Global Christianity at Christ Church

Christ Church Primary, Chorleywood, have been continuing their work on ‘Global Christianity’. Pupils were delighted to welcome Theresa Wilson to their school, who several years ago travelled to Papua New Guinea to work as a missionary. She has been working with members of the community there to translate the New Testament into the Seimat language.

All the pupils were given a calendar which includes photos of the village in Papua New Guinea, to help them to think about Christians around the world.

Little Munden Celebrate 200 Years!

Congratulations to Little Munden Primary, who have celebrated their 200th birthday. Their celebrations included a quiz night, special projects in class, and opening an exhibit containing historical school records. Little Minden were also extremely excited to welcome the Bishop Alan, who led a special act of collective worship.

St Nicholas Celebrates Pupil Confirmations

Six pupils from St Nicholas Primary, Stevenage were confirmed on 10 June at church, after being prepared for confirmation at school by Father Chris and Father Nathan from St Andrew’s and St George’s Church, Stevenage. The school choir contributed to the special occasion by singing ‘I Wish for Peace’.

St Augustine’s Visit to Eitorf School

Year 4 from St Augustine’s Academy have been developing their global links though a 3-day visit to Grundschule Eitorf, a primary school in Germany. The trip took place along with pupils from neighbouring schools in Caddington and Slip End, who all enjoyed forming new friendships with both local and international children.

During the trip, the pupils explored the town of Eitorf and visited the beautiful St Patricius Church; participated in science, art and music lessons with their German partners; and sampled delicious German cuisine.

St Augustine’s are delighted to have brought an international element to their school and look forward to developing further links in the future.

Bishop’s Harvest Appeal Launch

On Monday 24 June, Park Street Primary were delighted to welcome the Bishop of St Albans to their school, along with David Bloomfield from Tearfund, for a very special act of collective worship to launch the Bishop’s Harvest Appeal 2019: Light Up Tanzania.

The children were told about the wonderful work that Tearfund carries out alongside churches and organisations in over 50 developing countries to help people living in poverty. They heard about how the Light Up Tanzania project aims to give more than 2,500 households in Tanzania the chance to build sustainable livelihoods. This is done by organising savings groups and access to solar panels; protecting the environment and boosting families’ living standards.

Park Street’s children also took an active role in the launch, with a performance from the school choir and poems and prayers read by the collective worship group.

‘Todd the Dog’ Visits Broxbourne Primary

This half term, Broxbourne CE Primary School learned the value of service in action first hand and the difference this can make improving and helping the lives of others.

Much loved Year 6 pupil, Todd Waldock, sadly passed away 5 years ago after a long and courageous battle against leukaemia. At the time, the school’s pupil ‘Kingfisher Council’ decided to fundraise for Guide Dogs in Todd’s memory, since this was a charity dear to his heart. They also wished for the puppy to share Todd’s name. Through their fundraising, ‘Todd the dog’ has now been trained from a puppy into a fully-fledged guide dog. His owner Chris and exerciser Terry were kind enough to attend a special assembly and share with pupils how Todd guides and supports Chris throughout his life and the difference this makes. Todd’s mum, Linda, was also able to attend and be part of this special occasion.

Vacancies Webpage

The Vacancies page on the diocesan website offers you an additional platform to advertise job openings in your school free of charge. Do send any vacancy advertisements to hpuddefoot@stalbans.anglican.org

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Weston Learn About their Local Area

Weston Primary School have been studying their local area this term. Years 4, 5 and 6 toured Weston under the guidance of Ally Walker, a local historian. She was able to share many stories about the wonderful history of Weston, including that bear skin hats were once made in Weston for the Queen’s Guards. The school have enjoyed being able to learn more about their community, having built strong links with it, and in particular with the local church. Through this partnership, they have been able to offer many opportunities for their pupils, such as the older children ringing the church bells and playing handbells during church services.

Sutton Lower School’s Church Servers

Five years ago, the Board of Governors at Sutton Lower enthusiastically endorsed a proposal from Revd Gill, the local parish priest, on the preparation of Sutton School children in Years 3 and 4 to be admitted to Holy Communion in the Church of England. Successful short preparation courses have been held annually since then.

This year’s cohort have also received training to act as Servers (Communion assistants) and help Revd Gill during the Friday services for both school and the local community.

Our Schools have Also…

In May, St Michael’s, St Albans put on a wonderful maypole dancing display for parents. Some pupils also demonstrated their maypole dancing to the local community at the St Michael’s Folk Evening on Wednesday 3 July.

