

This newsletter, from the Diocesan Education Team, is sent to Church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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# Education newsletter



July 2024

## News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the end of term, it is good to look back on this school year and give thanks for all the good things that have happened, as well as looking forward to the new school year which starts in September. We also look forward to a break over the summer, of course! It was lovely to celebrate the work of church schools at our special cathedral service on 17 June. Many thanks to all the pupils who took part from King Edward VI and Debenham High Schools, St Gregory CEVCP in Sudbury, Elveden CofE Primary Academy and Norton CEVCP.

Bishop Martin hosted garden parties in the first week of July as a way of saying thank you to churches and schools for all that they do.

I am grateful to Victoria Bush for delivering training this term. We look forward to continuing to work with Victoria.

If any maintained schools are considering exploring academy status, please do contact me to discuss. Our MAT CEOs are always happy to have an informal discussion. Their contact details and websites are as follows:

Melanie Barrow, CEO, All Saints Schools Trust  
[m.barrow@asst.org.uk](mailto:m.barrow@asst.org.uk)  
<https://www.asst.org.uk/>

Andrew Berry, CEO, Tilian Partnership  
[aberry@tilian.org.uk](mailto:aberry@tilian.org.uk)  
<https://www.tilian.org.uk/>

Phil Mackay, CEO, Thedwastre Education Trust  
[ceo@thedwastreeducationtrust.org.uk](mailto:ceo@thedwastreeducationtrust.org.uk)  
<https://www.thedwastreeducationtrust.org.uk/>

Our special thanks go to several heads who retire this summer for all that they have done, and we wish them all the best for the future.



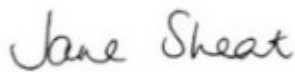
Pupils from **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** who wrote a poem about Hope for the Schools Service at the Cathedral on 17 June 2024.



The choir from **St Gregory CEVCP, Sudbury** who sang John Rutter's Look at the World and Gaelic Blessing at the Schools Service. To see the performance of the first song, please click [here](#).

May I wish you a relaxing and restful summer?

With all good wishes from all of us,



Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education

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### **Vacancy in See**

Our diocesan bishop, Bishop Martin retires at the end of February 2025, following his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. A discernment process is underway to find the next Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The process is being overseen by the Vacancy in See Committee which is in the process of producing a Statement of Needs, which outlines the strengths of the Diocese, the challenges facing it and the qualities the committee believes the new bishop will need.

A public meeting is being held on Zoom on **Wednesday 17 July** from 7.00pm. This is a great opportunity to be part of the discernment process and the meeting is open to all.

For more information about the process and public meeting, please click [here](#).

To register for the meeting, please click [here](#).

### **Bishop Mike**

In the meantime, Bishop Mike has been appointed Bishop of Exeter and will leave us at the end of September 2024 - [Bishop of Dunwich to be next Bishop of Exeter - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich \(cofesuffolk.org\)](#).

As Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), Bishop Mike has been a great support and we will miss him hugely. The Archdeacon of Suffolk, Rich Henderson will become Chair of the DBE.

## **News from Schools**

**Thank you** to pupils at **Debenham High School** who took part in a recent Church of England in Suffolk video "Let's hear from young people about life and faith in Suffolk" which focuses on the voices of young people as they answer key questions about faith and the challenges faced by young people today. To see the video, please click [here](#).

## **Sing Praise!**

It was a joy to attend a performance by Sing Praise at St Michael's Church in Framlingham on 21 June. For more information about Sing Praise, click [here](#).



### **Wednesday 6 November 2024**

This is the date for our annual church school leaders' conference which will take place at the Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket. Speakers include Tom Wilson from the St Philip's Centre, Leicester, Cathy Priest from the Faraday Institute and Janita Betts, Headteacher at St John's CEVAP, Ipswich.

