



## Diocese of Ely Schools' Newsletter Spring Term 2020



*The River Wissey at Hilgay, Norfolk*

Welcome to our newsletter for Spring Term 2020. Our schools have been great places to be this term, full of projects and events. As we near the end of term, there are many challenges with health issues across the country for children and staff. We are hoping that you all have a quiet and calm end to term and stay in good health.

**Rev'd Sue Martin**

## Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2020



*Gift or loan?*

### **God's Creation... A gift or a loan?**

We are delighted with the response, and to hear of the great work and assemblies that are taking place in our schools.

From turtles swimming freely in the oceans, to trees being cut down in the Amazon rainforest, it is certainly making an impact on an increasing understanding of the world, near and far. Children are showing an amazing understanding of stewardship and responsibility of looking after God's world.

Many comments are made on the global issue of plastic waste and how we can tackle that in our homes, our schools and our communities.

Ideas, thoughts, prayer and practical suggestions are all being developed, and we look forward so much to seeing the final work and Letters of Creation in different presentations.

The links to our partner, Christian Aid and their Global Neighbour's programme are below;

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme>

The Green Flag Award for Eco schools scheme is also recommended;

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/about/howitworks/the-awards/green-flag-award/>

**Thank you for being part of Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge in 2020  
and making a difference in this world.**

## Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award Programme

Six of our schools are taking part in the pilot award programme in the Diocese of Ely. They are actively involved in the project to empower pupils in key leadership skills, and discover the life skills of compassion, patience, self-control, gentleness and leadership. Those taking part are invited to an awards ceremony taking place at Ely Cathedral on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Further details to follow.

### Future Schools Involvement

The Young Leaders Award, which is a leadership and character education programme, is designed by the Archbishop of York Youth Trust, to be delivered by teaching staff within the classroom.

The Award has empowered over 90,000 pupils from 700 schools to learn and practice key leadership skills and character virtues and to transform their communities through social action. Available at KS1 to Post 16, the YLA has clear links to SMSC, British Values, PSHE, Character Education, Citizenship, RE and SIAMS.

**You can find more information here about the Young Leaders Award;**

<https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award>

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### Ad orientem

We are working with the Education and Outreach team at [Ely Cathedral](#) and [James Olsen, a composer](#), on an exciting project to compose a new piece of work performed by our school children.

Ely Cathedral has commissioned composer James Olsen to compose a new work to be performed by local schoolchildren alongside Ely Cathedral boy choristers and girls' choir, Cathedral musicians and professional orchestral musicians from the Britten Sinfonia on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

The piece will contain dramatic elements telling the story of the earliest days of Ely Cathedral and the destruction of the original Anglo-Saxon monastery in Ely by the Vikings in the ninth century. The piece will also feature specially written texts by the acclaimed local writer Francis Spufford.

There is a beautiful video of the children at Ely Cathedral on a training day last term. Another training day is planned for the Spring Term and a live performance of the new work on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events/ad-orientem-an-ely-liturgy>

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## Training for Curates in Church Schools

Several of our schools are involved in the training programme for second year curates and are offering a placement within the church school setting.

We have 10 curates who will be in a church school across the diocese, finding out more about life in a church school, its vision and Christian Distinctiveness, the requirements for SIAMS, the community and how children and staff are loved and respected.

It is a short space of time within their overall training programme, but a valuable one, giving a good insight into future parish ministry and the importance of a church school within the parish setting.

A big thank you to all schools who have offered to be part of this training programme.

I can offer feedback later in the year on the value from the curates.

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## SIAMS Update

Eynesbury was the first school to be inspected this year, just three weeks into Alana's full time HT role. There were many positives in the report, particularly regarding courageous advocacy and the impact of collective worship, despite a long-term vacancy at the local church.

We were also delighted for Gill and her team at Barrington on their excellent SIAMS report later in the term. Gill is very modest, but her dedication to the vision of the school (including getting the original Trust Deed board repaired on national TV - Repair Shop BBC1 in April) was highlighted as a great strength.

Finally, Holywell was inspected just after half term and Paul and his team are still waiting for the official report to come back from the inspector.

Just to remind schools that the draft report which is sent to the school for a factual accuracy check has already been signed off by an external critical reader before it comes to the school to be read.

If any LA maintained schools with inspections due in 2020-2021 wish to take up the offer of pre-SIAMS support as their 4<sup>th</sup> EDRA visit this year, then please do fill out the doodle poll sent earlier this term.

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## Foundation Governors

The next DBE meeting will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Please ensure that all re-applications and new applications for Foundation Governor appointments reach Caroline Vinall by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at the latest, in order for the relevant preparation of documentation to take place.

All applications should be sent as originals to Andrew Read DDE, c/o Grace House, 8 High Street, Ely, marked FG Confidential. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the incumbent or PCC of the school's local church. Any applicants who attend services elsewhere should have spoken to and / or met with both the school and the local member of clergy / PCC prior to application to ascertain their suitability as a foundation

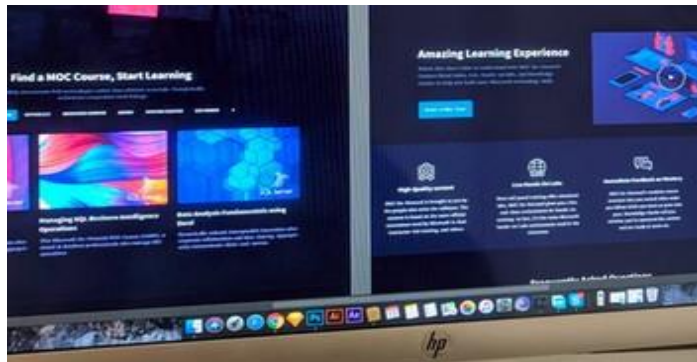
governor.

Please note that all governor appointments made at the 18<sup>th</sup> June meeting will begin with immediate effect, with an official term of office from the Start of Autumn Term 2020 to End of Summer Term 2024.

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## WEBSITE

[www.elyeducation.org](http://www.elyeducation.org)



*Building something new...*

Ongoing updates and changes to the website, and you can now download documents such as Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge for 2020 and 2019, and the newsletters. There is also a section on Vacancies with recent vacancies for head teachers.

Acts of Worship will soon be current to the end of the Summer Term 2020 and available in pdf form to download.

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## DATES AND EVENTS

Leadership Forums – 17<sup>th</sup> March , **now postponed** and 2<sup>nd</sup> July – venue TBC.

Garden Party –25<sup>th</sup> June from 3.15-5.30, optional evensong 5.30pm. (Invitations to head teachers and chairs of governors to be sent shortly) RSVP by 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Archbishop of York Leadership Award Awards Ceremony in Ely Cathedral 25<sup>th</sup> June

Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge- Display in Ely Cathedral during the Heaven and Earth Events 16<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup>

Annual conference - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 is at Imperial War Museum Duxford, and open to headteachers and chairs of governors to attend. (Delegates are welcome to visit the museum FOC after the conference.)

## OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER ...

**Available Summer Term,, and on our website.** Do let us know about your up and coming projects and we can share them.

## OUR TEAM CONTACTS

Our team and contact details are:

Andrew Read — Diocese of Ely, Director of Education, [Andrew.Read@elydiocese.org](mailto:Andrew.Read@elydiocese.org)

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Rev'd Sue Martin — Bishop's Officer for Schools' Mission [Sue.Martin@elydiocese.org](mailto:Sue.Martin@elydiocese.org)

Sally Batchelder – DBE Administrator & Information Manager [education@elydiocese.org](mailto:education@elydiocese.org)

**The DBE team wish you a very Happy Easter.**

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