

'Hope-anuary' at St Mary's, East Barnet

In December 2023, St Mary's Primary, East Barnet established a Year 6 Hope Committee as an outcome of reflections they'd had in collective worship and in response to feelings of hopelessness when hearing the news about violence in Israel and Palestine.

The Hope Committee launched 'Hope-anuary' by creating a checklist of activities with the ambition of spreading a little hope to others and to remind themselves to be ambitious, thoughtful, and hopeful. They acknowledged that whilst they couldn't change what they'd heard in the news, they could do small things in their own lives to bring about hope. Here are just a few examples of hopeful acts from some of the children:

- Showing signs of peace e.g. shaking hands after a football match, not holding a grudge, and hugging brothers and sisters after a disagreement.
- Taking care of nature e.g. re-using a plastic milk bottle to make a bug hotel and making lots of bird feeders.
- Taking toys to a children's ward at Barnet Hospital to make poorly children feel more hopeful, and the recognition that doing kind things for others makes us feel good too.
- Taking time to notice and show that they care. Many children shared examples of listening to or hugging friends when they were sad, helping out at home by tidying bedrooms, washing up, sweeping floors or taking dishes to the sink.

The school reflected on what a hope-filled future might look like. Here are a few thoughts:

- 'A world where there is no war, climate change is halted and/or reversed, and serious diseases have a cure or prevention'
- 'A safe, loving, healthy and family-filled future'
- 'A happy, healthy family and peace on Earth.'

Of course, hope isn't just for January. Each class has made a commitment to be responsible for one 'hope focus' for the year.

Values Day at St Mary's, Northchurch



In January, St Mary's Primary, Northchurch had a Values Day. Everyone, parents and staff included, voted on the new values they would have. The values chosen were Love, Courage, Respect, Joy, Forgiveness and Kindness. Each class made a special poster for one of the values.

Vacancies Webpage

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

All Saints Primary's Wellbeing Walk



If you went out to Birchanger Woods on Friday 15 March, you really were in for a big surprise!

Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 from All Saints Primary, Bishop's Stortford School ventured out for a well-being sponsored walk. The walk had been postponed from Mental Health Week in February due to weather conditions and should have been the end to a week of learning and thinking about the importance

of looking after our mental health. Even though it had originally been rained off, it did not dampen the pupils' spirits as they helped to reorganise the event and thankfully this time they had better weather. In fact, it was a super spring morning and children chatted with their friends and enjoyed the benefits of being outside in the local area. It was great to utilise the local woods to allow pupils to take a well-earned breather from learning inside the classroom.

Since it was a sponsored walk, the School Parliament carefully selected a charity to raise money for. They chose Great Ormond Street Hospital as the school currently have two pupils who have been under their care and therefore is a cause close to their heart. Pupils managed to raise a spectacular £1100 for GOSH. Well done All Saints!

St Lawrence's 'Let Your Light Shine' Day

The children at St Lawrence Primary, Wymington took part in a 'Let Your Light Shine Day', where they worked together to explore what it means to let their light shine personally, within the school community and in the wider world for



the good of others. Activities that they took part in included planting bulbs in the local community, making bird feeders to support the wildlife and creating artwork to demonstrate their school mission and values. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day and have gained an understanding of what it means to let their light shine for the good of others.

All Saints Global Neighbours Journey

This term, All Saints Primary, Datchworth have started their Global Neighbours journey, aiming to empower their children to be courageous advocates for justice.

Everyone at school has been thinking about what they care about both locally and globally. They have also been reading about children who have made big changes and how they can use their voice to make changes to the world.

The school's launch collective worship focused on Luke 10:29-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan and they considered what a neighbour is. They decided that anyone who needs our help is our neighbour and started to think about how they could help neighbours both locally and further away.

They have all completed "What matters to you?" spirals and look forward to using their voices to be courageous advocates for justice.



Hertingfordbury Cowper's Art Project

Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary had an exciting art project taking place in their school entrance area. They wanted their school vision, represented by their school badge, to be a feature to welcome visitors. Children from across the school



were chosen to work with an artist to paint the design. They have truly shown their artistic skills and produced a wonderful piece of artwork.

