

# Footprints

Step-by-step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

January 2020



## Courageous Advocacy



**Paul Dunning**  
Diocesan Director of Education

The words 'courageous advocacy' appeared in the SIAMS schedule in 2018 and since then schools have had the opportunity to demonstrate in abundance the wonderful things their children do in this realm. Just read this edition of Footprints to be blown away by the range and diversity of courageous advocacy in this Diocese.

What do you think of when courageous advocacy is mentioned? Is it the heroes of the past who have campaigned selflessly for peace or justice such as Nelson Mandela or William Wilberforce? Is it current day activists such as those involved in Extinction Rebellion or the young climate change champion Greta Thunberg?

In checking the current SIAMS Schedule what emerges is that courageous advocacy is central to any school's vision:

- Aspiring to be the best you can be, making positive choices about how to live and behave
- Understanding disadvantage, deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world
- Challenging injustice and inequality and engaging in social action projects
- Supporting children in their learning to achieve the above

You will read a tribute to Paul Stanley, former Headteacher of Taverham VC Junior school overleaf. His untimely death is a tragedy, but it is fitting that we remember him in this edition of Footprints. The bullets points above describe this courageous advocate, educationalist, environmentalist and loved colleague.

Courageous advocates are in all our communities and are often unsung heroes. Courageous advocacy may be a recently coined expression, but it is, and always has been, at the heart of what schools do. It is a privilege to visit and see staff and governors championing children, relentless in their efforts to do the best for every child. You take children on visits and bring in visitors to enrich learning. You work with parents on their children's educational journeys and celebrate with events such as concerts, art exhibitions and services in Church and in school. Without exception, you raise money for charities, usually chosen by the children themselves. You make links with other schools and organisations locally and often nationally and internationally to better understand the world.

The following prayer could be called 'An Ode to Courageous Advocacy'. Fittingly, it is written by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus whose members were sent out across Europe to set up educational establishments.

*"Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as Thou deservest; to give, and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labour, and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do Thy will."*

LISTEN

CELEBRATE

IMAGINE

EMPOWER

...MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE

**Teresa Osborne**  
Headteacher, Alington &  
Bergh Apton CE VA Primary

Our Vision is to “let every light shine” and to think how this can be revealed through our values of “love, faith and action” as we plan and implement our curriculum and the learning opportunities our pupils receive.

Following a presentation from YMCA Norfolk the children decided that they would organise a collection of duvets, blankets and towels which were donated to the YMCA for distribution to young people living independently in accommodation. Subsequently they decided to arrange a sleepover of their own on the school field one Friday evening. The children were sponsored by family and friends to build weather-proof shelters on the school field, eat some food they had cooked on a basic camp



fire and then settle down for the night. They realised how difficult it was going to be to build a shelter that would keep them warm, dry and safe. Volunteer staff however had arranged for sleeping bags to be laid on the floor of the school hall and so everyone did manage to have a night's sleep of sorts! The children raised over £1000 for YMCA Norfolk through this event. Through our support of YMCA and the Norwich Food Bank, the children are

developing an understanding of some of the needs of local people, and that hunger and poverty are experienced by people in many different situations.

Encouraged by their success, a further sleepover was arranged during the Summer term of 2019 where parents were invited in to join their children for breakfast. Sufficient funds were raised to sponsor a child in need through Compassion UK.

## Beyond the cake sale!

**Christopher J Allen**  
Executive Head, Unity Federation

In a world where we are often encouraged by social media to boast and blow our own trumpet, where unless it is big or dramatic it often seems unworthy, it is important to remember and to teach the children in our care that small, often insignificant, acts are just as important. Courageous advocacy should be all about the little things, the small acts that when added together, multiplied across God's world, add up to something great.

Proverbs 31:8-9 says “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” The Global Neighbours Scheme has been developed by Christian Aid for primary schools to encourage consideration of global issues linked to injustice, poverty and exploitation. It goes far beyond the cake sale in school enabling children to become courageous in their choices and advocate social change.

At Unity Federation we celebrated receiving our Bronze Global Neighbours Award in December 2018 and are working towards gaining our Silver Award. This has allowed children in all four academies to open their eyes up



to the world around them and make informed choices back in school.

Colkirk – Eco-schools is flourishing where children have chosen to champion protecting God's creation by tackling the exploitation of natural resources. They recycle, re-use, turn lights off and promote how we can look after the natural environment.

Little Snoring - Year 3 and Year 4 pupils have explored climate change, protested in support of Greta Thunberg, utilised growing their own produce and sold this

to the community to cut food miles.

West Raynham and Sculthorpe - the children once again collected food for the local food bank and visited the elderly at a weekly luncheon club to share harvest produce.

So our message to you all would be to be brave, start taking those small steps that can add up across our wonderful world to something much bigger. As Confucius once said 'The man who moves a mountain starts by carrying away a small stone'.





**Matthew Parslow-Williams**  
**Headteacher, Hethersett VC**  
**Primary School**

Courageous Advocacy in the new SIAMS schedule is how well the school's Christian vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities.

At Hethersett VC Primary we are lucky to have children that are always looking to help those less fortunate than themselves. I truly believe that this comes from the way we do things in our school and through our deeply rooted Christian Values. As a leader, the best way in which this can be promoted is to listen to the

voice of the child, to help and support them and encourage their ideas.

Over the years our children have been amazing courageous advocates and engaged in social action through buying acres of rainforest (inspired through their learning), organising collections for our local foodbank (inspired by our value of thankfulness), holding bake sales to raise money for local and national charities (Nepal Earthquake Appeal, Nelson's Journey, Macmillan Cancer Support, The Samaritans). In addition to this, our Friends Association also donates money from our Summer Fair fundraiser to local charities chosen by the children.

