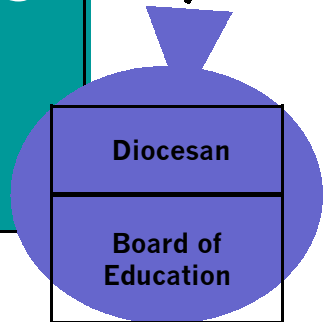




Church Schools' Newsletter

Summer 2002



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Special points of interest:

- GovernorLine 08000 722181
- Association of Christian Teachers- details available from DBE
- Virtual Tours & Resources re-xs. ucsm.ac.uk/re/places
- Subscribe to the National Society www.churchschool.co.uk website

Summer's here!

Hello from sunny Easton.

Yes, the sun is shining and the birds are singing (at least as I write they are)! I hope you all had a good break over the Easter holidays and have been restored to new life just as the message of Easter reminds us.

Talking of reminders, could I point out that this newsletter is for **all** people connected with the school, staff and governors. We are getting a number of teachers and governors reporting that they have not seen a copy. Please feel free to photocopy as many as you need if that speeds up circulation.

Cynthia Wake,
Diocesan Director of Education



New 'kids' on the block and a big thank you

Just two new Headteachers taking up their posts this term whom we need to welcome. These are:

Trevor Atkins, Eccles, Hargham & Wilby VA Primary
Janet Payne, Belton Breydon VC Middle

We must again say a huge thank you to all those who have been Acting Heads during the last term and those who are either continuing in acting headships or taking over this term. Special thanks to those who have been, and still are, covering two schools and mention should be given to Frances Chenery at Harleston who volunteered to take on Dove First School following Clive Hudson's retirement only to find she'd landed two Ofsted inspections in the same window!. Good luck, Frances.

Congratulations!

The following schools have received School Achievement Awards and out of 123 schools in Norfolk 26 are church schools. That's wonderful! Congratulations to you all.

Ashill VC Primary
Cringleford VA First & Middle
Dereham, St Nicholas Junior
Dickleburgh VC Primary
Ditchingham VC Primary
Ellingham VC Primary
Fornsett St Peter VA Primary
Gayton VC Primary
Happisburgh VC First
Harleston, Dove VA First
Hetherett VC Middle
Homefield VC First, Bradwell
Horsford VC First
Little Plumstead VA Primary
Lyng VC Primary
Necton VA First
Old Catton VC Middle
Overstrand, The Belfry VA Primary
Pulham VC Primary
Roughton St Mary's Endowed VA Primary
Sandringham & West Newton VA Primary
Shipdham, Thomas Bullock VA Primary
Sporle VC First
St Nicholas Priory VC Middle, Gt Yarmouth
Sutton VC First



... And to Barnham Broom Primary seen here receiving their "Investors in People" award from Bishop Graham recently



Welcome to the Schools' Administrator

... as is. Angela Sixsmith joined the team on 1 March following a day interviewing some very strong candidates. In fact, Angela is not completely new to us having been part of the Diocesan House set up for ten years as secretary to the Diocesan Surveyor. She brings a wealth of experience in the building fraternity but admits that learning the system from the point of view of schools is quite something else. For now, she is focussing on governors appointments,



Travels of a Schools' Administrator ...

... as was. *As promised, news of our intrepid Jo.*

First stop was Baltimore, USA to catch up with some family for a couple of weeks. After a whistle stop visit to New York it was off to New Zealand for three weeks which included hiking up, across and down Mount Tongariro, a volcano on the North Island. After New Zealand came four weeks in Australia, suffering the Australian railways. They make Anglia Railways look really efficient! Four weeks later it was on to Bali - a real eye opener it seems. Nothing like the glossy mags if you're back-packing. Yes, there are huts on the beach - complete with leaky loos and bugs crawling round your feet as you shower! Next stop was Singapore - not much better accommodation-wise until she upgraded dramatically. All was well until she unpacked a massive cockroach! Having bussed her way through Malaysia and more smelly loos (we just don't appreciate our public conveniences in this country), not to mention electric showers plugged into sockets above the head, she's currently enjoying Thailand. Never a dull moment in the life of



Profile of a long-serving (retired) headteacher or "how on earth did I get here "

"Head-teacher - to maintain the close links between the school and the church" was the advertisement that instantly drew my attention. I spent Saturday carefully filling in the form, posted it to "The Rector, Redenhall" and was excited to receive a reply in Good Friday's post. After many previous abortive applications this seemed to indicate God at work! The following September I was proudly sitting in my office at the newly opened Redenhall V.A. First School (later renamed Harleston Dove C.E.V.A. First) when the door burst open to reveal the Area Officer. His opening remark "well, you know I didn't think you should get the job, you should have completed five years as a deputy" explained the 'nil' response to my other applications and set the scene for some future lively encounters which, with hindsight, I think we both enjoyed! The next day the Rector, the Reverend Wynn-Jones made a courtesy visit. Over coffee he said: "Now watch out for that Area Office, they are always trying to take us over, we are a Church School and whilst we work closely with the County we decide what we do" - was this a clue to at least one of the reasons behind my appointment?