Watford St John's Sing at St Albans Cathedral

In March, Watford St John's School had the honour and privilege of singing at St Albans Cathedral. Their Year 3 and Year 4 children worked hard with the support of Herts Music Service to learn, practise and rehearse a range of songs and hymns which they then performed to a highly appreciative audience.

It was a real joy to hear the children singing with such reverence and respect in such a beautiful building and for the children to be able to participate in such a unique experience - one they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Park Street's Inter-Faith Week



Park Street Primary enjoyed celebrating 'Inter-faith Week' last term. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together to embrace the

religious diversity that defines their community and also have increased understanding between people who have religious beliefs and those who have non-religious beliefs.

During the week, children were 'Digging Deeper' into different world faiths. Each class explored different objects, stories, photographs and festivals to appreciate the various faiths that coexist within our school and the broader global landscape. Children listened to others talk about their faith, including parents who joined in with the celebrations.

Tring's Philosophy and Religious Studies Day

Year 7 students had an off timetable day to extend their knowledge of Philosophy and Religious studies with a variety of activities. These included Bollywood dancing, creating sand mandalas, a visit to the local church, immersive calligraphy and an instrumental extravaganza.

The day was extremely interactive and the students were engrossed in all of the activities.



EYFS's First Visit to St Augustine's Church



This term, Reception children at St Augustine's Academy, Dunstable visited St Augustine's Church for the first time. The children identified many objects in the church that they had learnt about in school and

Revd Ricky (along with the help of the children) demonstrated what they were used for.

The children enjoyed dressing up in Revd Ricky's stoles and learning about the events in the church calendar when different colours are worn. They can't wait to visit the church again!

Spotlight on Artists at St Mary's, Ware



Pupils at St Mary's Primary, Ware have spent this half-term looking at the inspiration behind the artwork of artists such as David Hockney, Frida Kahlo, Tawney Chatmon and Banksy. Pupils researched the artist and practised with different media

using the artists techniques. They then produced art work of their own in the style of the artist. Children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and so the school are planning a whole-school project looking at artists Victoria Villasana, Jessi Raullet, Yayoi Kusama and Marcus Cadman - artists from diverse backgrounds.



St Giles' House Literacy Morning

St Giles' Primary, South Mymms recently held a captivating literacy morning that brought together adults and children from each of the houses in the school. The event focused around a picture book titled 'Journey,' an enchanting story that sparked the students' creativity and imagination.

The students delved into the world of 'Journey' by not only looking at the illustrations of the book but also by acting out various scenes from the story. They enthusiastically portrayed the character, bringing the narrative to life and exploring the emotions and themes depicted in the book. In addition to acting out parts of the story, the students also engaged in a writing activity imagining themselves as authors. They wrote a narrative that complemented the illustrations in the book, showcasing their storytelling skills.

The literacy morning was a fantastic opportunity for students to express their creativity and develop their literacy skills in a fun and engaging way. The mix of activities, from acting to writing, allowing the students to fully immerse themselves in the world of "Journey" and explore the power of storytelling.

Aside from celebrating their love of reading and writing, the house literacy morning was a fantastic event that helped the students from all classes build friendships and further develop the sense of whole school community. It was a testament to the creativity and imagination that thrives within the school, making it a truly special and inspiring event.



Bishop Richard's Visit to Clifton All Saints



Clifton All Saints Academy was delighted to welcome the Bishop of Bedford to the school on Tuesday 10 January.

The Bishop joined the children for a collective worship and spent time with a small group of children from

across the school. The children learnt about the Bishop's role and the differences between the duties of a Vicar and a Bishop. He also spent some time with the Chair of Trustees (Mr Milton Guffogg), Vice Chair of Trustees (Mrs Carol Weller) and the Headteacher (Miss Rebecca Byrne) to discuss the developments at the Academy going forward.

It was a wonderful morning and the school were delighted with Bishop Richard's feedback from the day. He commented on the well-led Collective Worship and the excellent behaviour of pupils and their insightful questions and way of interacting. He also thanked the team for the good work that continues to go on in the school.