Children naturally want to help and be good citizens, give them the platform to do so and watch them flourish.

## Norwich Cathedral Days 2019 'Light of the World'

**Janet Marshall**  
**Head of Schools & Family Learning**  
**Norwich Cathedral**

*'Go shine as lights for Jesus in the world'* was the commission given in our closing worship, to over 300 pupils from our Diocesan family of schools and academies at our Cathedral days in October. Our focus was Jesus' message 'I am the light of the world' and they explored how the Cathedral's Benedictine Monastic community strove to share the love and light of Jesus 900 years ago, plus how this task is still a key goal for us and for all

Christians today.

In workshops they investigated what it means to share the light of Jesus through courageous advocacy, social action and prayer with those near and far. There was discussion and reflection in challenging prayer stations that encouraged them to think deeply about being instruments that spread the sparks of God's love to all they meet. Children also responded to our beautiful Trinity stained glass windows through reflective weaving and they danced in celebration of the 'light of the world'.

Medieval monks appeared, pupils made medicinal herb bags and candles. They learned about the social actions of the monks in medieval times at the Priory Infirmary. They donned scapulas and

hoods to sing plainsong praises to God in the Choir.

Enormous thanks to all teachers, pupils, the Diocesan Children's and Youth Department, Board of Education and the Cathedral Schools & Family Learning team for all their hard work.



## Paul Stanley (1965-2019)

**Chris Wilson-Town**

Paul's death in mid-September, a month after his formal retirement and a year after his brain tumour was diagnosed, reflected the severity of his illness.

Paul became headteacher of Taverham VC CE Junior School in September 2009. As chair of governors for much of Paul's headship, it was a joy and a privilege to work with him and be part of all that has taken place at the school.

The record shows three good Ofsted and two good Church School

inspections, and consistently good attainment at Key Stage 2. All three Ofsted reports describe the impact of Paul's leadership – Outstanding is not a word Ofsted use lightly. But there is more than the record.

Very early in Paul's headship, the governors agreed 'Learning for a Fuller Life' as our vision. Paul welcomed this as it mirrored his unshaken belief that there is more to school life than English, Maths and passing tests. Under Paul, the school expanded the range of clubs, activities and trips; a Peace Garden

was created and the Carol Service at St Peter Mancroft is a highlight of our distinctiveness. We are also due to become a School of Sanctuary.

Every teacher hopes to make a difference to children's lives and learning. By putting children at the heart of Taverham, Paul delivered that in spades! His death is much too soon. Paul was an exceptional person and the whole school miss him greatly. I am sure that you will join me in holding Paul's family in your prayers for all that they undertake in the future.

## Governor & Clerk Update



**Jill Wakefield**

### Courageous Advocacy

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*  
Proverbs 31:8-9

Courageous Advocacy has become a focus during SIAMS inspections. It features under Strand 3 of the SIAMS Schedule – Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy. Inspectors will want to know:

- How leaders make sure all pupils have curriculum opportunities to look beyond themselves, ask 'big questions' and think globally about life and develop an understanding of disadvantage, deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world.

- How well the school community connects its ethical and charitable activities to the school's vision and associated values. Do leaders provide opportunities for all pupils to engage in social action and to understand how they can challenge injustice?

The following extracts from SIAMS reports published this year may give you some idea of areas governors may wish to explore within your school community:

- Pupils are encouraged to explore global issues including those relating to injustice and discrimination, often questions for debate are raised by pupils. A discussion about refugees was broadened by pupils to include the current situation in Venezuela. Pupils look outside of their immediate community and support local issues such as the foodbank and the homeless and elderly in their community. Visits are enhanced by pupil leaders to the local elderly! (Graded Excellent)
- The Eco Council in the school has relentlessly championed the causes of injustice, inequality and exploitation of natural resources for many years,

achieving Green Flag status three times in a row. Pupils confidently advocate this cause and have a voice that is not only heard in the school but shapes how the school works to protect the world God has created. The school is on the cusp of being truly global neighbours although currently initiatives are neither sufficiently broad nor securely enough embedded for this. (Graded Excellent)

- The school supports a range of charities, like Christian Aid and Save the Children, that reflect its Christian vision and values, such as respect and positivity. Pupils are encouraged to engage in social action and be courageous advocates for change in local, national and global communities. Pupils have regular curriculum times when they look beyond themselves and think globally about life. They develop an understanding of disadvantage, deprivation and exploitation of natural world as each class studies a focus country. (Graded Good).

**Jill Wakefield can be contacted by email: [governance@donesc.org](mailto:governance@donesc.org) or call 01603 881722**

## Welcome

### Headteachers starting January 2020

Alpington & Bergh Apton VA Primary School – Rosie Welch  
Nar Valley Federation – Anne Neary  
Blue Sky Federation – Laura Watts

### New Diocesan School Support Officers

Sue Armstrong  
Teresa Osborne

## Farewell and Thanks

Teresa Osborne – Headteacher of Alpington & Bergh Apton VA Primary

## School Organisation Changes

Heathersett VC Junior to Primary (September)

## SIAMS Congratulations

### Congratulations to the following schools that have had their SIAMS inspections this term

#### Good

Fairhaven VA Primary, South Walsham  
Ashill VC Primary

#### Excellent

Homefield VC Primary, Bradwell  
Alpington & Bergh Apton VA Primary School  
Wreningham VC Primary School



### Promote your local church groups & activities

**Bright Map** is an online map where visitors can search for community groups and activities near to where they live, many run or supported by local churches. Add your church groups and activities to the map for free at [www.brightmap.org](http://www.brightmap.org)