### **Forums 2024-25**

#### **For Headteachers**

Mon 23 Sep, 1.30pm  
Tue 14 Jan, 1.30pm  
Thu 1 May, 1.30pm

#### **For Chairs of Governors**

Tue 26 Nov, 4pm  
Wed 19 Mar, 4pm  
Thu 26 Jun, 4pm

#### **For Small Schools**

Mon 21 Oct, 4pm  
Tue 25 Feb, 4pm  
Mon 9 Jun, 4pm

#### **Admissions**

Wed 18 Sept, 4pm  
Thu 16 Jan, 4pm

The Forums are free, via Zoom. For queries or to book, please email: [Jacqui Studd](#)

## Congratulations!



**Congratulations** to **Kersey CofE Primary School** on its recent 150 year celebrations. The school writes: "Here at Kersey CE Primary School we have spent a week celebrating our 150th year of teaching children from and local to the village of Kersey. The week started with 'The Great Kersey Campout' where the students, staff and their families camped out on the school playing field. We enjoyed a lovely campfire, BBQ and games! The children loved checking out their friends tents and first sleepovers and sleepouts were experienced by many.

"We had a special service in St Mary's Church, Kersey with Bishop Martin in which staff, students and governors past and present spoke of memories and the journey of the school. Bishop Martin helped us launch our new school hymn, 'Brother, sister let me serve you' alongside our new school Vision and Values.

*On a **journey** together, leaving no one behind.*

*"The Lord is my shepherd...he guides me in the right paths"  
Psalm 23 v.1,4*

*We find **joy** in **ourselves & others**. We **understand** our past, our place in the world today and the world of tomorrow, learning **resilience** as we strive to **nurture** our gifts and talents, celebrating **excellence** in our **youngsters**.*

We had a visit from Ipswich Town Football Club where the children learnt some top playing tips. With the help of parents we planted a sapling Silver Birch in our school grounds donated by The Woodland Trust with a 150th commemorative plaque. We had a wonderful afternoon tea garden party with maypole dancing for the alumni of Kersey along with past and present staff, governors and friends of the school. The week rounded up with a fabulous Brass Concert performed by the children again in St Mary's with the audience giving a well deserved standing ovation.

The celebrations were filled with joy, the sharing of memories and photographs of the history of the school and seeing how our current school families go above and beyond to make Kersey what it is. We here at Kersey CE Primary School feel privileged to be part of 'The Kersey Journey' and are blessed to be a small part of the legacy this special school continues to build."



## Training programme 2024-25 NEW

Our training programme for the next academic year is now available on the Diocesan [website](#).

Courses for the autumn term include:

### Leadership/Governance

- \* Being a Governor
- \* Leading a church school
- \* Monitoring for Governors
- \* SEND for Governors

### RE/CW

- \* New to Teaching RE

### Ofsted/SIAMS

- \* Ofsted
- \* SIAMS: are you ready?

### Wellbeing

- \* for Administrators
- \* for Headteachers

To book, or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

**GOOD NEWS**  
*for Everyone!*

formerly known as GideonsUK

### Good News Bibles

Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK) offers dioceses free New Testament bibles to every year 6 leaver. If you would us to order on your behalf, please let us know. We suggest placing an order for summer 2025.





**Congratulations** to **Thorndon CofE Primary School** which will also be celebrating its 150th anniversary on 13 July. More to follow in the next issue.



**Archbishops' Young Leaders (AYLA) Award webinars** are a great way

to find out how the AYLA works. Just 45 minutes, the twilight sessions help you think about how you might develop courageous advocacy in your school and equip the next generation of young leaders. The session will unpack how the Award helps learners grow and develop in key leadership skills and character virtues and the kinds of social and environmental action projects which schools get involved in within their communities. For dates of sessions running next term, and to register, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to **All Saints' CofE Primary School, Newmarket** on its Young Leaders Award.

For more information about the scheme please see opposite.

**Barnham CEVCP** held a special Countryside Week themed prayer space in June. The school writes: "It has been lovely to see the children appreciating the beauty of the world around them. We've also learned some new creation themed songs during Collective Worship throughout the week to fit the theme, including 'Thank you for the trees' "



**Congratulations** also to pupils at **Barnham CEVCP School** who marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day (photos above).

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Barningham CEVCP School** who had a great day fundraising for World Ocean Day. The School's Future World Council asked everyone to bring in milk bottle lids to use to create artwork and everyone wore blue to remind them of the importance of keeping our oceans clean and safe for wildlife. The school raised £75 on an own clothes day.



