

Director's Jottings

What stories are important to you?

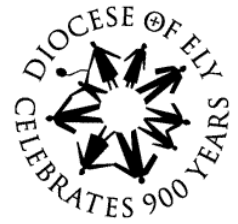
Good stories help us to understand ourselves and the world about us. We are each part of a number of stories ourselves; our family, our community, our nation. It's good to feel part of a larger unfolding narrative; to belong and to know how we take our place in something bigger than ourselves. It's a key factor in learning to 'become ourselves'

In our schools we take our place in several narratives. The life of the class; the history of the school; the Diocesan family and, crucially, the story of God's people and the Christian family.

June is a crucial month for us in celebrating this sense of belonging as we hold three important events described below, continuing to celebrate 900 years of the life of the Diocese of Ely. We hope you can come!

Madeleine Bunting reminded us of some important writing in *The Guardian* last autumn,

'This is where faith schools can have an advantage. They can fall back on a well-known, *religious narrative* to which there is still considerable adherence...Secular ethical traditions are honourable but they lack the familiarity, the symbols, *the narratives and histories that bring the abstract to emotional life*' (8th September 2008)



Farewell Debbie!

We will all have a chance to bid a fond farewell to Debbie, our Schools Administrator, at the Garden Party, but her last day in the Office is this Friday. We will miss her enormously, but say a warm 'Thankyou!' and wish her well in her new role at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

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Celebrate!

Ely Cathedral, Sunday 21st June, 5.30pm

Celebrate School, with Bishop David, is for everyone associated with one of our schools or who simply wants to join in the celebration in this special year for our Church in this region. Come to Celebrate with us!



Garden Party

We are delighted to invite Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Principal Officiating Ministers and their families to a **Garden Party at 3pm on Sunday June 21st** in the delightful garden at Bishop Woodford House, Ely before the Celebrate! service at the Cathedral.

If you haven't yet replied to the RSVP, please send a note to Debbie Jordan Tel: 01353-652724
Email: debbie.jordan@ely.anglican.org



Collective Worship Conference 25th June 2009

Don't forget to book for the **Transforming Collective Worship Conference on 26th June 2009**

Places still available! Booking form at:
<http://ely.anglican.org/education/schools/documents/Transformingcwfinal.pdf>



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



Eucharists and Church Schools

Do you have Eucharists in School, or is that something you wish to explore? A group of twenty heads and clergy met to discuss this question at All Saints Interchurch School in March on June 2nd.

We joined the school for its termly Eucharist with Rev'd Anthony Chandler, and then were able to quiz Anthony and Head-teacher Rachel Voss on the school's practice. A wide-ranging discussion followed on inclusion, theology and practice, and those with experience of school-based Eucharists were able to share ideas. We all agreed that it would be good to meet again in a year's time to see how things had progressed – other schools and parishes will be very welcome to join in.

If you are interested in thinking about Eucharists in School and were not able to attend the meeting you will find a mini-booklet on the subject online at http://ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship/documents/EucharistQuestions.pdf Members of the Schools Team are also happy to come out and talk with schools on an individual basis about this.

Art in Heaven – the NATRE Spirited Arts Competition 2009

Every year NATRE runs an RE and the Arts competition for pupils aged 5-19. This is becoming a very popular event, with 20,000 pupils entering last year. This year there are five themes to choose from – including one specifically on being “Open-minded” – aka community cohesion.



This term schools are being asked to think about the themes of:

Mystery - Life is full of spiritual mysteries. Why are we here? What are we for? Where do we come from? Where do we go? How do we know? Religions all have mysteries. Sometimes they suggest answers to the mysteries too. Where is the love? Who designed the tulips? Why is humanity so beautiful? And why so destructive? Can music bring peace? Is life more precious than gold?

Open-Minded - Everybody likes being open minded – but what does it mean? All religions teach openness, but they don't always practise it! Create an image about being big hearted, broad minded and living together with people you disagree with. Different religions can co-operate.

Life is Sacred - What makes a baby a symbol for hope, a sign of joy? What is the special dignity of old age? Why are choices about life and death so hard, and so important? Religions have lots to say about life as a precious gift. Design and make your work of art to show your own views and questions about

the holiness of life.

Justice for Everyone - Fairness matters! Seeking justices is difficult. You might show a faith-based charity in action: Islamic Relief, Christian Aid or one of many others can be your inspiration. Or maybe you want to reflect your own hopes for a just world in a striking symbol or a powerful image.

Who is God? What do you think? Is God a person like us, or completely different? What image will express your ideas? Atheists and agnostics may say ‘God is nobody’ or ‘God is a person no one knows’ Different religions say some things similar and some different about God's identity. What do you have to say about this, and how will you express it artistically?

Exciting topics I think you will agree! For full details about the competition and some super images from earlier competitions go to <http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts/about.php> Closing date is the end of July. AND, if your pupils produce some excellent work you would like to share with us all – send us an image and we shall feature it in the bulletin and on our website!



Did you know that there is also an annual “Spirited Poetry” Competition? This runs in the autumn term, but if you would

like to see some of the best work from last year, and perhaps use it as a stimulus for your own RE, see:

<http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts/poetry.php>

Would you like £500 worth of RE Resources?

