

Mrs Bland Writes



Trust in God...

As the privileged Headteacher of Mottram and Broadbottom CofE Primary schools, I've been known as many things and even been given the odd nickname (not all repeatable!). Some of the list I can only agree with: giddy? Yes. Hyper? Definitely. Loving? I hope so. Gorgeous? I really hope so!

Others are a little more controversial: impatient? Probably. Crazy? Only when necessary. A control freak? I completely denied it at the time, but on reflection... What has my life as a Christian leader taught me? Enough to write a book, but I'll try to stick to these things.

Patience. Well, I know I have none. I now realise Broadbottom, Mottram and, yes, Rome were not built in a day. In fact I'm still building in both schools (as well as my own house) 15 years later. St Paul reminds us that patience (or 'patient endurance') produces character, and that character increases our hope in God (Romans 5).

As for 'crazy'. I like to embrace the word as a compliment - who wants to be normal?! Life is crazy, our world is crazy and life as a Headteacher and single mum is certainly crazy, so I fit in perfectly! What I've come to learn is that God loves me, crazy or not. Again and again the Bible speaks of God's love. St John writes: "How great is the love

that God has lavished upon us, that we should be called children of God - and that is what we are!" (1John 3:1) - we love our children with all their brilliance and imperfections, and it's wonderful to know God feels the same (in fact, more) about us.

What about 'control freak'? When someone first said it, I didn't like it at all. It was probably true - and to some extent still is. As the Headteacher of 2 schools, it's probably a good attribute to look in control, be in control and show control. But what I have I learned? I think it's fair to say my life and career have not always followed the smoothest path and it's at these times that many feel out of control, lost in a downward spiral. Which is why it's been so important for me to be sure in my faith and trust in God - the only one who is truly in control. "Trust in God" is peppered all through the Bible and remains my favourite piece of advice. Trusting him through the good times and bad, Christians can relax a little and realise that God always does what is right. Through our prayers and faith he guides us both now and for the future.

Faith, hope and love - the things we long for to define the lives of the children at both our parish schools.

With love and blessings,

Esther