

## Director's Jottings



**Peak Evening View**

Although It has been only three and a half weeks, it feels as if I have been in Kong Kong for longer. The air has cooled and the 85% humidity is no more, the bustle of the street markets and the fridge cooled designer malls - Prada or Gucci anyone? – are now mainly ways to get

from A to B, though I did pause curiously last week by a snake vendor – they are now coming into season, yum, yum!

Most days there has been a visit to a school or a project and sometimes a talk or a speaking engagement. Here the Church, and other faith based agencies, are entrusted by government not just with publicly funded schools, but with a wide range of social projects.

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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](mailto:debbie.jordan@ely.anglican.org)

One 'settlement house' I visited, St James', has 36 units. They include a hostel for homeless men, home care and elderly services including nursing homes, child development, a food bank, youth services and kindergartens – even a second hand electrical appliance store and a beauty centre (which provide work and training as well as generating income for the other work). Expansion here means building upwards not outwards; the topping out ceremony I attended was to mark adding two more floors atop the eleven they already had. I had already been taken to lunch that day to the nearby 62<sup>nd</sup> floor revolving restaurant!

Schools are vertical too. It is common in a secondary school for each year group to have its own floor. Starting at the bottom, pupils literally progress to the top form. But some of the facilities are very impressive. Not just computers and whiteboards – how about a school TV studio or, for the staff, a cinema style development and lecture room?

Schools are designated as English or Chinese medium.

The public system here includes, among others, Roman Catholic, Buddhist, and Confucian schools but the colonial heritage means that Anglican and English medium schools are among the most prestigious. However, church schools seek to serve their whole neighbourhood and many are in challenging areas. 'Aided' schools - which include most church schools – receive 100% funding from government. A few schools are classified as Direct Subsidy schools and charge (relatively) modest fees, two words very familiar to us in the UK - Inclusive and Distinctive – are



**Tim Elbourne**

important here too as the Anglican schools seek to work out their vocation to serve the whole community.



**St James' Primary School**

Many of the challenges are the same, whether it is recruitment and retention, raising the achievement of boys or providing for children at either end of the ability range. The schools wrestle also with their identity as church schools; a current dilemma is posed by the introduction of 'liberal studies' as a core secondary subject. Should the church schools be content to include RE within the 'liberal studies' syllabus or retain RE as a separate subject?

Since Hong Kong island is compact, all the clergy meet each week to share the Eucharist, eat breakfast and hold Bible Study and discussion. Last week's discussion was, coincidentally, on school chaplaincy. It was good to hear the extent of the commitment to schools at the centre of the church's mission and all spoke positively of their role in the schools. It seems to so many clergy I have met here blindingly obvious that the parish school is the most crucial point of contact with the community and the place to start. Several congregations are in fact based in schools.

In Kowloon there is a church, school and Religious Education Resources Centre side by side; the latter employs about thirty staff and runs a publishing operation that has just won a secular graphic design prize.



**St Andrew's Shamshuiipa, Kowloon**

It was humbling to learn that in anticipation of my visit, staff had been browsing the Education pages of the Diocese of Ely website and found it an impressive and useful resource.

Hong Kong is, of course, the ultimate global city and crossroads and we have begun to explore together how the global family of Anglican schools might learn more from each other.



**St Andrew's Library**

## From the Schools Team

### *Yes, Christmas is coming! Some Resources...*

Do you get frustrated at this time of year because you cannot find a religious Advent Calendar to use with your class or family? One website which has a selection of "proper Advent Calendars" (including some 3D ones) is <http://www.adventsdirect.co.uk/cal/3685/index/> and don't forget the online Advent Calendar at <http://www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk/>

The Bible Society has placed a powerpoint of the Christmas Story on-line at <http://www.therealstory.org.uk/> using the Good News Bible.

This year the Children's Society celebrates 40 years of Christingles with the Church of England. On their website [www.christingle.org](http://www.christingle.org) you can find school resources based on this year's theme of Jesus the Light of the World. This year there are even more ideas than ever, including six collective worship plans focussing on Christingle and the theme of shining light into darkness. Activities, song suggestions, talk ideas and other resources will help you explain Christingle in a school assembly.



There is a range of Christingle hymns and songs and the musical, Christingle Rock! Remember the actual Christingle teaches about the foundations of Christianity and you could also use it in RE to explain the Christian faith to your class. It is also a great opportunity to talk about the values of love, forgiveness and justice.

