

## Director's Jottings

## Education Sunday 8 February 2009

Education Sunday is the national day of prayer and celebration for all those involved in the world of education. This year's theme is *The Earth is the Lord's*, highlighting the role of schools and colleges in helping young people lead lives that recognise the vital importance of caring for God's creation.

## 'THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S.' HOW THEN SHALL WE TEACH?



**Tim Elbourne**

The environmental theme for 2009 compliments a range of activities aiming to 'shrink the carbon footprint' of the Church of England and to encourage greater awareness of the sustainable actions that people and communities can take to try and halt environmental damage and climate change.



The people preparing this year's theme write, 'What is education for? Is it simply about wealth creation, or is it also about wellbeing? Does it train pupils only to compete effectively as individuals, or can education prepare us to live in more sustainable relationships with our fellow human beings, and with the ecosystems on which we depend so completely?'

## 900 Update

As part of our own Ely 900 celebrations there will be a second Education Sunday this year—a special Celebrating Schools event in Ely Cathedral on the afternoon of June 21st. We hope all our church schools will want to come and that parents will want to bring their children and families. More details nearer the time,

At a Diocesan celebration with the Archbishop of Canterbury last weekend, every parish was given a package of materials to support their mission. Included was an envelope from our Team containing glossy leaflets with practical ideas for working with children and young people, including schools. It would be great if in 2009, 'The Year of the Child', the practical links between churches and schools could be further strengthened right across the Diocese.



## And finally...We are Not Alone!

An e-mail bulletin of news from across the Diocese has been launched. It will appear monthly as is intended for local printing and distribution as well as online reading. If you would like to receive this newsletter each month electronically with live links and in colour please go to this weblink to subscribe to the email list: [www.ely.anglican.org/mailman/listinfo](http://www.ely.anglican.org/mailman/listinfo)



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There are many online resources this year to help you include Education Sunday in school and parish.



A colourful quiz sheet, written by the Church of England's environment adviser, David Shreeve gives young people the chance to assess their environmental impact and suggests small steps they can take to cut down their carbon footprint. The quiz sheet is available for download (and printing on recycled paper) from the Church of England's *Shrinking the Footprint* website at [www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/)

Other resources such as a Powerpoint reflection suitable for assembly or church, prayers and material to create prayer stations and song suggestions for assemblies and services, are available at [www.educationsunday.org](http://www.educationsunday.org).

Our Diocese was one of the first to promote church schools becoming Eco Schools and a good number of our schools have attained this status. There is further information on our website at [www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/resources/EcoSchools](http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/resources/EcoSchools).

## Stop Press!

### Church Schools Cathedral Days 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October

Three-quarters of the pupil places on the Cathedral Days have already been allocated!

**Have you got your booking form in yet?**

## From the Schools Team

### RE Liaison Group Meetings – Spring 2009



You know already that this year is the 900th anniversary of the Diocese of Ely, so in a very real sense this is also the 900th Anniversary of **Ely Cathedral** (yes, despite the fact that the original monastery church on the present cathedral site was constructed in the 7th century).



To celebrate the 900th, this term's Diocesan RE Liaison Groups will be an Ely Cathedral Roadshow, and Shirley will be joined by Jan Munt, the Cathedral Education Officer. Many schools already visit the Cathedral regularly, but what you may not have realised is that the Cathedral can also "come to your school", and Jan will be able to tell you about the many different opportunities she has on offer. Meetings are free and last approximately an hour - start time is 4.15 p.m. Venues as follows:

**Thursday 22nd January - Wormegay School, West Norfolk**  
**Thursday 29th January - Farcet School, near Peterborough**  
**Wednesday 11th February - Thriplow School**  
**Thursday 26th February - Great Paxton School**  
**Thursday 5th March - Teversham School**  
**Wednesday 11th March - St Peter's Junior School, Wisbech**  
**Wednesday 18th March - All Saints School, March**  
**Thursday 19th March - Diocesan Office, Ely**  
**Thursday 26th March—Linton Infants School**

### SIAS Training Course



Lately several people have inquired about training as a SIAS or Church School Inspector and so we shall be offering a new course in the Summer of 2009.

When training SIAS Inspectors, the Diocese of Ely works in partnership with the Dioceses of Norwich and St Edmundsbury & Ipswich as the CASIAS Consortium.

The training course consists of:

- ◆ **A pre-course task – this is designed to begin to assess applicants' suitability for the training**
- ◆ **A training day at Norwich Diocesan Offices on 8<sup>th</sup> May**
- ◆ **Shadowing a real inspection and writing a draft section of the report**
- ◆ **A second training day at Ely Diocesan Offices on 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

The two training days will each include an assessed task.

At the end of these sessions, the course leaders will determine whether or not individuals will be permitted to proceed to the final activity which will be undertaking a real inspection while being shadowed by an experienced inspector.

The total cost of the training is £350, however inspectors will receive the full payment for the inspection they undertake.

Currently payment for an inspection stands at £550 for a VA Primary and £450 for a VC Primary. Successful completion of all of these steps means you will become an accredited inspector in the CASIAS region.

We also encourage inspectors to register with the National Society, and this will permit you to inspect church schools anywhere in England. In order to remain accredited, inspectors also have to commit to attending annual training days.

Would-be inspectors need to know that we cannot guarantee you inspections. SIAS Inspectors are independent agents, and whilst the three CASIAS Dioceses will continue to tell you about inspection opportunities as they arise, they do not allocate inspectors to schools.

Inspectors put their names forward for inspections in which they are interested, and the school's foundation governors select their inspector from those available.

