

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

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



December 2021

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

As we near the end of term, may I offer my grateful thanks to all our church school Headteachers and their staff for all their hard work in what has been a long and challenging term? As I write, I am very conscious of the pressure on schools this term, with many schools experiencing high levels of staff and pupil absence. Restrictions this year have affected a number of events in school this Christmas. Whatever form your Christmas services take this year, I do hope that you are able to celebrate something of the joy of Christmas as a church school. It has been exciting to see the [Inspiring Angels project](#) get underway in Ipswich. I look forward to seeing many more angels across Suffolk next year!

I am glad that we were able to hold our cathedral service of celebration for church schools on Sunday 3 October. We were sorry not to be able to meet in person for our annual church school leaders' conference on 3 November but had a good event online. Speakers from Suffolk Mind, the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award, and the Suffolk Children's University provided external input as well as Jo Gunn and Debbie Richards from St Margaret's in Ipswich, Gillian Mitchell, Sarah Baker and Revd Stephne van der Toorn from East Bergholt and members of the team. Please read on for more news and information about resources and training to come.

Whilst we face continuing uncertainty and do not know what the new year will bring, we believe in a God of hope and love who is with us always. On behalf of all the team, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas?

May you know
the peace of the babe of Bethlehem,
the gladness of the boy of Nazareth
the strength of the man of Galilee
the courage of the Christ of Calvary
the joy of the Risen Lord
and a foretaste of the glory of the ascended Christ.

Amen



Growing Younger Sunday - 30 January

Growing Younger Sunday celebrates youth and families' ministry. This event is an annual event and will lead each year with a series of planned activities for Growing Younger. For more information and resources, please click [here](#).



Pupils from **King Edward VI School** display the school banner with Bishop Mike after the annual celebration of church schools at the Cathedral on Sunday 3 October 2021. The theme was "I am the Resurrection and the Life".

Useful Links to resources

Advent and Christmas
Gemma has collated resources for advent - available [here](#).

With all good wishes,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

News from Schools



Acton CEVCP School celebrated Inter-Faith Week 2021 between 19-23 November using the theme of Anti-Bullying Week of 'One Kind Word'.

They looked at how kindness is shown through words and actions in each faith. Each day started with a whole school assembly introducing the faith and sharing its key beliefs and ideas. Then each class enjoyed completing an activity linked to the faith of the day. For more on this story, including more lovely photos, please click [here](#).



'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021. For more, please click [here](#).

'An Angel just like me' is a mini project for Christmas from the Dioceses of Portsmouth and Winchester who have kindly shared with us: the [project booklet](#) with pages of activities, ideas and links to RE curricula; a [Worship PowerPoint](#); and [Teachers' notes](#).

Collective worship resources

For ideas for CW planning, religious festivals and our working on worship papers, please click [here](#).

Net Zero Schools

Information from the CofE to inspire and encourage church schools to sign up to a vision of sustainable schools. Please click [here](#).

SIAMS resources

For the latest Revised Evaluation Schedule which includes a honeycomb graphic on the features of Excellence and other SIAMS resources please click [here](#).



Pupils from **Barrow CEVCP School** were visited by the Revd Lynda Sebbage, who spoke about Suffolk's swifts and delivered nesting boxes they hope will become new homes to the birds. Helen Ashe, Headteacher, said the children were delighted to receive the swift boxes – and can't wait for the birds to start nesting. For more, please click [here](#).

News from the Diocesan MAT

Welcome to **Bedfield** which joined the Diocesan MAT on 1 November 2021.

We are sorry to lose Sue Howe, our Chief Finance Officer this Christmas. Sue is leaving us to take up a post at the Essex Wildlife Trust and we wish Sue all the best for the future. The post is currently being advertised on our MAT [website](#). Please do pass on to anyone who might be interested.

Welcome to **Kersey** which joined the Tliian MAT on 1 November 2021. Pupils at the school were featured on BBC Look East when an Apache helicopter visited the school. To see the BBC clip, please click [here](#).





Pupils at **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** had a wonderful time at the Harvest Festival Service in October especially as this was held at St Andrew & St Patrick church with the Revd Paul Tams. The school felt this was a fantastic way to end the first half term!

Virtual Training - Spring term

Admissions

- * Top tips for administrators;
- * Admissions and appeals for Heads.

