

Assistant Director's Jottings

Lent

Is it too soon to start talking about Lent? No - Half Term is upon us, and when we return refreshed and renewed to school we are immediately into Shrove Tuesday and the Lenten season. So this is a good time to look at the *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland* website and their Lent course "**sense making faith**" - an exploration of the Christian message through the five senses and through the imagination.



The resources are designed for adult groups, but as I looked through them there were many ideas which would transfer almost directly into school collective worship – in fact there is enough material here to stimulate your worship (all five senses!) through the whole of Lent!. The materials are supported by You Tube videos, photographs and activities.

Here's just a taster (an inhalation?) of the introduction to the "Journey into Smell":

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The Schools Bulletin is published fortnightly in term. We are pleased to publish news and notices. Please send details and pictures (.jpeg) and we will try to include them. Send to:
debbie.jordan@ely.anglican.org

"Breathe in. What can you smell? Are you even really aware of the way the world comes to us in different scents, both pleasurable and distasteful. Smell affects us in extraordinary ways and can be the powerful evocation of the past, of memory that connects us with other times, places and experiences. Jesus tells us to care especially for those who might live among the unpleasant smells of the world, those who are desperately poor, the homeless, the sick, the dying. To care for them as Jesus asked, we have to contend with those smells and what they tell us about the imperfections of the world, not

just sanitize them, or cover them up and pretend they don't exist. The ability to smell is a gift, as people who cannot smell at all make clear, - we should not waste such a gift. Jesus challenges us to make a world where we can breathe freely.

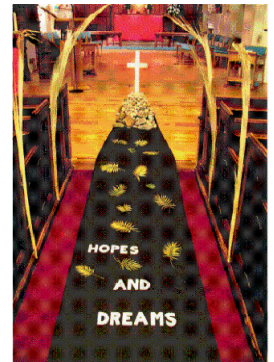


Shirley Hall

Scripture then, can be experienced differently as a smell journey, turning our thoughts to living, loving and dying. So what did Jesus smell in the desert and how did it bring home to him what he was doing and what it would cost?"

If this has got you thinking then check out <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/362/>

Here in Ely we have also been thinking about exploring the Christian message through the senses and the imagination. A number of you were able to visit the "Experience Christmas" displays last term.



These are interactive stations which can be set up in a church and which allow children to engage with the Christmas story in a very different way – many of those who visited the displays were fired up to try out the materials in their own settings. So, building on this, we shall be setting up "Experience Easter" displays in **Waterbeach Church (2nd-6th March)** and **Yaxley Church (9th-13th March)**.

These materials help children (and adults too!) to engage with the story of Holy Week and Easter and relate it to their own lives. The displays will be available for viewing between 4.00 and 6.00 p.m. so do come along – and bring someone from your church with you if you can!

If your school is within easy distance of one of the venues, you can even bring your children in during the school day – this must be booked in advance (01353 652725 [re-sources.centre@ely.anglican.org](mailto:resources.centre@ely.anglican.org))

So we send you our good wishes for a restful or exciting Half Term (however you decide to spend your time!) and we hope to see you afterwards at Waterbeach or Yaxley as you embark on your own journey towards Easter!

From the Schools Team

Church School—Cathedral Days

As usual the October Cathedral Days for Church Schools have filled up very quickly. You can check your booking at <http://ely.anglican.org/education/schools/documents/Booked.pdf>



There are still spaces available on the Community Schools Days (14th & 15th October) and Church Schools are very welcome to book for these if they were unable to get in on their original date – bookings can be made on the original form, just

change the date as appropriate.

The Community Schools Days are the same format as the Church Schools Days.

Join us to “Sing with the World”

Do you want to bring a Christian world dimension to your acts of collective worship? Jan Payne, one of the Worship Team from last year’s Lambeth Conference, will be leading a day workshop on Christian worship songs from around the world, especially for schools, on **Monday 2nd March 10.00– 3.00 at Bishop Woodford House, Ely.**

Participants will receive a copy of the “**Sing with the World**” music book and CD from the Iona Community, a new worship book designed especially for use with primary schools.

