



From *Jackie Waters-Dewhurst*, Diocesan Director of Education

Once upon a time when the world was young and the sun shone every day and the rains fell every night and the crops grew and the children thrived....

Once upon a time when the classrooms were full – but not too full - and children came to school ready to learn; with full tummies and bright eyes and a thirst for knowledge.....

Once upon a time when there was no poverty and everyone was treated with dignity and respect; when equality for all was apparent in every level of society and in every organisation.....

Once upon a time when the world was full of hope and love and charity and suffering was no more.....

Once upon a time.....

Of course, there wasn't a time like this – it's never been perfect and it isn't perfect now.

We start a new year having been unable to put down the last one – 2021 is not a blank piece of paper it comes half covered in the scribbles of 2020 – in the plans put on hold and the continuing risk assessments, in the missed friends and relatives and the new zoom meetings, in the expectation of more government guidance and changes of policy – always too late, always too scant on detail.

But the scribbles of 2020 also include the rainbows for key workers, the selflessness of hospital staff and carers, the fund raising and the food banks which have provided so much for so many – the Trussell Trust and another sausage roll number 1, Captain Tom and pupils in our schools who have done extraordinary things.

Our world is not perfect but that doesn't prevent us aiming to make it better – to slowly grow 'heaven on earth' and that is what we have also seen during 2020 and what we will continue to be part of in 2021 - in the work which we do to make our schools places of justice for all, in the provision of food and Christmas gifts and support to our most vulnerable, in our gift of relevant, meaningful curriculums for our children.

[Isaiah 42:4](#)

4 he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.

We do what we do – you do what you do – to make a difference, to transform. So whether the primary schools stay open or move to remote learning (you have our support for whatever decisions you need to make on this), whether we move up or down the tiers, whether we grow or reduce our bubbles at home or at school, let 2021 be a year of hope.

[Isaiah 40:31](#)

...but those who **hope** in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

This year let's soar and let's support each other to do so.

Happy New God filled, hope filled Year!

God bless

Jackie

Resources and Information

Our Spring Courses

Follow [this link](#) to see our spring courses.

Let's Go Zero

[Let's Go Zero](#) brings together UK schools who want to be zero carbon, are reducing their own climate impact, and demanding greater UK government support to achieve this goal. The campaign will show national government that there is a substantial demand amongst teachers and pupils to become zero carbon, with the potential for schools to catalyse wider change in their communities.