I qualified to teach in 1966, a product of the Norwich CofE. College of Education at Keswick Hall, and began my career in Beccles, at the Crowfoot Junior School. I was very lucky and had a very supportive head-teacher who, albeit inadvertently, taught me many of my management skills. Early on, in my first year, he came and sat next to me in an otherwise empty staff room, a place he rarely visited. "You'll be a head-teacher, one day;" he said to my astonishment. "Head-teaching" was not something that had even crossed my mind at that point. To my obvious question, "Why?" he replied, "Well, whatever I tell you to do, you find a way around it!" Finding a way round, definitely a strength for any head-teacher who wants to keep happy, inquisitive children at the centre, with informed parents and the strength of a united, contented, enthusiastic staff all around them.

Throughout my time the Diocesan Director for Education has always been a rock amid the shifting sands of Government and County policy. Canon Maurice Burrell asked helpful questions at my interview, got me to sign on the dotted line within sixty seconds of my being offered and accepting the position (he recently had someone who changed their mind before signing, necessitating further costly interviews) came and took an assembly for me and always returned my telephone calls! This has been a feature of Diocesan Directors in my experience. If you contact them, no matter how busy they are, you get a reply. It might not be the one you want, but they can be trusted to reply. Pay back came during Chris Davidson's time, when he persuaded me to join the Schools' Committee. One of his best Director, Head-teacher, Governor meetings was the one where an unprepared Chris, who had been fitting two days work into one as usual, came in and simply turned out his bulging briefcase and took us through his current tasks. Cynthia Wake, if anything, has upped the work-rate to three days in one, but still managed to retain her sense of humour! When I abbreviated her title to DBE on the programme the day she came to present Dove's "Investors In People" Award, she asked if a medal came with it! I have enjoyed my time on the Board, and hope to still be useful. It is good to take a County-wide view with other Christians, especially when you spend nearly twenty-five years in one school. Cynthia and Brian Cole made valued and important contributions at our "Thank You" leaving service - it's great to be part of the Church family.

I have derived great job and life satisfaction in being head-teacher of a Church school, and at all times have striven to "maintain the close links between the church and the school", something I intend to continue as my training for the Local Ordained Ministry moves into the third term (with an essay still just in my mind, and not on paper). Having my wife as secretary for the last twenty-two years has been a big bonus; we both feel God has been, and will continue to be, with us, and given the chance we would do it all over again.

Many years ago a little girl, whose child now attends the school, on being urged by the exasperated teacher to "think" replied, "I've run out of thinks." I know just how she felt!

Clive Hudson

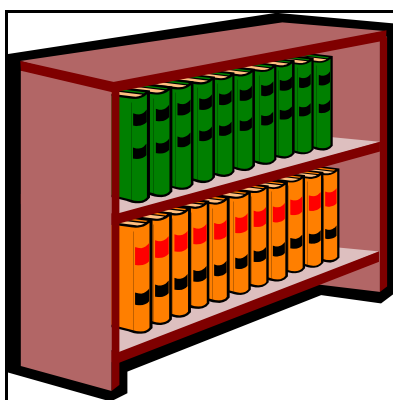
Resources

FREE HARVEST FESTIVAL RESOURCES FROM HARVEST HELP

Harvest Help, an overseas development charity working in southern Africa, has produced a free harvest festival resource pack for primary schools.

'Harvest Hope from Harvest Help' includes a full harvest festival celebration, classroom activities and fundraising ideas. The material asks the pupils to think about what is needed for a good harvest, both in this country and Africa and then invites them to decide how they could help an African family to grow enough to feed their families in the future.

To order your free copy, contact Kevin Lawrence at Harvest Help, 3-4 Old Bakery Row, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 1PS. Alternatively you can tel. 01952 260699 or email kevin@harvsethelp.org.



Publications

Year 6 teachers: It's Your Move!

Remember this book launched last year for those changing to Secondary school? Have you got copies for your pupils leaving this summer? It is now a nationally recognised "rites of passage" resource so check the leaflet enclosed and order your stocks now.

Also:

Reception teachers: Get Ready Go!

