

Romans 15 v13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit'

Dear Colleagues

I hope you all had a good break and start January feeling fresh. This can often feel like the 'business' point with Christmas past and the summer some way off but it can also feel like a time of new beginnings. On that note I would like to warmly welcome back to our team two familiar faces. Rosie Black will be the new Christian Distinctiveness and RE Manager and Cathy Slow who will be starting in February as our School Admissions Advisor as well as continuing her school improvement work with schools in the East of the diocese.

There are also a few people in our schools starting out in headship or changing their roles. Our prayers are with:

Sophie Thomas – St Andrew's CE Primary School, Hove
Natalie Alty – Newick CE Primary School
Kim Huggett – Yapton CE Primary School
Russell Thorne and Suzi Singh - Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy
Kim Thornton – Chidham Parochial Primary School

We all face challenges in the current education climate. This time of the year may well see you focussing further on making your budget stretch over ever widening demands and some of you will be involved in school organisation discussions and area reviews in the coming weeks. Please be aware that we will be there alongside you. I recently read these words by a Christian writer:

"You are valuable because you exist. Not because of what you do or what you have done, but simply because you are."

These words have had a real relevance for me as I have visited many of you in recent months. Many of you are thriving and doing great things but for others, there are real challenges and barriers. It's at times like these we need to rely on God to help us achieve what seems to be impossible. There have been a number of times when it is clear people in your roles just need to be "you" ...and being "you" is all that is required. Please do remember that we are here to support you and do not hesitate to contact us.

Before the month is out I will be writing again on a few matters that are more business orientated. Please do look out for that. In the meantime, do please inform us as soon as possible of the school number you submit in your January census. This is important to us for a number of key administration issues. You can inform us by phone 01273 425687 or email educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org. Thank you for your co-operation.

Please do not forget to sign up for our Headteachers' Conference on Friday 29 March. The theme this year is "Wellness". This has proved to be very popular. As places are limited, booking early is essential as tickets are being snapped up fast.

I look forward to visiting as many of you as possible this term. Last term I managed 36 schools. I am sorry I can't get to you all sooner, but I am sure you appreciate there is quite a lot to be done here too. I have several school visits booked for the next few weeks and this will increase as the term progresses. The purpose of my visits is not to check on you but simply to help me know who you are and the context in which you are working. 155 schools are a lot of schools but one by one I hope to get to you all.

Welcome back and I hope 2019 will be a year full of joy for you and your communities.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Cristin
January 2019

Learning with meaning and purpose: to know God and shape the world