

Director's Jottings

Different laws: one System

Although it's great to get away for a few days over half-term, the deluge of e-mail and correspondence that awaits on return is always the down side (although a reminder of why you needed the break!).



Photo courtesy of the Church Times

In the pile this week have been a consultation from Cambs LA on raising the price of denominational transport; details of the bids in a competition to promote a new primary school in Cambourne; several Admissions Policy proposals from schools in Peterborough; schools re-organisation proposals in Norfolk and Suffolk; several Headteacher appointment applications and some personnel and school inspection correspondence.

Several of these come to me because the diocese is a statutory body that has to be included in the discussion; in some we are involved because church schools operate within their own legal framework.

For example, each Voluntary Aided School is an Admissions Authority in its own right. Since church schools that are VA also have 'religious character', they can, if they choose, use religious criteria within their admissions policy. But they must also abide by the government's Admissions Code that applies to every school and local authority and they also have a duty to consult with other admissions authorities in their area and take note of any advice given by their diocesan Board of Education.

Amid all the recent fuss engendered by the foundation lecture at the Royal Courts of Justice given by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Radio 4 radio interview, some have suggested that there is and should be just single (secular) legislation for everybody. That religion is and should be entirely a matter of private opinion with no different legal provisions made other than to ensure tolerance and equal treatment for all.

In education, so long as there have been church schools, this manifestly isn't the case. The 1944 Education Act and all subsequent legislation makes different provisions for church schools

(and other categories). There is a single overall public system and many requirements that apply to every school in the land. There are also clear legislative hierarchies such that some requirements have precedence over other discretions. But in areas such as Admissions, Inspection, Collective Worship, governance etc. there are different frameworks.



Tim Elbourne

It's one of the things that opponents of 'faith schools' and those who advocate a uniform secular system dislike, but by and large it has served our nation well for many generations.

It is an acknowledgement that there is diversity of belief and culture and that religious communities can be accorded appropriate space to be themselves whilst remaining entirely within the publicly maintained and regulated system.

Our schools are not schizophrenic—split between state and church loyalties. Nor are their pupils, staff and governors schizophrenic.

Christians have a dual citizenship; citizens in Christ and also of the nation. Sometimes this brings tensions but it is something we learn to live with and at times the tension can itself help people to deepen and grow.

And in any case all human beings, from early childhood, have to learn to hold together different affections, loyalties and ties; family and friend, home and work/school.

So perhaps our own experience of a 'dual' education system and our own maturity in balancing and helping our children to balance their multiple identities and loyalties can help reduce fearfulness of daring to discuss accommodation of different religious codes, such as Sharia, within our own society

You can read 'Sharia law' - What did the Archbishop actually say?' at <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1581>

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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

Notice to VA Schools

Devolved Formula Capital

All VA Schools should now have received their end of year assurance forms from the DCSF. Please forward these as soon as possible to David Hicks at the Diocesan Office.

We will complete the data on your behalf and return for signing.

Thank you.

David Hicks, Schools Finance and Buildings Officer

From the Schools Team

Easter Activities

Come and explore Ely Cathedral and discover the meaning of Easter.

Activities include:



CRAFTS-STORIES-DRAMA-SONGS-EASTER TRAIL

The cost is only £3 per pupil!

For further details about this activity please contact:

Jan Munt

Cathedral Education Officer, Cathedral Centre, Ely

Tel: 01353-659668



Email: education.officer@cathedral.ely.anglican.org

Moving Tales

The National Archives offers free access to first-hand experiences of migrants.

The four modules in the Moving Here site explore different parts of England's migration history. It will encourage pupils to discover Britain's multicultural society.

Ideal for KS2 history and geography, citizenship and ICT.

For further information log on to:

www.movinghere.org.uk/schools



24 Hour Tea and Coffee Break!

A cup of coffee costs pounds, yet an Ethiopian coffee farmer can get just 2p for the beans that make it.

Be part of ActionAid's 24 Hour Tea and Coffee Break on Friday 29 February 2008 and help give poor farmers a break – by taking one yourself!

