

Director's Jottings

FiSH!



I recently came across the Pike St Fish Market in Seattle. Almost bankrupt in 1986 it is now a popular tourist destination, attracting up to 10,000 daily visitors and getting 10 times the business of its competitors.

The secret is the infectious attitude of its workforce. They realised that the often mundane tasks of running a fish market could be transformed by a change of attitude, having fun and engaging people, whether they have come to buy or just look. So the fish fly and there is a carnival atmosphere. Try keeping a straight face when you throw or catch a fish!

The basic philosophy can be summarised in four steps:

1. **Choose your attitude.**
2. **Play**
3. **Make their Day**
4. **Be Present**

Make Their Day



Choose Your Attitude

The basic tenets can be adapted to many other contexts, including schools.

Last autumn, Jeremy and I visited a school in Essex which has been working with *Edison Learning* to adopt the 'Fish Philosophy'. Staff spoke warmly of the way in which the school had been transformed for the better. Colleagues in Norfolk may also have encountered it in the context of staff well-being support.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It needn't be a season of 'sackcloth and ashes.' Rather, it can be a chance to search inwards and look outwards—and to adopt some of the maxims of Fish Philosophy!

Choose your Attitude

Whether it's the attitude we adopt to ourselves, others around us, our work or our school, we *do have choices*. The fishmongers decided to make the best of what could be an unpleasant job.

Play

Life doesn't have to be dour and here children have much to teach adults. "We take the business seriously, but we discovered we could be serious and still have fun with the way we conducted our business".



Tim Elbourne

Make their Day

It's simply about focussing not just on ourselves, but on others and trying to make a positive impact; "We look for as many ways as we can to create great memories, and we create great memories whenever we make someone's day"

Be Present

Annoying isn't it when you are talking to someone and it's obvious they are distracted or bored? Many spiritual books have been written on learning to be present, to be focused on what's happening now and the person you are with at this particular time. To be fully alive to the moment.



Lent can be a good time to work on these principles

—ourselves or with our pupils. To help, there is a special Live Lent website with ideas, collective worship materials and other resources,

See www.livelent.net/schools.

There's lots online about 'Fish!'

See www.pikeplacefish.com.

Although its style isn't to every British taste, you can read more in *Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results*; quick and easy to read and a little over a fiver from Amazon.

Inside this issue:

Director's Jottings

1

The Schools Team

2

- Hong Kong Contacts

From the Diocese

- Bishop David's Blog
- Encouraging Statistics
- Positive Poll Evidence

From the National Society

3

- Revised School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeal Code
- Teaching Awards

From our Schools

- Lunchtime reward for good pupils
- Piece of the action

For Governors

- Newly appointed Foundation Governors

The Back Page

4

- Hellos and Goodbyes
- In our Prayers this Month
- Vacancies
- Dates for the Diary
- SIAS Reports

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

From the Schools Team

Hong Kong Contacts



School Links

When I was there last term, there was strong interest in Hong Kong for establishing links between their church schools and ours. Hong Kong schools are highly ICT savvy and their pupils are very keen to develop contacts with children in the UK via church school links.

If you are interested in linking with a school in Hong Kong, Please contact:

Debbie (email: debbie.jordan@ely.anglican.org)

with the name of the teacher wanting to make the link, and the year group(s) of the class involved.

Welcome

It's good to welcome Joseph Nam, a Headteacher from Hong Kong, to our Diocese. Joseph is spending some weeks at Westcott House as part of a sabbatical and will be visiting schools.

Gap Year Opportunities

There is a good scheme which enables post or pre-university gap year students to spend a year in Hong Kong as a Teaching Assistant supporting English language in a primary or kindergarten school. Expenses, accommodation and living allowance are provided. No prior teaching qualification or experience is required. This is an Anglican scheme and can include a local church link. See website at: <http://www.hkgaps.org.uk>. Further details from Tim.

From the Diocese

Bishop David's Blog



Go to: www.bpdt.wordpress.com

Bishop David writes:

The blog now has 62 entries, and has attracted 3214 viewings since it was launched at the beginning of the year. Please consider passing on news of its existence to others you know either electronically or view magazines etc.

I've now made the instructions on how to add your comments rather clearer. Just follow the text in blue near the top of the page. The more comments the better, by and large! And so let me know direct if there is material you think it would be helpful to cover.