The Jerusalem Trust
Grant for Religious Education resources for teaching Christianity

The Jerusalem Trust are making available to schools a number of grants to support the purchase of resources for teaching Christianity in Religious Education.

These can include textbooks, teacher resources, artefacts, videos,

tapes and CD-ROMs for use in RE lessons. The fund is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK.

Priority is usually given to secondary schools – but several local primary schools have received grants in the past, so it is definitely worth having a go at filling in the form!

You can download the necessary paperwork from <http://www.stapleford-centre.org/extra/grants.php>

From the Schools Team

Child Bereavement Charity

The Child Bereavement Charity has recently launched an illustrated keepsake book to help children to grieve for a loved one which is aimed at primary school age children.



The book called *Remembering*, by Dianne Leutner, allows the child to write about the personal memories they have about the person who has died. The questions in the book, tenderly, yet in a straightforward style, help the child to realise that the person will not suddenly reappear, and encourages them to express their feelings.

It also promotes communication between child and grown up while they work on the book together. There are questions

like: "What I will never forget about you", "If I could whisper something to you now it would be..." and "What made us laugh together". There is also space for drawing or sticking pictures. The book is like a special place for a child to return to, helping them remember and talk about their loved one, whenever they wish.

Remembering is suitable for any child who may have lost a brother, sister, parent, grandparent, friend or any person that they may have known in their lives.

The book is available through the Child Bereavement Charity's website www.childbereavement.org.uk at £5 plus p&p



From our Schools

Linton Infants Get Creative!

Creative sparks really began to fly at Linton CE Infant School as our Creative Week got under way! Centred on the theme of God's Creation, the week was designed to introduce the children to the wide range of creative art forms that exist, through experiencing them first hand.

The children really gave of their all, with much enjoyment they soaked up the enthusiasm of our visiting artists, dramatic performers and printing experts. In their drama workshops, the children worked as teams creating all sorts of different shapes and creatures! Christopher Northall, a visiting artist, encouraged the children



to use items collected from outside as part of their artwork, to create interesting textured effects. Curwen printing showed the children how to create their own templates, and the children in Year 2 worked as a year group to produce a beautifully printed wall hanging showing God's creatures on land, sea and sky.

Through workshops run in house, the teachers allowed the children to get a real flavour for creative ICT, drama and art. The children produced some stunning collaged books telling the

creation story, performed it as actors and indeed learned to retell the story using animation technology.

The week was enhanced as a result of the fantastic weather. We were able to partake in some really enjoyable music and maypole dancing sessions, outside in the sunshine. The children learnt a range of different songs, all based around the theme of creation. The children were also able to carry on their creativity at playtimes, through reading, sketching, chalk drawing and performing.

The children showed a fantastic commitment to Creative Week, and each class rose to the challenge of sharing some of what they had been doing with the rest of the school, in a special Creative Week Sharing Assembly. What a truly fantastic week! We felt this was a really exciting way to get the children engaging with the story of creation. Much of the work was displayed in St Mary's Church, Linton as our contribution to the annual flower festival. All the children visited not only to see their own creation but those made by other members of the community.

Written by Ellie Graham, Creative Development Leader Linton CE Infant School.

For Governors

Newly appointed Governors

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

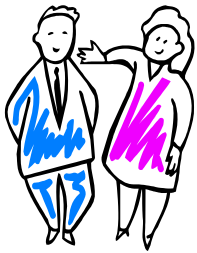
- ◆ **Valerie Walker—Elton CE Primary School**
- ◆ **Margaret Goodger—Ely St Mary's CE Junior School**
- ◆ **Barnaby Perks—Elsworth CE Primary School**
- ◆ **Julie Bivon—James Bradfield CE Primary School**



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,

Hellos and Goodbyes



Lucy Berks has been appointed as the new Deputy Headteacher at Abbots Ripton CE Primary School

Bury CE Primary School has appointed **Paul Woodman** as their new Deputy Headteacher

Stephen Jordan has been appointed as the new Headteacher at St Paul's CE Primary School

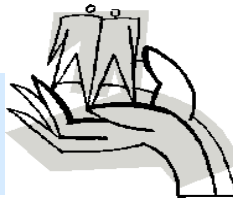
Mepal & Witcham have appointed a new Deputy Headteacher, her name is **Becky Ireland**

Dates for the Diary



900th Anniversary Year of the Diocese Service	21st June 2009 5.30pm	Ely Cathedral
Church Schools Garden Party	21st June 3pm-5pm	Bishop Woodford House
East Anglian Collective Worship Conference	26th June 2009	Diocesan Office, Ely
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
Interfaith Week	15-th-21st November 2009	

In our Prayers over the next month



Day	School
11th June 2009	Hilgay CE Primary School
19th June	Folksworth CE Primary School
20th June	Farcet CE Primary School

SIAS Reports

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

◆ **Elm Church of England Primary School**

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

Vacancies

SCHOOL	VACANCY	CLOSING DATE
St Mary's, St Neots	Headteacher	29.6.09

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

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