By holding a fair trade tea or coffee morning you can support ActionAid's work with small-scale farmers in the developing world and take action against the global injustices that keep them poor

To get a FREE pack with everything you need to organise an event call 01460-238047 or email: coffee@actionaid.org or visit www.coffeebreak.org.uk



From our Schools

Katherine of Aragon Remembered



On Tuesday 29th January 96 children and 10 adults from St Augustine's School, Woodston attended the Commemoration Service for Katherine of Aragon in Peterborough Cathedral, just over the river from the school. The many invited guests included the Spanish Ambassador, the Lord Lieutenant of the County and the mayors of Peterborough and Amptill.

The children were dressed as Tudors and took part in a grand parade through the streets to the Cathedral, where they were heralded in by a fanfare of trumpets. The children along with other school groups, performed a Tudor song and danced to recorder and tambour accompaniment.

The whole congregation then paraded through the cathedral to the tomb of Henry VIII's first wife, to lay flowers



in remembrance, before hearing the last letter that she wrote to him from her death bed.

Guests were then invited to view display work from the children's topic.

This included portraits of Henry VIII and his wives, drawings of Tudor buildings as well as some reports on putting Henry VIII on trial and life in Tudor times.



This was a great finale to our Tudor topic in the Autumn Term. The children were very excited to see themselves on Anglia T.V. that evening, and then in the Evening Telegraph the next night.

Many guests at the service congratulated the children on the size of the group, the behaviour and performances of the children. Everyone that went was very impressed by the whole occasion.

From our Schools

Keeping an eye open to stop waste

For the last 2 years 140 pupils from across Norfolk have been taking part in an “energy busting” project which helped them to cut carbon emissions by 40% in their schools through a range of lifestyle changes.



Pupils from St Martin at Shouldham Primary School with their energy display

After running a 2 year series of “Switch Off, Keep Cool” weeks which helped them to cut enough polluting gases to fill 8,383 wheelie bins, they have now been rewarded for their commitment to the green project.

Gathering at Swaffham’s EcoTech Centre the children waited to hear the winners of the competition.

Amongst the winning schools was St Martin at Shouldham Primary School, near King’s Lynn who won a prize for “spreading the message”

Pupils’ sums add up to £1,700

Clever primary school pupils have raised £1,700 by taking part in a maths challenge.

Youngsters at Sutton Primary School raised the money for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) by getting sponsored to complete a series of increasingly difficult tricky sums and problems.



Pupils who took part in the maths challenge

The charity’s regional organiser was delighted to visit the school to count the cash. Headteacher Gill Gilbert said “It’s a tremendous achievement by all pupils”.

“We might even raise some more as one or two families have still to return the sponsor forms and money raised.”

Wake and Shake!



Children across East Cambridgeshire are getting fit after a report by the Cambridge-based Child Public Health Intelligence Team revealed that the district’s youngsters are fatter in the region.

Schools have reacted to the news by promoting healthier meals, exercise drives and cookery classes.

Since the report, Little Thetford Primary School children start their days with Wake and Shake each morning at 9am.

Headteacher, Tony Breese said “We spend 8 to 10 minutes every morning with parents, teachers and children all joining in; it sets them up for the school day.”

Now the school is hoping to be awarded Healthy School status by the end of the year—a national government initiative aimed at promoting wellbeing in school and home.



Lt. Thetford Pupils Wake and Shaking

The Government hopes that by 2009 more than 70% of schools will have signed up to the scheme, which involves them sticking to stringent guidelines as to what schools can sell in their canteens, tuck shops and vending machines.

River of Silver

Pupils from St Andrew’s Church of England Primary School, Soham celebrated Book Week with a wildlife and environment theme.

Upper and Lower pupils brought in their spare change to create a ‘river of silver’ to donate to a representative from the Wildlife Trust.



St Andrew’s pupils bring in their spare change to create a river of silver

Brenda Rose from St Andrew’s school said “The lady from the Wildlife Trust went away with a bucket full of silver”.



The Bishops' Lent Appeal



Rt. Revd. Dr Anthony
Russell

The Bishops' Lent Appeal 2008 focuses on the work of the Schieffelin Institute of Health in Karigiri, South India, because this hospital is located within Ely's link diocese of Vellore.

Ever since its foundation in 1955 the hospital has been at the fore-front of leprosy care. It was a pioneer of the Multi Drug Therapy which now transforms the lives of leprosy sufferers, and also of innovative surgery on tendon transfer to restore some of the use to damaged limbs.

No one with leprosy is ever turned away. There is also a vibrant hospital church and committed chaplaincy team who provide vital spiritual care.

