

Carrying the Light of Christ in Schools in 2011

The Celebration of the Advent of Free Education for all in the Diocese of London



The year 2011 marks 200 years since Joshua Watson first established the National Society with its vision "That the National Religion should be made the foundation of National Education, and should be the first and chief thing taught to the poor, according to the excellent Liturgy and Catechism provided by our Church."

The London Diocesan Board for School (LDBS) wishes to mark the year 2011 by commissioning a sacred flame to travel around every Church school in the Diocese, along a set route, starting at the Church of St John at Hackney and finishing at St Paul's Cathedral with a large service. In order to make the most of this occasion, to involve the local community, and create a historical record of our schools involvement in the history of education over the last 200 years (or more!), there are a number of things that we would like to ask each school to do.

We would like the candle to be welcomed to each school at a celebratory service with a set liturgy.

We would like the celebration to be the responsibility of the local school (including identifying local VIP's to invite and sending out invitations and generating local publicity) in order to make it as personal to the school and its community as possible.

Each school will be responsible for passing the candle on to the next school on the route.



We would like every school to contribute a paragraph of 300 words on its history as a Church school along with 4 photographs of the school over the 200 years. Each school will have 2 pages of A4 to put its information onto in a specially commissioned and bound book that will be sent round with the flame. These will be collated into a limited edition book which will be published in 2011 and made available on demand. We would like schools to identify 10 representatives to come to the service at St Paul's Cathedral, including both staff and students.

The flame will be arriving at Edward Betham School at 11am on Friday 25th March, being handed on from Saint Saviour's Infant school in Ealing. We will hand it on to Twyford CE High school on Monday 28th March at a ceremony at 2.20pm.

You are welcome to come and be part of the flame progression at Edward Betham School.