

**Director: Mr Trevor Cristin**

**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 have been really blessed by the welcome I have received in my new role as Governance Development Officer. I look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year and beyond.

As I reflect on the meaning and purpose of this Christmas season I am thinking about the genealogy of Jesus. I thought the verse **"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,"** (Galatians 4:4) might sound more interesting! But it is incredible to think how over the ages people were significant in the history of Jesus. You may know the story of Ruth who met Boaz and who brought Obed into the world. His son was Jesse the father of the great King David and the rest, as they say is history.

As a school governor you are significant in the lives of the children (whom you may rarely meet especially during these days) as you serve the school in strategic governance. This is the time to thank you for all you give in time, energy and prayer. After another term where the challenges have been many, may you have a blessed Christmas.

**Governance E-bulletin**

We are launching this new monthly email bulletin to keep in touch with Chairs, Foundation Governors and Clerks although I really hope you will forward this to all governors. It is for the whole governing board. It will contain news, updates on relevant matters and details of upcoming development and training.

**Upcoming Governor Development**

A brand-new programme of **Governor Training sessions** is being launched today for the Spring and Summer term. I hope that this exciting development will meet many of your needs as Church School Governors. It is intended to supplement other training you will be accessing and focus specifically on how you can become even more effective in your role within a Church school context. Please do let me know if there are other themes or areas it would be helpful to include either in this period or beyond.

We have taken the decision to hold almost all of these sessions on Zoom, not least because they can be more accessible to most governors. We will of course keep this under review.

**Support**

I am here to support governance, so it would be good to hear from you. Advice, training for your governance board and anything that will support you is why I am here. Many chairs have taken advantage of the Virtual Handshake offer! I will release more dates and times for January so if you'd like a fifteen-minute conversation please go to: [calendly.com/mikechichester/virtual-handshake](https://calendly.com/mikechichester/virtual-handshake).

Finally,

as you are no doubt concerned with the challenges and the wellbeing of your headteacher I would encourage you to look after yourself too. As ever please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or worries at [mike.simmonds@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:mike.simmonds@chichester.anglican.org).

Have a wonderful Christmas as we celebrate the One who came at the right time for us!

Very best wishes,



Mike Simmonds  
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