Booking form available at :

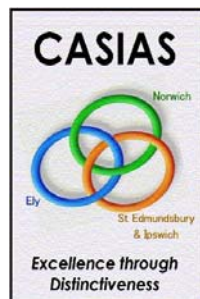


<http://ely.anglican.org/education/schools/documents/bookingformSingWorld.pdf>

Are you reviewing your SIAS SEF?

One of the issues which arose in the first round of SIAS inspections was that schools filled out tremendously long audits of provision in their SIAS SEF, but did not take the time to engage fully with the four key SIAS questions which concentrate on a school’s Christian Values and the how these impact on school life.

As a result, we have placed a new document on the CASIAS website (a “Son of SEF”) which helps to redress



the balance by asking the SEF questions in a different way.

Do take a look – you might actually find it more helpful to give this document to an inspector rather than the full SEF.

Download it from:

http://www.casias.org.uk/support_materials.htm

For Governors

Governor Training Event



This is a reminder that there is a governor training evening at:

**The Diocesan Office on Tuesday 24th February
(7.00 – 9.00 p.m.)**

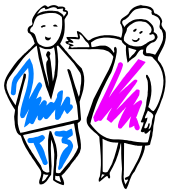


Shirley will be sharing with you the latest materials relating to **SIAS Inspection** and also promoting the national document on **Church School RE – “Excellence and Distinctiveness”**.

The course is for all governors of Church of England and Inter-church schools, in particular foundation governors. Cambridgeshire governors please book through Governor Services in the normal way (course code CSI/01), Norfolk and Peterborough governors please contact Shirley direct on shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org or 01353 652712.

Please note: This course is not identical to the governor training evening in November, but obviously there will be a certain amount of overlap.

Hellos and Goodbyes



No announcements this issue

In our Prayers over the next month



Day	School
20th February 2009	St John's CE Primary School, Orton Goldhay
21st February 2009	St John's CE Primary School, Stanground

Newly appointed Governors

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

- ◆ **Valerie Ward—Farcet Church of England Primary School**
- ◆ **Nichola Bradford—William de Yaxley Church of England Junior School**
- ◆ **Antony Cox—Linton Church of England Infant School**



May I ask all Clerks to keep a check on the **terms of office** of all Foundation Governors and advise me of any re-appointments.

Thank you, Debbie

* Debbie

Vacancies

SCHOOL	VACANCY	CLOSING DATE
	None to report	

Contact details for all schools can be found on our website:
www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/Info/Sch

Dates for the Diary



RE Liaison Group Meeting	11th Feb 2009 4.15-5.15	Thriplow Primary School
Governor Training	24th Feb 2009 7pm-9pm	Diocesan Office, Ely
RE Liaison Group Meeting	26th Feb 2009 4.15-5.15	Great Paxton Primary School
"Sing with the World" Workshop	2nd Mar 2009 10am-3pm	Bishop Woodford House Ely
RE Liaison Group Meeting	5th Mar 4.15-5.15	Teversham School
RE Liaison Group Meeting	11th Mar 4.15-5.15	St Peter's Junior School, Wisbech
RE Liaison Group Meeting	18th Mar 4.15-5.15	All Saints School, March
RE Liaison Group Meeting	19th Mar 4.15-5.15	Diocesan Office, Ely
RE Liaison Group Meeting	26th Mar 4.15-5.15	Linton Infant School
Praise Party (with Scripture Union)	15th May 2009	Ely Cathedral
Rave in the Nave	10th July 2009	Ely Cathedral
Children's 900th Celebration Service	19th Sept 2009	Ely Cathedral
Church School—Cathedral Days	6th&7th Oct 2009	Ely Cathedral
Community Schools—Cathedral Days	14th&15th Oct 2009	Ely Cathedral

SIAS Reports

Inspection Reports (Ofsted and Statutory Church School Inspection) were published recently for the following schools:

Nothing to report this issue

These Inspection Reports can be read directly via the link on our website. Click on:

"Information about Individual Schools" on the Ely Education or Schools homepages