More than 1,400 people per day were diagnosed with leprosy in 2005.

This disease is acquired through airborne infection and has been curable for the last 20 years. Yet the stigma remains, and many of those who could be cured do not come forward for treatment for fear of shame and rejections.



£35 will pay a nurse's salary for one month, or for sight saving eye surgery; £90 will pay for hand surgery; and £120 will pay for the medical care of one patient.

Donations marked 'Lent Appeal' may be sent to Dr Bridget Nichols, The Bishop's House, Ely CB7 4DW

An Early Easter



This year Easter Day falls on March 23rd, almost the earliest date it can be. Fixing the date of Easter was a problem for the early Church. The Jewish calendar is lunar; the civil calendar of Rome, set by Julius Caesar, is also solar.

The Church's calendar is a holy marriage of both. Thus, most saints' days and Christmas are fixed according to the solar cycle, and thus occur on the same date each year, but Easter was left to vary according to the lunar cycle. The Council of Nicaea decided it should be the first Sunday after Passover.

By medieval times, our astronomy had advanced to the point where it should have been possible to calculate when those lunar holy days would occur. But in practice, such calculations turned out to be surprisingly difficult. By the sixteenth cen-

trury, with Christianity spreading across the globe, it became all the more urgent to find a simple reliable way of letting everyone know well ahead of time when Easter and its associated feasts were to be celebrated.

Pope Gregory's calendar committee settled on a simple and elegant solution. Instead of trying to determine with perfect accuracy the Moon's position and the first day of spring they devised a formula which closely follows the 'first Sunday after Passover' rubric, so the earliest that Easter can fall is March 22nd – this occurs roughly once every two centuries!



March 23rd, this year's date, is a once-a-century event – the next one is in 2160.

For Governors

Welcome to newly appointed Foundation Governors

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

- ◆ Sally Windsor—Wisbech St Mary CE Primary School
- ◆ Christopher Godfrey—Wisbech St Mary CE Primary School
- ◆ Helen Barry—Wisbech St Mary CE Primary School
- ◆ Suzanne Konzelmann—St Paul's CE Primary School
- ◆ Jane Lee—Bourn CE Primary School
- ◆ Melissa Taylor—Thriplow CE Primary School

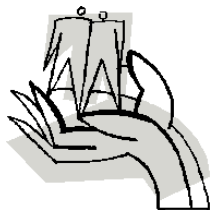
May I ask all Clerks to keep a check on the terms of office of all Foundation Governors and advise Debbie Jordan of any re-appointments.

Thank you,

Debbie



In our Prayers over the next month



Day	School
27th February 2008	St Botolph's CE Primary School Orton Longueville
29th February 2008	St John's CE Primary School, Orton Goldhay
1st March 2008	St John's CE Primary School, Stanground
5th March 2008	Swaffham Bulbeck CE Primary School

Vacancies

SCHOOL	VACANCY	CLOSING DATE
Burrough Green CE Primary School	Headteacher	22.2.08
Gt. Gidding CE Primary School	Headteacher	29.2.08
St Augustine's CE Junior School	Headteacher	29.2.08

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

SIAS Reports

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

- **Burrough Green CE Primary School**
- **Linton CE Infant School**

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

“Information about Individual Schools” on the Education or Schools homepages

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Dates for the Diary

RE Meeting	21st Feb 2008	Linton CE Infants School
Fair-trade Fortnight	25th Feb -9th March 2008	
RE Meeting	27th Feb 2008	Lantern School, Ely
RE Meeting	28th Feb 2008	March All Saints Inter-Church Primary School
Bishop's Schools Visitor Training Day	4th March 2008	Bishop Woodford Retreat House, Ely
SIAS Governor Training Evening	5th March 2008	Diocesan Office, Ely
Building Services Update Meeting	17th March 2008	Diocesan Office, Ely
Gifted & Talented in RE	16th May 2008	Swynford Paddocks Hotel, Newmarket

Fairtrade Event

Saturday 1st March 2008—11am to 2.30pm
Cathedral Centre, Ely



Exhibitions, games, displays as well as a Fairtrade and book stall plus refreshments will be available.

Becoming a Fairtrade Diocese by 2009 is our stated aim!

We're on the web!
www.ely.anglican.org/education