



St Andrew's School Bedford

e-newsletter December 2011

The Christmas Spirit

Many of the traditional features we associate with an English Christmas originate in the nineteenth century and were popularised by Charles Dickens, the two hundredth anniversary of whose birth is in February 2012. The theme of his familiar story, 'A Christmas Carol' is generosity of spirit and the great good it can do. The focus of our St Andrew's Day Service earlier in the term, sharing our gifts and talents, echoes this theme.

This term has seen a great generosity of spirit in charitable giving. Money has been raised for Macmillan Cancer Care, Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, St John's Hospice and the Bana ba Metsi School in Botswana. Shoe boxes of gifts for children in Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America have been donated. Thank you to pupils and parents for generously supporting these charities.

As significant as this charitable giving is, it is the generosity of spirit I see in daily acts of kindness, of understanding and of forgiveness between our pupils, staff and parents which makes St Andrew's such a special place.

May I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Sean Skehan
Headmaster



Junior School Open Christmas Tree Festival

Years 3 to 6 were very proud and honoured to open the Bedford Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church.



They sang a selection of Christmas music beautifully, led by their conductor, Mrs Herbert.

Year 4 and 5 Sleepover in Walmsley House



Girls in Years 4 and 5 enjoyed a very special sleepover in Walmsley House on Tuesday 13

December. The girls made Pizzas for their supper with Caroline, our chef. They then took part in a 'Walmsley's Got Talent' show, with special guest judge, Mr Hearn. Mrs van der Sande also taught the girls about some special Dutch Christmas traditions.

To all those who bought tickets through the St Andrew's Parent Teacher Association for the Milton Keynes Pantomime, **Aladdin**, on Thursday 15 December, have a great evening!

The Innkeeper's Breakfast Foundation, Years 1 and 2



The children in Foundation and Years One and Two gave a wonderful performance to a hall packed with parents and family.

In the play the Innkeeper keeps demanding his breakfast, only to be interrupted each time by visitors who want to see the special baby in his stable.

The acting and singing were excellent. The speaking parts were taken by the children in Years One and Two, who had learned all their lines and cues brilliantly. The Foundation class provided a wonderful troupe of dancing angels.

All the children worked hard to make their production a success and everyone was impressed with how well the children had learnt the words and music. A big thank you to Mrs Trunchion, to Mrs Russell, Mrs Watt, Mrs Young, Mrs Frame and Mrs Ayres.

Children of the World Years 3 and 4



Years 3 and 4 presented an interesting and entertaining performance about different Christmas traditions from countries around the world.

At the centre of the story were the traditional nativity figures of Joseph, Mary, Gabrielle and Jesus. They were visited by children from Poland, Malawi, Australia, China and Eire who presented their characteristic food and dance.

Each of the songs had captured the character of each country and the children performed with great confidence and skill.

The audience of parents and friends enjoyed it enormously.

The show was prepared by Mrs Herbert and Mrs Howe. Mrs Trunchion led the music. Thank you to them all for inspiring the girls to perform so well.

Nursery Nativity



The Nursery Nativity was a wonderful afternoon, involving all the children from the pre-school.

The children enjoyed dressing up as the traditional characters from the nativity story and sang the Christmas songs they have learned with Mrs Trunchion.



The packed audience of parents, grandparents and friends applauded the children enthusiastically.





Carol Services at St Andrew's Church



Senior School

Junior School



The Senior School Carol Service took place on Monday 12 December at St Andrew's Church. We were delighted to welcome an old friend, the Rev Monica Robinson, to lead our service.

The combination of traditional bible readings, poems and prose, together with the music, created an atmospheric start to the Christmas Season.



Olivia, Poppy, Lara and Natasha reading from 'Cider with Rosie'

The Senior Choir sang two pieces by Rutter and 'I Sing to a Maiden' by Hadley. We were also treated to a Christmas medley by the woodwind group and White Christmas by the Clarinet Trio.

Laila sang and Annie played Silent Night

The readers represented the whole school community from pupils of all ages to the Parents' Association, Governors and former pupils.

Our thanks to Mrs Parker for preparing the music and to Mrs Williams for preparing the readings and the readers.

The retiring collection raised £290 for our two charities, St John's Hospice and the Bana ba Metsi School, Botswana.

The Junior School Carol Service at St Andrew's Church was a wonderful occasion.



The readers all read beautifully, including some of our youngest pupils.

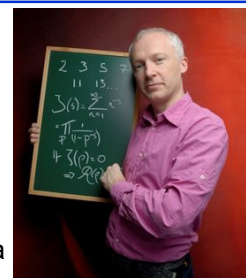
The singing of the carols and other musical items was excellent. Years 5 and 6 sang two pieces, Tree of Light and a traditional Czech carol.

The Foundation, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 classes gave lusty performances of Away in a Manger and Starry Night.

Our thanks to Mrs Trunchion and Mrs Parker for their work in preparing the music.

The retiring collection raised £181 for our two charities. Thank you to all parents and friends who attended and contributed

Year 10 Attend Maths Lecture by Oxford Professor



Year 10 pupils attended a lecture given by Marcus du Sautoy, Oxford professor for the public understanding of science.

The subject of the lecture was 'Five Secret Mathematicians' and professor du Sautoy explained how artists, including composers, writers and painters used mathematical ideas in their work. His examples were the French composer Messian, the artist Dali, the architect Le Corbouier, the choreographer Leban and the writer Luis Borges.

It was a fascinating and challenging lecture.