Christian Aid is launching Creative for Climate Justice for the next academic year. Last year's project saw numerous schools take part and many young courageous advocates using art to call for a fairer and sustainable future for people and planet. Like last year, Christian Aid is inviting schools to learn about the issue, create their artworks, host a local exhibition, and submit art to be exhibited in parliament in the new year. For more, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Cockfield CofE Primary School** who have been recognised for their involvement in a project to celebrate Cockfield's newest village green, Jeffrey's Green. A plaque was unveiled to commemorate pupils planting a hornbeam tree on the new green. Pupils have also planted 1,000 snowdrops! For more, please see the [Suffolk News](#) website.



**Congratulations** to **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary School** which has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation for the second consecutive year. The school writes:

"The award recognises the good environmental practices which are taking place at our school and our commitment to protecting the planet. A quote from our feedback, "You have involved the PTFA and volunteers. These sorts of partnerships are critical to the end goal. When reading your curriculum links we needed to applaud the bikeability scheme you have booked, ensuring that children are safe on the roads, more active, and reducing the carbon footprint. The Christian Value of Respect has been woven into your second link. You have gone into the local community to keep it tidy." For more about the Eco-Schools Green Flag please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Honington CEVCP School** who also marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day. For more photos, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to a group of Y6 pupils at **Hopton CEVCP School** who decided that the quiet area outside their classroom needed sprucing up. The school writes: "Following

Additionally, Christian Aid's [general election resource](#) can be used in the autumn half-term to support pupils to share their values and hopes with their newly elected MPs.



The Woodland Trust **Green Tree Schools Award** encourages outdoor learning and inspires pupils about trees, woods and wildlife. Schools are rewarded for doing environmental projects such as tree planting, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and visiting woods. Schools can collect points for each activity completed, progressing through bronze, silver and gold levels up to the prestigious platinum award. For more, please click [here](#).



Enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Further information and ideas are available [here](#).



**The Great Big Small Schools INSET Day**  
Monday 6 January 2025  
Online event  
Join colleagues working in

the removal of a previous flower bed, we had been left with an empty patch which had begun to be overtaken with weeds. This group of children took it upon themselves, during their breaktimes, to weed the area. Having completed this task, they approached their Headteacher to ask if they could create a colourful flower bed to brighten the area, suggesting they could write to local businesses to request donations. The year sixes took to measuring the area and wrote to local companies with their requests. These businesses kindly agreed, with Clarkes of Walsham making a special early morning delivery of compost, fencing and pebbles and Hillcrest Nurseries supplying the plants, to ensure the task would be completed in time. Ash class enjoyed a parent share afternoon and with the help of hard working parents the year 6 children got to work, erecting a small fence, spreading compost and planting the beautiful flowers. The result was amazing and it was lovely to see how proud the children were of their collective work and efforts. The adults in the school are delighted with your accomplishment, and how wonderfully you have worked together to create such a beautiful new area for us all to enjoy. Well done, and a special thank you to Hillcrest Nurseries and Clarkes of Walsham for your generous donations."



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Orford CofE Primary School** who made their own bishops. Gemma Cannon, Headteacher writes: "Class 2 (years 2, 3 and 4) at Orford have been studying the Emmanuel Unit on the Body of Christ, and had a go at making their own 'Bishops' to include mitres, croziers, pectoral crosses and a ring." A selection of the pictures were shown to Bishop Martin because the children worked so hard.

**Congratulations** to the **Sproughton School Association (SSA)** which raised £1,670 at the school's summer fair.



Jane Stalham, Headteacher writes: "I am so impressed by what our SSA achieve time and time again! The whopping £1,670 will go towards adding further 'sparkle' to the experiences of our Sproughton C of E Primary School pupils."

small school settings across the country, for a day of thought-provoking discussion about evidence, research and education through a small school lens. This is a joint venture between the Church of England (CEFEL) and the Chartered College of Teaching, open to all types of small schools. Speakers so far: Alison Peacock, Mary Myatt, Andy Wolfe, Danielle Lewis-Egonu, Cat Scutt, Chris Such, Cassie Young, Mike Sheridan, Elizabeth Olulari, Katie Smith, Jade Pearce, Alex Pethick, more to come... Tickets: £14-£20. To book, please click [here](#).



