

# Bishop visits primary to mark new C of E status

## Infants take on Christian ethos as they join juniors

By Gareth Davies

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A PRIMARY school has received a visit from the Bishop of Croydon to celebrate its adoption into the Church of England.

All Saints junior and infants schools, in Upper Norwood, joined together to form an all-through primary school last month.

But despite the union, only the junior half of the school was part of the Church of England.

To mark the adoption of a Christian ethos throughout the whole of All Saints, head teacher Jane Elliott invited Bishop of Croydon Jonathan Clark to visit the school in Upper Beulah Hill last Thursday.

### Questions

The bishop met staff and took questions from inquisitive pupils about what his job entailed and how he helps the community.

Mr Clark, who used to be the chairman of governors of a school in Stoke Newington, said: "It was great fun.

"I really enjoyed my time as a governor so it was lovely to be



**TOP BOY:** All Saints logo designer Jacob Riley meets Bishop of Croydon Jonathan Clark

back among teachers and kids in such an enjoyable atmosphere."

The visit began with a collective worship involving staff and some of the congregation from All Saints C of E Church.

The bishop was then quizzed on his job by pupils in Year 4 and spoke about the school's new motto—all believing, all achieving—with children in Year 6.

He said: "They were such a good bunch and had obviously done a lot of work with their teachers because they asked lots of interesting questions

"The school choir was really



**PLAY TIME:** The bishop talks to a pupil about what his job entails

CRGM20121004B Photos by Grant Melton

impressive too. Some children are a little reluctant when it comes to singing but they really went for it."

Mr Clark also met Jacob Riley, 7, the Year 3 pupil who won a competition to design the school's new badge, which features children holding hands.

"Jacob told him all about how he and his grandad had come up

with the idea and then made it on his computer," said Miss Elliott.

"The bishop was clearly very impressed. I went to a head teachers conference on Friday and he spoke there too.

"He mentioned his visit to the school and how switched on the pupils were. I was really proud."

Miss Elliott added: "We've never had a bishop visit the

school so this was something new for us.

"It gave us the chance to celebrate becoming an all-through C of E school and to reflect on what that means.

"I think it brings together our ethos and values, promotes them to all our pupils and also gives our new school the best possible start."

### IN BRIEF

## Teens selected for top league

**SHIRLEY:** Team mates Alima Priest and Sharifah Burford have both been selected to represent the Surrey Storm in the National Netball Talent League this season.

The talented duo – both aged 17 from Coloma Convent Girls' School in Upper Shirley Road – will compete in the highest level of club competition in the country.

Matches from the league are often covered on Sky Sports 4.

## Pathway help

**CROYDON:** Three schools will take part in the Pathways event on Thursday from 4pm to 8pm.

Students from Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College, Thomas More and Archbishop Lanfranc will meet employers and universities in the Arnhem Gallery of the Fairfield Halls. An exhibition is being held on possible routes to employment and higher and further education.

## Activist talks

**CROYDON:** Gay activist Ted Brown spoke about his life and campaigns last Tuesday as part of Black History Month.

The meeting, held at the Spread Eagle, in Katharine Street, was one of a series of talks organised by CAGS (Croydon Area Gay Society) under the title The Brief Encounter.

The next speaker will be novelist and stage performer Stella Duffy on December 4.

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