And just in case you are having problems getting hold of Advent or Christingle candles try [www.kevinmayhew.com](http://www.kevinmayhew.com)

### *2009 Year of the Child—Collective Worship Resource*



2009 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Child, and 20 years since the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These rights and their consequent responsibilities are still not as well known, and respected, as they should be. 2009 Year of the Child began as a celebration for children in churches, but school and community groups are joining in. It will be a year to celebrate all that children contribute to society, to review work with children, and, yes, to be challenged by their spirit and enthusiasm!

St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese has brought out a CD of 12 acts of collective worship based on Bible stories about children and linked to the Rights of the Child. The resources section includes details of songs, art and story-books linked to this theme. The CD is only £5 – of which £1 is a donation to UNICEF. Contact [helenm@stedmundsbury.anglican.org](mailto:helenm@stedmundsbury.anglican.org) to obtain one ready to use next year.

We are sure to be talking and thinking a lot more about Year of the Child in just a few weeks, but meanwhile you may like to check out [www.yearofthechild2009.co.uk](http://www.yearofthechild2009.co.uk) or find out about UNICEF and the Convention at <http://www.unicef.org/crc/> The 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child is at <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/>

### *"Experience Christmas" at Waterbeach and Yaxley*



This week (17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November) between 4.00 and 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday you are welcome to drop in at Waterbeach Church and interact with the "Experience Christmas" displays.

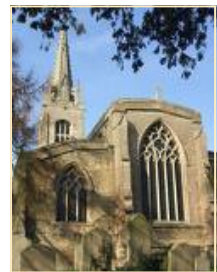
These displays consist of several stations which tell the Christmas story in a reflective manner.

They are designed especially for churches to set up and use with school visits, but are equally appropriate in other contexts.



After the week at Waterbeach the displays will move to Yaxley Church for 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November.

Do come and look at the materials in one of the churches and see how they could be used in your context also.



Ros Wright, the Resources Secretary, will be available to talk with visitors at both venues. She can be contacted on 01353 652725

## From the Schools Team

### Ely Diocese Property Management



The Ely Diocese Property Management service has been operating successfully for seven years now, providing support, assistance and advice on property matters to V.A.Schools in the Ely Diocese.

It is now proposed to offer the service to VC schools in the Diocese. Briefly the service includes:

- ◆ Organising and managing contracts for those items requiring regular maintenance or servicing – boilers, electrical systems, alarms, water services, lifts etc.
- ◆ Arranging and managing a system for day to day repairs to the building fabric and mechanical and electrical services.
- ◆ Technical advice on building and maintenance issues.
- ◆ Financial advice on funding.
- ◆ Formal planning and management of major maintenance (and capital) schemes.

In the near future, Cath Conlon and Peter Smith will be sending a letter to all V.C. schools in the Diocese, explaining the details of the service offered and inviting them to subscribe.

### Property Lost on Cathedral Days

We are still looking after the following as a result of the Schools Cathedral Days in October:

First two named items – coats belonging to **Paul Neely** and **Jess Henry** – are they at your school?

Also:

- **A GAP waterproof jacket – black with grey, blue, and white detailing**
- **A black NEXT scarf**
- **Pair of brown F& F gloves**
- **Blue and white striped apron**

Please contact **Shirley** (Tel: 01353-652712) or **Debbie** (Tel: 01353-7652724) if you recognise any of these items.



## From the Diocese

### National Family Week

**National Family Week** is a new national initiative to celebrate family life in Britain. It will take place from **25th to 31st May 2009**.



The social and personal benefits of family life are crucial for the future of our society. Strong family relationships lead to healthy communities and greater social cohesion.

The tone of the week will be celebratory and supportive, focusing on the pleasure of being part of a family and the fun that families can have. These are really positive messages at this time, and have universal appeal.

During National Family Week, hundreds of events and activities will take place across the UK, allowing millions of people to celebrate being part of a family.

The initiative will have extensive media exposure in the press, on TV and online, with media partnerships ensuring a truly national reach.

A nine-month social networking campaign will enable not-for-

profit organisations to run activities across the country. Participating companies will provide a range of discounts and offers encouraging families to spend more quality time together.