**Dates of interest....**

**Summer Reading Quest**  
July - August 2024

**National Read a Book Day**  
6 September 2024

**Education Sunday**  
8 September 2024

**Roald Dahl Day**  
13 September 2024

**International Day of Peace**  
21 September 2024

**Bike to School Week**  
23 - 27 September 2024

**National TAs Day**  
27 September 2024

**Dyslexia Week**  
2 - 8 October 2024

**National Poetry Day**  
3 October 2024

**World Animal Day**  
4 October 2024



**Congratulations** to the junior and senior choirs at **St Gregory CEVCP, Sudbury** who showcased a 'Greatest Hits' selection of all the songs they have learned this year for their final performance with their music teacher, Mr Cogan, who retires at the end of term. The school writes: "What an absolutely magical evening it was at our Summer Concert! The children sang with so much joy and love for music - they were all stars! It was also Mr Cogan's final performance with the choir after 10 glorious years - what a send-off!" Happy retirement Mr Cogan!

**Congratulations** to **St Mary's CofE Primary Academy, Mildenhall** on the beautiful new carving in the school grounds. Roxanne Rutter, Headteacher writes: "Our beautiful beech tree has stood as a protector over our school for many, many years. Sadly the tree was decaying inside and needed to be removed. After many months we managed to create something as beautiful as what stood before with this amazing carving."

'I think I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree'  
Alfred Joyce Kilmer

Before



After



**Congratulations** also to **St Mary's** for being winners of Energy Sparks Winter Heat Saver competition. The school reduced energy consumption by the most during a four week period (February-March 2024) and won £250. For more about Energy Sparks, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** who won the Suffolk Farming School of the Year at the Suffolk Show during half term.

## **World Space Week**

4 - 10 October 2024

## **World Teachers' Day**

5 October 2024

## **Children's Trust Pyjama Week**

7 - 13 October 2024

## **World Food Day**

16 October 2024



## **WIRE Awards**

Just a reminder to schools that they may have already achieved all they need to apply for the annual WIRE (Widening Inclusivity in RE) award. Applications can be made to the end of the summer holidays. The form is simple and there are only four activities to have completed:

1. Attend an RE conference / RE course / RE Network
2. Take pupils to a Christian church or community and meet members of the Christian community who worship there
3. Take pupils (or staff) to visit a place of worship of another faith and meet at least one community member **Or** organise a faith visitor to school
4. Arrange an RE event in school, or locally, or a community event, which celebrates aspects of more than one faith, or focuses on a worldview not held by most of the school **Or** enter an RE competition (e.g. 'Spirited Arts' or 'Spirited Poetry')

For more details, look at the Suffolk SACRE [website](#)

**Congratulations** also to pupils at **Acton CEVCP School** who were finalists in the Suffolk Farming School of the Year and were just pipped to the win!



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Tattingstone CEVCP School** who won bronze in the Suffolk Show Schools' Garden Competition. The theme for 2024 was "An Olympic Themed Garden."

**Congratulations** to pupils from **Stradbroke CofE Primary School** who took part in the "Stradbroke to Bordeaux" community fundraiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA). Pupils collectively walked 450km to raise awareness for the charity, to raise funds and support a former long-standing and much loved Teaching Assistant at the school. Pupils also raised a further £196.20 for MNDA from donations after their KS2 production of "The Lion King".

<b>Ofsted inspections</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Gislingham CofE Primary	Good
Cavendish CEVCP	Inadequate
Rougham CofE Primary	Good
Rattlesden CofE Primary	Good
St Margaret's CEVAP	Good
St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall	Requires Improvement
Bentley CEVCP	Good
Bawdsey CEVCP	Good

<b>SIAMS inspections</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Bardwell CofE Primary	J1
All Saints' CofE Primary, Newmarket	J1
Fressingfield CofE Primary	J1

### **For the Attention of Headteachers**

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane, Sue or Phil will attend meetings with your Governors to advise on the headship appointment, alongside the Local Authority. We can be in contact with your Chair of Governors and make sure



### **Spring's Dance Company**

Creative and imaginative ways to boost children's engagement with RE and PSHE

**The Good Samaritan** - based on one of the Parables that Jesus told, these workshops provide opportunities for children to explore the importance of helping others and standing up for them, even if they are not like you. The workshops touch on themes of living in a multi-racial / multi-religious society.