Having recently expanded from a lower school, John Donne Primary are delighted with their new classroom. Revd Graham Buckle opened the extension and joined the school in their celebrations.

Ardeley St Lawrence Primary have introduced ‘Ardeley Ambassador’ wristbands, to be awarded to pupils who consistently demonstrate their values: ‘Hope’, ‘Respect’, ‘Friendship’ and ‘Love and Compassion’.

Barley and Barkway Federation have worked together with the elderly residents of Margaret House to create a beautiful painting to be hung in the entrance hall of the residential home.

On 21 June, Year 4 pupils at Bromham Primary walked ‘In the Footsteps of Bunyan’ when they visited the Bunyan Museum in Bedford as part of their RE work on inspirational people.

All Saints Open Reflection Centre

All Saints Academy, Dunstable, officially opened their Reflection Centre on Wednesday 15 May. The centre was built in memory of two brothers who tragically died in a road accident in August 2016. 13-year-old Ethan Houghton attended All Saints Academy, and his brother Joshua was due to start there in September that year. The brand new Reflection Centre was opened by their father, Doug Houghton, who said that he "could not have asked for anything better", and described the building as "absolutely beautiful".

David Fraser, chair of governors for the school, said: "It is a space that people can come to and reflect, and take time out if they are suffering from any tragedies, or anything that they need quiet time for.”

Kensworth’s Lenten Journey

Kensworth CE Academy’s newly formed Collective Worship Leadership Group successfully led the school on The Lenten Journey leading up to Easter at the end of last term.

The Lenten Journey took place over 7 weeks, where the children told and acted out the stories of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. Each week, a teardrop was made and placed on the ‘road of tears’, representing His journey. At Easter the final teardrop transformed the tears into a flower of joy and praise. Parents joined the school in the Easter Service with Revd Nicola Lenthal at the end of term and enjoyed seeing the display in the hall lobby.

St Paul’s, Chipperfield, Rock!

In March, 57 children from St Paul’s Primary, Chipperfield, accompanied by staff and parents, made their way to Stevenage for J Rock - the junior competition for Rock Challenge, an international performing arts event.

The project involved choreographing and performing a piece with a moral about leading a good life. Their production, ‘Open Up to a Healthy Mind’, focused on the relevant issue of mental health in children. The soundtrack and performance portrayed some facts on the topic, including that 10% of school children have a diagnosable mental illness and three in four mental illnesses start in childhood. The school were delighted to be announced as overall winners on the night, as well as winning 8 Awards of Excellence.
**NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS**

**Governor email addresses:** GDPR requirements mean that governors need to ensure they use an appropriate email address for governor communications. Ideally this should be a school address such as `firstname.lastname@xyzschool.sch.uk`. If you are using a personal email address, this should not be one that you share with a family member or colleague; so not `thesmithfamily@talktalk.net`, or `theofficeteam@btinternet.com`! We recognise individual situations will vary and we’re happy to advise if you have any questions about this.

**Recruitment and appointments:** If you’re recruiting new governors, our briefing paper *Foundation Governors: recruitment and succession* is there to help you in this task, available via this link: [https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/briefing-papers](https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/briefing-papers). Remember that if current governors wish to serve another term of office, they will need to complete a fresh application; forms are available on our website, together with our guidance on appointment processes [https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/governance](https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/governance). If you have questions that aren’t covered in this guidance, do get in touch with Belinda or Vicki.

**Training:** Our induction/refresher training session for foundation governors will be available again for 2019-20, so look out for dates and encourage your foundation governors to attend, especially any who are new.

**Belinda Copson**
Governance Officer

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**NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS TEAM**

**Renhold Primary** have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark.

**Little Gaddesden Primary** were recently highly commended for ‘Outstanding Vision and Strategy’ in the National Governance Association Awards.

In the Herts Advertiser School Awards 2019, **Park Street Primary** won the ‘Primary School of the Year’ award, and **Townsend School** pupil Skye Campbell was a finalist for ‘Pupil of the Year’.

**Raynsford Academy** welcomed the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire to present National Teaching Awards to two members of staff. Miss Holmes received a Certificate of Excellence for ‘Outstanding NQT Teacher’ and Mrs Webb has been awarded the Silver Award for ‘SEND Teacher of the Year’.

**St John’s Nurture Garden**
Thanks to a capital funding grant allocated to the school by the Diocese, St John’s Primary, Lemsford, has created a nurture garden, which is being well used by pupils at the school. They have planted radishes, tomatoes, aubergines and squash plants - all grown from seed - in their new raised bed, and are watching with delight as they flourish and grow! The new rabbits are a big hit and provide a precious opportunity for children to nurture and look after them. Many of the pupils have written prayers, which are displayed as leaves and flowers, to help make the garden feel a spiritual, restful place to be.

