

Our new Church of England Secondary School

The dream of a Church secondary school in Bromley is finally becoming a reality. After lots of hurdles and hassles about planning we now have a site and it looks as though it's actually going to happen.

A temporary governing body has been formed and it began work in early October. I was elected to chair it and Gill Thompson is also a governor. Our first task is to appoint a headteacher. So much will depend on this first Head so this will be a very big decision indeed. We also have to get some students and as I write applications to join the school in year 7 next September are rolling in. There are still some difficulties ahead on the admissions front too. It looks as though some of the other schools might object to the school's admissions arrangements so the process will be delayed a bit while an adjudicator decides how things should work. Hopefully this won't delay things very much.

The other thing of course is the little matter of a building. Work is expected to begin on site in early January. We won't have the building anywhere near ready when we open in September but some of it should be ready half way through the first term. In the meantime we'll have some modern mobile classrooms to work in. Final completion should be in the autumn of 2005.

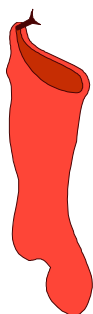
This project has been and still is dogged with problems but it's also tremendously exciting to be able to start something like this off from scratch. Gill and I are really proud to be associated with it and we hope that it will be of real benefit to the church in Bromley and to the wider community of the Borough. There is nothing more important than ensuring our children get a good start in life and we shall be able to ensure that their education takes place in the context of Christian values and expectations.

Please pray for the governing body during these coming weeks, especially in the critical decision of appointing a Headteacher.

Finally... have your say. So far the school has been referred to as Bishop Justus but this may not be the final name. It will be for the governing body to decide. Do you have any ideas what the school should be called? If you do come and tell me or Gill and we'll toss your suggestion into the pot with the others.

This is a great vision, and a tremendous opportunity. Soon it will be a reality.

Michael Camp



Christmas stockings

These were not found in England earlier than 1854. The practise came from Germany, but not exclusively; for in certain French and Italian convents, the nuns had long been hanging stockings on the abbess' door, with notes inside asking for St Nicholas' protection; and next morning they would be found to be full of sweets and trinkets.