A parallel publication for those children facing the challenge of starting a new school at the other end of the scale. *Leaflet enclosed covering both.*

ACT Now, the journal of the Association of Christian teachers. The Spring Term issue a must for those considering Harry Potter related activities or answering children's questions. Copies available from ACT at 94A London Road, St Albans AL1 1NX

RE Co-ordinators: If you missed Mary Stone in March, have you seen the two new publications she has co-written with Antony Ewens? One is titled "Teaching About Jesus" and the other is titled "Teaching About God". Both books are full of practical approaches for 7-11 year old which have been tried and tested in the classroom (both Mary and Antony are experienced primary school teachers) and can be amended or adapted to suit the needs of your own pupils. All the contents and methods described are congruent

Headteacher meetings

The next meetings for VA Heads are on:

Tuesday 18 June 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Thursday 10 October 4.00pm - 6.00pm

These are informal get-togethers giving everyone an opportunity to meet each other and discuss matters which are of concern. And there's refreshments on offer too! Meetings are organised at Diocesan House for VA Headteachers once a term and occasionally for VC headteachers.



Courses on offer - leaflets enclosed

13-15 September 2002

National Christian Teachers' Conference

Education with Character - Making A Christian Difference

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

5-6 October 2002

St Gabriel's Programme RE Teacher Weekend

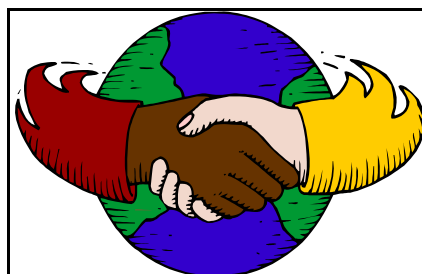
A chance for a **free** conference if you have never been before.

Wokefield Park, Reading

Global Christianity Roadshow

Help!

Can your school host an exhibition for a week in the Spring term 2003? This will involve the following:



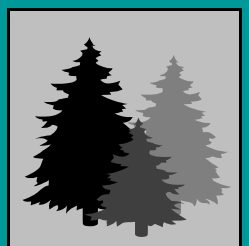
- **Display boards in hall for a week**
- **Allow neighbouring schools to visit in the afternoon session**
- **Allow one twilight session for cluster teachers**
- **Allow one evening for local clergy leaders**
- **Focus on multicultural Christianity**

Volunteers step right up now (or else you may get asked!)

More details from Cynthia Wake.

RE and the Environment

19 RE co-ordinators from around Norfolk attended the one-day course held at the PDC in Norwich on 15th March. Not a vast number in relation to the number of schools but those who did make it were treated to a packed programme led by an inspiring speaker in the form of Mary Stone. Topics covered included linking into the Agreed Syllabus, Spiritual Development, Christian Teaching about the Environment, and the teachings of other Major World Faiths about the





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Admin bits

Norfolk Schools Reorganisation

Are you in one of the affected areas? If so have you contacted Cynthia Wake or Gerald Ward to see how things will affect your school? If not, please call or write to either one now.

Insurance

A few calls still coming in about certificates. The DBE only provides cover for **public liability** now because both Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils provide adequate cover in their schools' insurance packages. EIG do not issue certificates for public liability

From the Schools' Officer ...

Those who attended the seminars given by the DSO on the changing grant aid system may by now be aware that the government succeeded in implementing change by means of an order issued on 28 March. There are many features to these changes which directly affect the way in which small scale works are paid for in a VA schools. You will have noticed that your budget has been enhanced by an amount approximately equal to the NDS Formula Repair grant total previously allocated to each aided school. This means that all small repair and maintenance items previously grant aided should now be paid for through your budget. One of the benefits of this is that VAT will no longer form part of the payment necessary for small-scale building works. Small-scale improvement works should also be paid from budget but as yet the Local Education Authority has not indicated the value of monies available to each school. I am in discussions with the LEA with regard to this matter. One other aspect of the changes is the introduction of a *de minimis* level of £2,000 for improvement works, i.e. only improvement projects valued in excess of £2,000 may be grant-aided. The governors' liability element is only now applicable therefore for improvement works and as the grant aid payable by the DfES has been increased from 85% to 90% the Diocesan fund will be able to be stretched a little more. May I remind all aided schools that the added complication of the changes to the system has more than ever reinforced my suggestion that before carrying out any building work at an aided school that advice be sought from me as to how best to finance these works. As always, should you

Education Sunday 2003

16 February - 5.30pm

Yes it's time to start thinking ahead. Next year is the turn of the Diocese to organise a service at the Cathedral which this time will be led by Bishop Graham. For this we need your help. We would like church schools (that means VC as well as VA) to take part in some way, either through drama, singing, prayers, whatever you feel like really. Even acting as ushers is a vital role. So come on, volunteers step this way! Telephone Kate Ashcroft to get

Don't forget the Norfolk Religious Education Resource Centre stock is now situated at the Norwich PDC for access whenever you visit.

Diocesan Resources: The next open evening will be on **Monday 29 April 7.00pm-9.00pm**. There are resources for everyone working with Children, Young People, Schools and Adults. Come and meet Stella Noons, the Children's Officer and also Randall Williams, the Youth Officer, and put any queries you may have to them. You can also visit Monday - Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm. A warm welcome awaits you and