**All Saints’ SATs Well Being Week**
Year 6 pupils at All Saints’ Primary School, Bishop’s Stortford, took part in ‘Mindfulness SATs Stress Buster’ sessions as part of the school’s response to Mental Health Awareness Week. Relaxation sessions and creative activities helped the children to stay calm throughout the week of national testing.

Mr Asher, Headteacher, said “The atmosphere has been very relaxed, enabling the children to simply do their best with no pressure or expectation. The activities provided the Year 6’s with opportunities to de-stress and simply ‘be’. Sessions have certainly been a hit with the children, and we’re looking at ways to expand them for the whole school - maybe even for parents and staff too!”

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**School Vision as Art in All Saints**
All Saints Primary School in Datchworth has rather proudly been sharing its vision with the school community, which is rooted in the story of the Road to Emmaus in the Bible. Just as Jesus and two of his disciples had a journey of discovery on the walk to Emmaus, the school feels their children embark on a similar journey, learning together and sharing in and supporting each other’s achievements.

As an example of just how integral this is to All Saints school and all the children and adults within it, their school secretary, Mrs Alyson Sharpe, has created a beautiful painting on a large canvas. The painting portrays the school’s vision, akin to images of the Road to Emmaus, with All Saints Church in the distance.

**Belinda Copson**
Governance Officer
We wish you all a relaxing summer break.

Headteacher Conference 2019

We were thrilled to be joined by all the headteachers who came along to our annual Headteacher Conference 'Educating for Community and Living Well Together', back in May. The day included inspiring keynotes from Dame Julia Cleverdon and Andy Wolfe, supplemented by workshops in the afternoon. The venue, Putteridge Bury Conference Centre, once again hosted us brilliantly in its beautiful building and grounds.

Thoughts for the End of the Year

I have just had the opportunity to read the latest edition of the Schools Team Newsletter, and what an edition it is! I am blown away by the Christian vision that drives the innovation and creativity that I have read about. It leaks out of the page, and rightly should be celebrated. However, I am also conscious of the hard work and dedication that makes all of these wonderful opportunities happen. THANK YOU! If you are like me, my brain reaches overload at this point of the school year, with tiredness combining with the cumulative stress of the last nine months. Even when nothing major seems to have happened, that overload remains present. One of the central aspects of Christian spirituality is retreat. Stepping aside, removing oneself from daily work and activity and allowing our spirit, our mind and our body to rest, to recover and to be re-created. This summer, do take time to step aside and be still, to prioritise yourself and your wellbeing, and to allow your spirit, your soul to be renewed, re-created.

At the end of term, I often find myself returning to the words of the great hymn, 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind’. It is a simple prayer worth praying:

Drop your still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of your peace,
the beauty of your peace.

With every blessing,

David Morton
Director of Education

Headteacher Changes

A warm welcome to our new headteachers this term:

David Bower, Ashton St Peter’s Primary; Ross Jones, Hertford St Andrew’s Primary; Chris Macinnes, Northill Lower.

Our thanks and best wishes for the future accompany those to whom we are saying goodbye this summer:

Claire Gunn, Baldock St Mary’s Infant; Jonathan Preston, Bayford Primary; Lisa Dale, St Michael’s Primary, Bishop’s Stortford; Sue Burt, Carlton Primary; Stephanie Benbow, St Mary’s High, Cheshunt; Annette McCullion, Greenfield and Pulloxhill Academy; Barbara North, Ravensden Primary; Susan Purdye, Silsoe Lower.

Our appreciation also goes out to all those who have, or are about to, step in as interim or acting heads.

Courses 2019/20

The programme of courses for the next academic year has now been published on our website, and a copy of the training brochure has been sent out to schools. Do look out for new courses on topics such as Spiritual Development, Website Compliance, Modern Slavery and Pupil Led Worship, alongside our usual suite of training.

For full details of our training please visit https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/schools-team-courses/

To book a place on any of our events, please contact Ruth on rgarman@stalbans.anglican.org

Lent 2020: God in this Place

Our Lent 2020 prayer initiative ‘God in this Place’, will be taking place from 24 February to 3 April 2020. Further details will follow next term.

Schools Team Twitter Account

Do follow us on Twitter at @stalbansdioedu

Living God’s Love in Education: Enabling Life in all its Fullness

Distinctively Christian ● Community Focussed ● Serving the Common Good

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AND FINALLY...