If you have any questions or you wish to register for this year's training, please contact Shirley on:

[shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org](mailto:shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org) or 01353 652712.

## From our schools

### *St Bede's Statue*

The statue was created by Peter Ball, a sculptor who has work in many cathedrals and churches including Southwell Minster and Winchester.



The figure of Christ reminds everyone of our distinctive nature as a Christian school; his arms are outstretched in welcome and yet there is an air of mystery about this representation that suggests the mystery at the heart of our faith.

In my first Lower School assembly of the year I explained to our students the link between an original creation like this statue and our own individual uniqueness as God's greatest creation.

I pointed out to them that objects of beauty reflect the source of all beauty, which is God, and we give of our best to Him in the best way that our talents allow.

**Richard Wilkin—Headteacher  
St Bedes**

### *Mexico Day*

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January the Year 2 children at St Andrew's Primary School in Soham took part in a 'Mexico day' as part of their study of a contrasting country. The day was organised by year 2 teachers, Mrs Liz Arnold and Mrs Nan Staines, along with teaching assistants Jeni Gipp and Angela Bowers. The Bishop's schools visitor,

Mr Michael Priestley, came to speak to the children about his time in Mexico and he brought along some artefacts for the children to look at. The children also had the opportunity to taste Mexican foods such as chilli, tortillas, salsa and guacamole...they loved it!



During the day they spent time doing Mexican paper crafts such as 'God's Eyes' ( or in Spanish, Ojo de Dios), a design for a symmetrical tile, paper weaving, a collage of a cactus and a papier mache 'piñatas' – a container for sweets and gifts for children's parties and festivals. The special treat of the afternoon was to taste a chocolate muffin and try and guess what the secret ingredient was! It was chilli! All the food was eaten and many of the parents have asked for recipes!

The day was a huge success and was enjoyed by both children and adults.

### *Turning the page of history*



Children at a village primary school went back to the 1940's. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 at The Vine Primary School in

Cambourne wore

shorts, grey jumpers, pinafores, white shirts with tie, caps and hats and some even had gas mask boxes with them.

They arrived to find the school hall turned into an old fashioned classroom, with rows of tables facing a blackboard, ink pots and ink pens, slates and a picture of King George VI.

Sitting at the high desk at the front of the room was Peter Cromwell, from Dry Drayton based teaching group, Off the Page, who led the activities.

Paul Heaney, from The Vine, said: "The children were very excited and a little bit scared to see the school hall transformed.

"The activities included learning in 1940s style, 'experiencing the cane, being shouted at and being sent to wash out your mouth.

"Everyone also had the opportunity to visit 1940s shops including a post office and café. What a brilliant way to learn".

## For Governors

### *Welcome to newly appointed Foundation Governors*

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

- ◆ **Jonathan Bloom—Thriplow CE Primary School**
- ◆ **Joanna Wood—Thriplow CE Primary School**
- ◆ **Robert Hacking—Great Paxton CE Primary School**

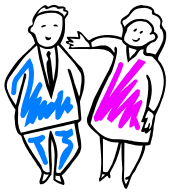
◆ **Evan Kemp—St Peter's CE Junior School**

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



No announcements this issue

## In our Prayers over the next month



Day	School
27th January 2009	Elsworth CE Primary School
4th February 2009	Swaffham Prior CE Primary School
5th February 2009	Swaffham Bulbeck CE Primary School

## SIAS Reports

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

### ◆ Elsworth Church of England Primary School

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**

## Vacancies

SCHOOL	VACANCY	CLOSING DATE
St John's Primary at Stanground	Headteacher	6.2.09
St Bede's	Chaplain see right →	3.2.09
Anthony Curton Primary, Wisbech	Cover Supervisor	30.1.09
Runcton Holme Primary	Extended Schools Co-ordinator	6.2.09
Marshland St James Primary	Classroom Support Staff	9.2.09

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

## Dates for the Diary



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
RE Liaison Group Meeting	29th Jan 2009 4.15-5.15	Farcet Primary School near Peterborough
RE Liaison Group Meeting	11th Feb 2009 4.15-5.15	Thriplow Primary School
RE Liaison Group Meeting	26th Feb 2009 4.15-5.15	Great Paxton Primary School

## St Bede's Inter-Church School

### Chaplain

Full Time (starting date negotiable)  
Salary (£23,749pa)



According to our students, a Chaplain:

*“Talks to people about God”; “considers the feelings of others”; “helps us through the year”; “makes worship fun and interesting”; “is lively and enthusiastic”.*

According to our adults, a Chaplain:

*“Is approachable”; “confident in their own faith”; “works collaboratively”; “able to work well in a school environment”; “develops personal faith and collective worship”.*

St Bede's is an inter-church school and the only Catholic or Anglican maintained secondary school in Cambridgeshire. We strive to be true to both traditions and the Chaplain will have to be spiritually, emotionally and theologically well-equipped for the challenges this presents; he or she should be practising and committed in either the Catholic or Anglican traditions (and could be ordained or a lay person), but must be comfortable with diversity as well as committed to the search for common ground.

If you feel equal to this rewarding challenge and want to play a central role in our happy and successful community, please visit our website for further information and an application form [www.st-bedes.org.uk](http://www.st-bedes.org.uk) or contact Ms Rose Openshaw, PA to the Headteacher, St Bede's Inter-Church School, Birdwood Road, Cambridge CB1 3TD, Tel. 01223 400045 or email [headspa@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:headspa@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk)

Closing Date: **12noon on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009**  
Interviews: Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009