Leadership/Governance

- * Assessment for governors;
- * Leading a church school;
- * Monitoring for governors;
- * Roles and responsibilities of governors.

RE/CW

- * Assessment in RE;
- * Diving Deeper in RE;
- * Spiritual Development in Primary Schools;
- * New to Teaching RE;
- * Becoming the RE Specialist.

SIAMS

- * Are you ready for SIAMS?

To find out more, please visit the [Diocesan website](#); or contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



Pupils at **Moulton CEVCP School** held a Harvest Festival weekend at St Peter's in Moulton, where they focussed on the theme of 'hope'. Debbie Shipp, Headteacher wrote: "Our Y5 and Y6 children created a wonderful display for the church, complete with takeaway prayers and bulbs for parishioners."

They also recorded prayer readings, which were emailed out on the church newsletter. Nuala and I took three Y6 children to put the display up in the church."



The link to the prayer reading is available [here](#).

Congratulations!



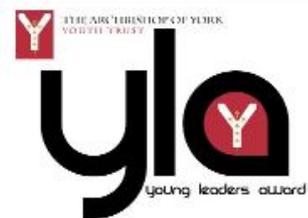
Winning entries from Capel St Mary CEVCP Primary School, Suffolk

Series of poems with supporting write ups & artwork from Badgers, Hedgehogs and Squirrels class

Congratulations

to pupils at **Capel St Mary CEVCP School** who were winners in NATRE's Spirited Arts Competition 2021.

The theme this year was God's Good Earth and the school were awarded a whole school prize for their fantastic set of poems and artworks from Badgers, Hedgehogs and Squirrels classes. To see the school's entries, click [here](#).



Young Leaders' Award (YLA)

The Youth Trust Team are pleased to be able to offer a **10% discount** for new schools signing up to the Young Leaders Award with 10 pupils or more with the discount code Suffolk10.

This runs until the 15 December. For more about the Young Leaders' Award, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to the senior choir at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who were the first school choir ever to perform in a lunchtime Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral in London. The choir is conducted by Mr Cogan, supported by Mrs Moroney. Mr Woodrow, Headteacher said: "It was a tremendous honour and privilege and a wonderful experience for the children. Filming during the service was not allowed, but we were able to record this video of our rehearsal of Look At The World by John Ritter. We are so proud of our incredible children - they sang beautifully and their performance and the whole day is something that we will cherish forever." To watch the video, please click [here](#).

Tom Daggett, St Paul's Cathedral sent a message of thanks to the school which can be viewed [here](#).



Congratulations to **Orford CEVAP** and **Bawdsey CEVCP Schools** which had the opportunity the week before half-term to trial the 'pioneer' programme.

The programme for Year 3/4 took place at Bawdsey Manor PGL for 3 days and 2 nights. The children got to experience archery, climbing, zipwiring and obstacle courses amongst other things and they all demonstrated great courage and resilience, supporting and encouraging each other to make it an enjoyable visit for everyone.

Congratulations to **St Matthew's CofE Primary School, Ipswich** for recently receiving the Wellbeing Award for Schools. The school was described as an outstanding school in terms of Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health support offered to pupils, parents and staff. For more, please visit the school [website](#).

The Wellbeing Award for Schools, developed by the National Children's Bureau and Optimus Education, recognises the outstanding work being done to promote mental health and wellbeing within school communities across England. For more about the award, please click [here](#).

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**FOUNDATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL
LEADERSHIP**

Called, Connected, Committed: Culture which Shapes Leadership Practices

The latest edition from CEFEL focuses on the topic of flourishing school cultures and the ways in which schools are building trust through challenging circumstances. Please click [here](#) for more.



Church School Governance Training Programme – Online January 2022

This course, run by Hope University, Liverpool, is aimed at Governors and Trustees in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. For more information, please click [here](#).



Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre, based at

Saxmundham, covers a vast area of East Suffolk and is part of a national network of CAP Debt Centres designed to help people out of debt. The service is free and for everyone, regardless of their background. For the flyer, please click [here](#). For more about CAP, please visit the charity [website](#).

Ofsted Inspections

	Outcomes
Brampton CofE Primary	Good
Chelmondiston CofE Primary	Good
Great Finborough CEVCP	Good
Laxfield: All Saints CofE Primary	Outstanding

SIAMS Inspections

	Outcomes
Kelsale CEVCP	Good



We offer our thanks and best wishes to all those staff who are leaving their current school at the end of this term.

