Margaret.