**Creation Project** - introduces the Genesis narrative of creation in a fun, inclusive and engaging way through dance. Children will have the opportunity to explore some key concepts such as who made the world, what God is like and the relationship between creator and created.

**A Christmas Story: Refugee** - inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story Refuge, these workshops will guide pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion. Children will uncover a relevant and meaningful telling of the first Christmas, through learning, creating and performing movement.



### **Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival**

A cultural education project that supports young people to perform abridged Shakespeare plays on



that we are available for dates for shortlisting and interviews. Many thanks.

Do contact Sue or Phil if you would like them to be your external adviser for Headteacher performance management reviews.

### Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Emma Burgess who has been appointed Interim Headteacher at Hintlesham & Chattisham CofE Primary School
- Mark Gilbert, current Head at Cockfield CofE Primary who has been appointed Executive Head at Cockfield and Great Whelnetham CofE Primary Schools
- Matt Head who has been appointed Headteacher at Orford CofE Primary School
- Steve Jeal who has been appointed Executive Headteacher at Bramfield, Brampton and Ringsfield CofE Primary Schools
- Steven Palmer who has been appointed as Interim Headteacher at Bramford CEVCP for the autumn term



## News from the Diocesan MAT

We have appointed a new Chief Finance Officer, Mark Trenavin-Body, who will start work in August. Mark replaces Ryan Lamb who is taking up the post of Director of Finance and Operations at Old Buckenham School, an independent school in Suffolk. We wish Ryan all the best in his new role and look forward to welcoming Mark to the team.

Heather Hann will reduce her hours from full-time to 0.6fte for the next school year, from 1 September 2024. Her role as head of Professional Development will include continuing as a lead and team Ofsted inspector and as the MAT lead on NPQ delivery.

Claire Bourne has been appointed on a 0.6fte basis as head of Inclusion and SEND. We are excited about the possibilities of this new role.

### NPQs

We have a few fully funded scholarship NPQLPM (Leading Primary Mathematics) places available on cohort 7 which starts in November. For further information, please visit: <https://www.cefel.org.uk/npq/> or contact [Heather Hann](#) if you have any queries.

The closing date for applications is 27 September but funded places are being offered on a first come basis.

professional theatre stages. Registration for 2024-25 is now open. For more, please click [here](#).

### Heads' Performance Management

Both Sue Todd and Phil Knowles are available as external advisers for governors carrying out Headteachers' performance management reviews next term.

Please feel free to contact [Sue Todd](#) or pass on Sue's details to your governors.

Our external advice and support costs £350 per review, which includes preparation, the review itself and write-up. For a mid-year review, this optional extra is available at £150.

## News from DfE

### New Secretary of State for Education

Bridget Phillipson MP  
For more, please click [here](#).

## News from Ofsted

### Independent review of teachers' professional development in schools

May 2024

The findings from phase 2 of Ofsted's independent review of teachers' professional development in schools. To see the report, please click [here](#).

### Ofsted will now publish sub-judgements for all past and future graded school inspections

May 2024

For further details, please click [here](#).

# News from the Church of England

## 'Flourishing Leaders, Flourishing Schools'

St. John's Hackney Church, Wednesday 22 January 2025

The focus of next year's national conference will be on transformational vision-based leadership approaches.

Speakers include: Sonia Thompson, Leora Cruddas, Sir Hamid Patel, Mary Myatt, Sufian Sadiq. For further details or to book, please click [here](#).

## Anti-bullying guidance

The Church of England has published new draft guidance which is now out for consultation. This replaces Valuing All God's Children. Please do take a look, remove any links on your website to Valuing All God's Children and respond to the consultation if you are able by the closing date of 31 July. Please click [here](#) for further details.

## News from YOUR School

If you have any stories you would like highlighted, please do send us details and we will include in our next newsletter. Please send photos, short articles, web-page references, etc. electronically to [Jacqui](#) and we'll be pleased to include them.

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## From the Diocesan Education Team

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This newsletter is sent to all church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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