



# Grand challenge for leukaemia

By Sue Holliday

**It was like a breath of fresh air when I heard about three young ladies setting themselves a challenge and it certainly renewed my faith in the younger generation.**

Rachael Finn, Elena Vasiliou and Jude Fung, all 26, have been friends since meeting at Fortismere School when they were 11. Now they are setting out to raise £10,000 for the Leukaemia Society UK by walking 60 miles through the Grand Canyon.

The idea came from another fund raising event they took part in. It made them want to keep fit and do something worthwhile with their spare time.



L-R: Jude, Elena and Rachael

They told me they had not realised it would take up so much time or be quite so difficult, but they have learnt new skills just trying to raise money, such as event management and marketing.

Their Grand Canyon trek will be no holiday as they will be experiencing extreme

weather and walking over difficult terrain, sometimes at high altitude.

Events they have organised to fund their challenge include a car boot sale, paint balling, packing bags at the checkout in Sainsbury's, to name just a few. Still to come are a five-a-side football tournament, a horse racing night, a murder mystery event and an Ebay sale.

To give a donation or find out more about this enterprise visit their website at [www.tengrandcanyon.com](http://www.tengrandcanyon.com).



Deb Pothen prepares to say goodbye to the children of Holy Trinity. Photo by Mark Franklin.

# Happy memories of Holy Trinity

By Rebecca Kellaway

**After six years at Holy Trinity School, deputy head teacher Deb Pothen is saying a sad farewell to pupils, staff and parents, as she and her family prepare to move to Chelmsford, Essex.**

She said: "It has been a wonderful time for me. The staff are amazing and the most hard working bunch I have ever worked with, the kids are really fab and I have good relationships with the parents. I will miss everything about Holy Trinity."

Mrs Pothen arrived at Holy Trinity in September 2001 only expecting to do one term's supply cover in the Reception class. One term turned into another and when a permanent job came up she applied and was appointed.

Since then she has taught throughout the infants with particular responsibility for numeracy and religious education. It was just after she

was appointed deputy head in the autumn of 2005 that the school received an "outstanding" grade in their section 48 religious inspection.

Head teacher Tim Bowden said: "Deb is an outstanding teacher and deputy head. She has been a fantastic support to me and to her colleagues. Her enthusiasm is legendary and she has a real gift to inspire each and every child."

### Children's tributes

While she will be missed by the whole school community, most of all she'll be missed by the children. Here are their favourite memories:

Sam Mugridge, nine, said: "She is always in a good mood, she is enthusiastic about everything, she made me laugh."

Joe Lawrence, seven: "She does good impressions and she's the best storyteller, even when she's read the book hundreds of times before."

Georgia Hunt, five: "Sometimes when she's doing the register and drops her pen she calls herself a silly billy. That makes us laugh."

Alice Chapman, seven: "I liked being in Reception with Mrs Pothen, we did lots of fun activities."

William Chapman, six: "Mrs Pothen is a very jolly teacher"

Lois Lawrence, 10: "She is a wicked drawer and can draw cartoons of any animals you want. She's especially good at cats."

This summer the Pothen family are moving to Chelmsford where Mrs Pothen's husband, Father Simon, has been appointed Canon Precentor, which gives him responsibility for music at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Mrs Pothen will be saying farewell to the whole school community at a special assembly and coffee afternoon in July.

## Did you know?

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