

## Education Sunday is 20th January, 2008

### What is Education Sunday?

For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. The theme is devised by an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations and organisations. For some years it has been celebrated on the ninth Sunday before Easter. The ideas in the leaflets are intended to be used as a springboard for a variety of events on or around Education Sunday. If you feel unable to devote a whole service to celebrating the education theme on the nationally recognised Education Sunday why not use some of the ideas on other occasions? (Some churches, for instance, prefer to hold a special service of rededication for staff and students at local schools, colleges and universities at the start of the academic year. Other churches prefer to hold a service of celebration and thanksgiving at the end of the academic year.) The ecumenical steering group comprises representatives of eight organisations: The Baptist Union, the RC Church, The Church of England and the National Society, The Methodist Church, The Salvation Army and the United Reformed Church as well as the Association of Christian Teachers.



Coston Community Primary School



Edward Betham CE Primary School

Rupert Kaye, Chief Executive of the Association of Christian Teachers, (and husband of Greenford's former and popular Methodist Minister) makes an Education Sunday plea: Most Christian leaders realise the strategic importance of being able to reach out to young people, adult learners and those who work with them. But many of those leaders, quite frankly, aren't sure where to start. Education Sunday (whenever it is celebrated!) provides the perfect opportunity for Christian leaders, churches and congregations to demonstrate their commitment to learning and teaching, and, more specifically, to those who learn and teach. Even the most sensitive and encouraging Education Sunday service cannot, however, redress 51 weeks of woeful neglect. So, what should churches be doing?

Find out on Sunday 20th January at The Parish Mass when our guest preacher will be The Venerable Stephan Welch, Archdeacon of Middlesex and Chair of the London Diocesan Board for Schools (pictured). The theme in 2008 is **"Come and See..."**

In the Church will be children, staff and parents of Edward Betham Church of England Primary School and Coston Community Primary School.



Neil Richardson