Wrestlingworth Think About Good Friday



Children in Oak Class (Years 3 and 4) at Wrestlingworth Primary have been thinking about the question: 'What is good about Good Friday?'. To support their learning, the children ate bread and sipped some 'wine' (Ribena) to remember the Last Supper. To add to this, the children discovered what the bread and the wine represent and why Jesus may have shared such items with his disciples. Children were able to place the events of the Last Supper on a timeline of what happened during the lead-up to Easter. While eating the bread, the children thought about the texture and taste and some made suggestions about how the bread Jesus shared may have tasted different. The 'wine' provided lots of excitement among the class!

"I really liked eating the bread and tasting the special wine. It made me think lots about Jesus." - Olive

St Mary's High Pupil's Poem Published

St Mary's CE High School are proud to have a published author among their student body. Oliver Lodge, a Year 7 student at St Mary's in Cheshunt, submitted an entry to the national Young Writers poetry competition for 11-18 year olds and he is one of just 171 writers whose work has been selected for publication.

The theme of the competition, and the title of the resulting book, is *This Is Me - Poetry, Promises and Possibilities*. Every entry is limited to 100 words, posing quite a challenge to create a fully-formed poem in such a short format.

Oliver was presented with his very own copy of the book in a school assembly. When asked about entering the competition, he said "I enjoy writing in general, not just poetry. When the category came up in the writing competition I decided to enter. I didn't find it too difficult but I did spend a fair amount of time working on it. I wanted it to be a good poem and accurate about myself."

Year 7 Lead at the school, Sarah Andrews, said "With no limits on poetic style, the competition gave students the opportunity to take control of what and how they wanted to write, and how best to describe themselves;

who they are and what they want to be. Oliver wrote a wonderfully positive poem about himself and his life.

Congratulations to him, we are all immensely proud, this is a great achievement to have work published at such a young age."



Ash Wednesday at St Mary's

On 14 February, St Mary's Primary School, Welham Green marked the start of the Church's season of Lent and the period of preparation as we move towards Easter, when the Vicar, the Revd Ruth Barr, came into school to lead a short Ash Wednesday service. Revd Ruth explained the tradition and symbolism behind the imposition of ashes and then staff and pupils, if they wanted to, had crosses of ash imposed on their foreheads or their hands. It was a very special and poignant way in which to begin the Lenten season.



Climate Justice at St Nicholas, Stevenage

Year 6 pupils from St Nicholas Primary joined forces with CADFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Save the Children and Send my Friends to School to tackle the issue of Climate Justice. The children linked both RE, art and geography learning to discuss how the Earth's climate is changing and what needs to happen for the future of the Earth.



The children were asked to come up with artistic ways of sharing their opinions about climate change and their hopes for the planet and everyone who shares it. Their work was then put on display in a school exhibition at parents evening. The school were lucky enough to have two pieces of original art chosen to be displayed in the Houses of Parliament. The art work was also displayed in school and each child received a framed photo of their artwork.

The children also spoke with Stevenage's MP, The Rt Hon Stephen McPartland, during his visit to the school about what the local council and central government saw as their responsibility for change. The children were keen to impress that as caretakers of the Earth it was everyone's role to play a part.

RE Day at St Michael's, Bishop's Stortford

On 8 February, St Michael's Primary School, Bishop's Stortford held a whole school RE day with a focus on light. The day launched with a whole-school worship looking at the concept of light and reflecting on how light features prominently across religions and the world itself. During the day, the children worked in mixed age groups to rotate around a range of workshops, each looking at light within a different festival or religion, from the Buddhist festival of Tazaungdaing to the Islamic festival of Ramadam. The children engaged in discussion, writing and crafts during these workshops and then shared their knowledge and findings in a whole school worship at the end of the day. The children enjoyed working in mixed age groups and it was wonderful to see how some children appreciated their own beliefs and practices being identified and recognised within the school.



Focus on Governance

PCC foundation governor appointments

This time I have focused on two FAQs about foundation places where the PCC is the appointing body. This applies mostly to maintained schools but is also relevant to a small number of single academy trusts.

Why should PCCs not appoint staff as foundation governors?

Appointing staff as foundation governors in their own school creates serious conflicts of interest. It also affects overall governance capacity and distribution of workload across the governing board, because statutory regulations exclude staff from certain governance roles and tasks. The DBE has a decades-long policy that it will not appoint staff as foundation governors in their own schools. However, where PCCs are unaware of these issues, some have in good faith made such appointments.