Encouraging Statistics

The Church of England has just published its attendance stats for 2007. Nationally attendance rose by 1% from 2006 **In the Diocese of Ely the rise was 5%!** Press reports will carry a bit of doom and gloom because nationally attendance by under-16s fell by 4% on the same count. **But in Ely Diocese it rose by nearly 8%!** In fact Ely attendances rose on every count for which separate diocesan figures were released, except electoral roll which declined slightly but much less than across the country as a whole Provisional 2006 and 2007 Statistics for Mission. **Average Weekly Attendance:** All age 18,300-19,000 ; Adults 15,000-15,100 ; Children & Young People 3,300-3,800; **Average Sunday Attendance:** All Age 15,600-6,000; Adults 13,500-13,800 ; Children & Young People 2,200-2,300

Positive Poll Evidence

The **BBC** commissioned poll on faith in public life reveals almost two-thirds of those questioned said the law "should respect and be influenced by UK religious values", and a similar proportion agreed that "religion has an important role to play in public life". Significantly almost eight out of 10 Muslims polled (and almost as many Hindus and Sikhs), supported a strong role in public life for the UK's essentially Christian traditional religious values, rather more than the three quarters of those identifying themselves as Christian who said the same thing. The findings illustrate the growing alliance between people of different faith groups against the rolling back of religion in general in the public arena.

From the National Society

Revised School Admissions Code



The revised School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code were presented to Parliament on 4 December 2008 and came into force on 10th February 2009.

The Codes apply to all maintained schools and Academies in England and are available to download at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/sacode

Teaching Awards

If you know of a teacher, teaching assistant, governor or even a whole school that deserves to be thanked for doing a wonderful job, the deadline for nominating them for a Teaching Award is **1st March 2009**.

For further details please go to their website:

www.teachingawards.com



From our Schools

Lunchtime reward for good pupils



MP James Paice with pupils and staff at St Mary's Junior School

A primary school in Ely has come up with a way of encouraging good behaviour among its pupils.

St Mary's Junior School has introduced the Play Pals scheme which sees youngsters who behave well eating at a "high table" at lunchtimes. Instead of punishing bad behaviour, it encourages children to behave well at school by rewarding them.

The pupils even invited James Paice MP for South East Cambridgeshire for lunch at the "high table".

He said "This scheme is a fantastic example of promoting good behaviour rather than discouraging bad behaviour. I thoroughly enjoyed my lunch!"

Piece of the action

CHESSE-SAVVY pupils have proven they are kings of the board in a prestigious competition.

Children at Rackham Church of England Primary School in Witchford, put in a record breaking performance in the national zone of the recent primary schools chess championships in Grimsby.

The under-nines team won all five of their games against opposition from Caister, North Somercotes, Grimsby and Louth—losing only one out of 25 boards during the day.



They now go on to the national semi-finals in the summer. The school's under-11 team also finished top and go through to their section of the national finals.

Headteacher and chess coach Sid Wales, said "Both teams set off a very high standard and just kept it going the whole tournament".

For Governors

Newly appointed Governors

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

- ◆ **John Grinnell—Gt Gidding Church of England Primary School**
- ◆ **Andrew Everitt—Milton Church of England Primary School**

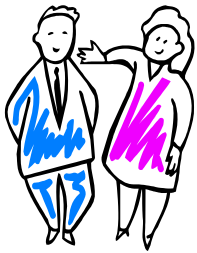
May I ask all Clerks to keep a check on the **terms of office** of all Foundation Governors and advise me of any re-appointments.

Thank you,

Debbie



Hellos and Goodbyes



Louise Clark has been appointed as the new Headteacher at Linton Infant School

Barrington Church of England Primary School appointed **Fran Catterson** as their new Headteacher.

Keith Archer has now been appointed Headteacher at Burrough Green Church of England Primary School.

Many congratulations to all the above!



In our Prayers over the next month

Day	School
3rd March 2009	Wisbech St Mary Church of England Primary School
3rd March 2009	Guyhirn Church of England Primary School

Vacancies

RE Adviser—Norwich Diocese

This is an exciting new post for an excellent practitioner with a good understanding of the key role of RE within the curriculum.

Can you:

Help our church schools to be excellent and distinctive?

**Enthuse others about RE?
Work as part of a team?**

Based at Diocesan House, Easton near Norwich.
Further details and an application form can be obtained from:

Miss Angela Sixsmith, Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton,
Norwich NR9 5ES E-mail:

angela.sixsmith@norwich.anglican.org

Tel: 01603 881352 Web: www.norwich.anglican.org/jobs

Closing date: 6 March—Interviews: 20 April 2009

Dates for the Diary



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
Headteachers' Conference	27th March	Bishop Woodford House
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:

- ◆ **William de Yaxley Church of England Junior School**
- ◆ **Mepal & Witcham Church of England Primary School**

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