For further details contact:

**Family Week Ltd**  
Transworld House  
100 City Road  
London  
EC1Y 2BP  
Tel: 020 7871 0189  
Fax: 020 7871 0101

**General enquiries:**  
Jane Nethersole  
Email: [jnethersole@nationalfamilyweek.co.uk](mailto:jnethersole@nationalfamilyweek.co.uk)  
Tel: 020 7871 0156

### Cutting down on throwing away



**Pupils and the Happy Bin puppets**

RECYCLING puppets, and children from local primary schools have been helping East Cambridgeshire District Council this month to reduce the amount of waste produced by every household.

With the help of Waterbeach based waste management company Donarbon, recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is developing a number of initiatives to reduce household waste.

The first of these involves 10 local primary schools across the

region in the Happy Bin project.

This involves puppet shows, which help explain to pupils why we need to reduce our waste and what they can do to cut the amount they throw away. The puppet show visited Little Thetford Primary School and Ely St Mary's Junior School.

This will be followed by 6 weeks of activities that will help schools reduce the amount of waste they throw away, presentations and web-based information, culminating in award certificates for the schools to recognise their achievements.

Each school will then have a follow up visit from the Schools Recycling Bus to help reinforce the waste reduction message.

Rachel Doyle, sustainable promotions Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council, said "We all know that when you learn something at a young age it can set in place knowledge and routines for life.

This is why it is so important to reach school children and explain to them the importance of recycling, we think the puppets from the Happy Bin project are a great way to do this".

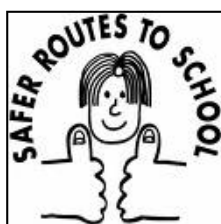


### Walking bus success

A primary school has been praised by transport bosses for introducing a "walking bus" for its pupils.

Little Thetford Primary School, near Ely was singled out for praise by Cambridgeshire County Council for reducing the number of cars arriving at the school gates each morning.

Matthew Grout, the officer for the Safer Routes to School project said "Little Thetford had done a great job setting up the walking bus.



"Walking to school allows children to chat with friends and become more familiar with their surroundings".

### Pupils' gift boxes

More than 120 shoe boxes full of Christmas gifts have been collected by generous pupils at St Bede's Inter-Church Comprehensive school in Cambridge.



They will be sent off to deprived parts of Africa and eastern Europe.

Richard Wilkin, Headteacher said:

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to demonstrate their Christian concern for those less fortunate than themselves".



## For Governors

### Welcome to newly appointed Foundation Governors

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

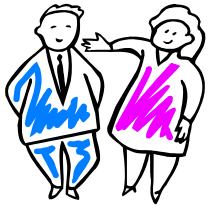
- ◆ **Deborah Jarrett —William de Yaxley Church of England Junior School**
- ◆ **Karen Threlfall—William de Yaxley Church of England Junior School**

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



Joy Walker has been appointed as the Acting Headteacher for two terms at Wilburton CE Primary School

St Paul's CE Primary School has appointed Maree Curry as their

Acting Headteacher for two terms ie. Spring and Summer 2009

## Dates for the Diary



## In our Prayers over the next month



Day	School
24th November	Burrough Green CE Primary School
1st December	Holywell CE Primary School

'Christmas Experience'	17th-21st Nov 4-6pm	Waterbeach Church
Godly Play Training	19th Nov 10-3pm	Bishop Woodford House, Ely
'Christmas Experience'	24th-28th Nov 4-6pm	Yaxley Church, Peterborough
Deputy Head Conference	28th Nov 10-3pm	Bishop Woodford House, Ely
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

## Vacancies

SCHOOL	VACANCY	CLOSING DATE
The Vine Inter-Church Primary School	Class Teacher Main Scale	20.11.08
Orchards Church of England Primary School	Team Teacher Year 6 (Temp) & Year 3 Class Teacher (Temp)	28.11.08
Buckden Church of England Primary School	Year 3 Class Teacher (Temp)	28.11.08
Mepal & Witcham Church of England Primary School	Teacher Main Scale (Temp)	26.11.08
Bury Church of England Primary School	PPA Teacher	24.11.08

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)

## SIAS Reports

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

### ◆ Barnabas Oley CE 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**

We're on the web!  
[www.ely.anglican.org/education](http://www.ely.anglican.org/education)  
 Also visit  
[www.casias.org.uk](http://www.casias.org.uk)