Headteacher resignations

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Sharon Waldron who is leaving Stonham Aspal CEVAP School at the end of this term.

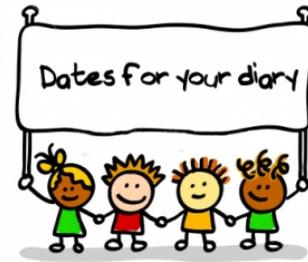
Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Emma Lea who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Boxford CEVCP with effect from January 2022
- Gemma Watts who has been appointed as the Headteacher at St Peter and St Paul CofE Primary School, Eye with effect from January 2022.

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



Epiphany

6 January 2021

[The Big Schools Birdwatch](#)

5 January – 21 February 2022

Chinese New Year

2 February 2022

[Holocaust Memorial Day](#)

27 January 2022

[National Storytelling Week](#)

29 January - 5 February 2022

Candlemas

2 February 2022

[Children's Mental Health Week](#)

7-13 February 2022

[NSPCC Number Day](#)

4 February 2022

Valentine's Day

14 February 2022

Shrove Tuesday

1 March 2022

[Random Acts of Kindness Week](#)

14- - 20 February 2022

[Fairtrade Fortnight](#)

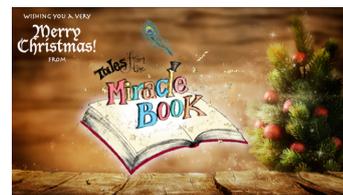
21 February - 6 March 2022

[World Book Day](#)

3 March 2022

[Comic Relief Day](#)

18 March 2022



Tales From the Miracle Book are celebrating advent with their Christmas

News from the Church of England

NPQs

For more information about the Church of England's NPQs, please see [here](#). The DfE is now fully funding all of the NPQs, and most cohorts are due to start in February 2022. Closing date for applications 17 January 2022.

SIAMS Inspectors

Applications have opened for new SIAMS Inspectors. The link to the application form and more details can be found on the [SIAMS Inspections webpage](#) on the CoFE website (click on New Inspector Training). Applications will close at **midday (12pm) on Thursday 13 January 2022**. If interested, please do contact [Jane Sheat](#) or [Phil Knowles](#) to discuss.

**FESTIVAL
OF
SUFFOLK
2022**



Save the idea! We're exploring ideas for our Church Schools to use, as part of the Festival of Suffolk, during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, including: creating an original prayer space (as part of the aim to create 1000 new prayer spaces across Suffolk), writing a Jubilee prayer or designing a card for Her Majesty. More details to follow in the new year.



Community Matters: Helping Young People Lead With Character in a Post-Covid World is a series of reflections from experts in the education sector, focussing on the increasing need for the prioritisation of character education. To download the free ebook, please click [here](#).

Share the Light

Picture News is inviting primary schools to 'Share the Light' in its Christmas campaign for 2021. This focuses on loneliness and the importance of showing kindness during the festive period. For further information please click [here](#). Collective worship resource is available [here](#).



films and resources for Primary Schools. A real Christmas treat for KS 1& 2 bringing the story of the true meaning of Christmas alive to this age-group.

Their Christmas film series gives every class and assembly access to Christmas, Easter and a host of other Bible stories too (48 films- adding more each year) with cross-curricular worksheet packs and accredited by *Understanding Christianity*. A real treat!

The trailer is available [here](#).

Tales From The Miracle Book also have some new films on Moses. Lots of fun for KeyStages 1&2 for classroom RE (or even assemblies).

The 2 free videos are available:

[Moses 3/6: The Plagues Begin](#); and

[Moses 6/6: The 10 commandments](#).

For any more information, please click [here](#).



Springs Dance Company Projects

The Easter Project 2022 leads pupils through a series of dance workshops that help them engage with the Easter story. For more please click [here](#). The PARABLE Interactive Performance Workshop provides primary schools with visually exciting and imaginative ways to boost children's engagement with RE. Please click [here](#) for more.

News from YOUR School

What we are asking for is photos, short articles, web-page references, etc that we can highlight in the next and subsequent editions of this newsletter so that your school's achievements can be broadcast to a wider audience. Please send items electronically to [Jacqui](mailto:jacqui@cofesuffolk.org) and we'll be pleased to include them.

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