We advise that as a matter of good practice, current staff should not be appointed by PCCs or other appointing bodies as foundation governors in their own school. Where such appointments already exist, we suggest that they should not continue beyond the current term of office.

Why can't PCCs appoint governors for a term of less than four years?

The statutory term of office for an appointed foundation governor is always four years, unless an exception is already stated within the school's governing document (which applies to only a very small number of schools in the diocese). Situations have recently arisen where PCCs have appointed foundation governors for shorter terms, or have asked to 'extend' an existing appointment for say, one year.

Statutory appointments regulations (and appointments provision within academy articles) don't permit appointments to be extended in this way, nor to be made for a shorter term. Unless the school's Instrument of Government or academy articles has an existing exception clause, PCCs can only appoint foundation governors to the statutory four-year term.

Individual situations do of course arise where a shorter period of service would genuinely be helpful locally. The practical solution to this is that no governor is obliged to actually complete the full four years. Any governor may choose to stand down at any point before the end of their four-year term of office should they wish.

We will be amending our application forms to make these considerations clearer for PCCs and all involved in foundation appointments processes. If any questions arise, you are always most welcome to contact me directly for further advice.

Belinda Copson
Governance Adviser

Headteacher and CEO Changes

A warm welcome this term to our new substantive headteachers and CEOs:

Rebecca Roberts, Castle Federation; Richard Vaughan, St Mary's High, Cheshunt; Dot Marlow, St Catherine's, Hoddesdon

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

Net Zero Carbon Resources

Earlier this month the Church of England Education Office launched new Net Zero Carbon Resources for schools. There was a webinar introducing the resources which are designed to support the journey to net zero. A recording of the webinar can be found at here: [Net Zero Carbon Schools | The Church of England](#) (in a link under 'Inspiration' section and also at the bottom with full screen video) and via [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](#) (under 'past recordings').

The webinar introduces some of the tools available to schools including:

- **Understanding your footprint**- using the [Count Your Carbon - Eco Schools \(eco-schools.org.uk\)](#) Toolkit provided by [Home - Eco Schools \(eco-schools.org.uk\)](#) - an interactive tool to help you lower carbon emissions in your school
- **Quick wins** - find out some easy wins to reduce your school's carbon emissions using the [Practical Path](#) checklist
- **Know Your Building Better** – access a new Building and [Energy Self Audit tool](#) & [Heating Resilience Plan](#) designed to help you begin your net zero carbon journey
- **Access support** – from [Ashden Climate Action Advisers](#) to help your school start its net zero journey

If you have any questions about any of the above or would like to discuss anything relating to net zero please contact Ruth at rgarman@stalban.anglican.org

Ruth Garman
School Buildings Officer

And finally...

A Message for the End of Term

Dear Colleagues,

Once again, we find ourselves in Holy Week and fast approaching Easter.

This term, I have had the privilege of being part of three significant events: the DBE Senior Leaders Retreat in Canterbury, the Church School Leadership Course and the presentation session for the 'Race, Identity and School Leadership' course (RISL) run by Integrity Coaching. Through each event has run the theme of life stories, of points of reflection, transition, and growth. It has been humbling to listen to colleagues as they have shared how their understanding of what it means to be a leader in a Church of England school has shaped them and is shaping them.

Story is a central part of the Christian faith. As we grow in our understanding of faith, our perceptions can change, our hearts soften, and how we think and act changes. This process of revelation and change can be gradual or sudden; it can be predicted but often it is surprising and even unsettling.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul steps aside from his great narrative on love, to shine a light on the journey of transformation and revelation experienced by countless Christians through the ages. It is a story of partial revelation but one rooted and founded in love.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became [an adult], I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

You may be at one of these points of transition, change or revelation. You may be comfortable with this, or it may be a challenge to sit alongside your discomfort.

Paul reminds us that whatever may cease, whether it is prophecy, tongues or even knowledge, whatever may change, God's love is constant, it never fails. Whilst we currently may not know or understand everything, we are fully known and fully loved by God.

A crown of thorns, a cross, an empty tomb are all symbols of one of the most amazing, most profound life stories of all time. They are also a symbol of love, and that love has the ability and the capacity to hold us secure through our own life story. 'Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known'.

May you have a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Best wishes,

David Morton
Director of Education

We wish you all a restful Easter break!

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

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