

## DDE MONDAY BULLETINS SEPT 2023 – MARCH 2024

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## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Refugees at Christmas

UNHCR estimates that there are over 110 million people in the world who have been forcibly displaced and that there are over 36 million refugees. At this time of year, we remember that Mary and Joseph were forcibly displaced and had to accept poor quality temporary accommodation in Bethlehem, and then had to flee as refugees with the baby Jesus to Egypt. Considering the Christmas story through the lens of refugees brings a whole new perspective; this is something the Sanctuary Foundation have done in their latest film - [FAR](#)

[FROM HOME \(youtube.com\)](#). You can access all of the Foundation's educational and collective worship resources for schools here: [Resources for Schools - Sanctuary Foundation](#).

Many of our schools this year have pursued wonderful projects, addressing the theme of courageous advocacy. The film that we showed at our summer term Headteachers' Conference, with children at a refugee camp in Turkey receiving parcels from the children at All Saints CE Primary School Peterborough, will linger long in my memory. It's fantastic to think that the children and young people in our schools can and do make a real difference to the lives of refugees. This Christmas, above all times, let's keep refugees in our thoughts, prayers and plans for the future.

### **Sung Worship – My Lighthouse**

Reflecting upon God's guiding presence, may I encourage you to listen to: [Rend Collective - My Lighthouse \(Official Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#), in readiness for our next Headteachers' Conference, when the children of St Peter's Church of England Academy in Raunds will be teaching us to sing this popular worship song together.

### **World Changer**

As many of you are exploring courageous advocacy in your primary schools, you might like to try this new worship song from Alive Family Worship called 'World Changer', which has some actions to it. Coventry Diocese featured the song prominently in a huge worship celebration for all their schools at NAEC Stoneleigh in the summer term, and I thought our children would enjoy singing it too. Here's the live recording - [\(6\) World Changers @ ALIVE 2023-WITH LYRICS - YouTube](#) and here is a lower key recording, which you might find more useful for teaching children the words and actions in the first instance - [\(35\) World Changer - Family Worship Song - YouTube](#).

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## **DBE**

### **Academy Conversion**

66 of our 103 schools are now academies, and a further 4 schools are already in the process of converting this year, with the approval of the Diocesan Board of Education. Whilst we actively uphold a mixed economy in Peterborough Diocese, we do believe that most schools are best served, and best placed to serve other schools, by being part of a strong multi-academy trust. If you would like to request a presentation for your governing body about the pros and cons of academy conversion, and your multi-academy trust options in Peterborough Diocese, along with a commentary on the shape of a thorough due diligence process to help you explore your trust options further, please contact [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk).

### **Here for You (newsletter)**

You are very welcome to get in touch with any member of the Diocesan Education Team at any time; our email addresses are below:

Director - [peter.cantley@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:peter.cantley@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Deputy Director - [peter.french@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:peter.french@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Assistant Director - [jane.lewis@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:jane.lewis@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Schools' Effectiveness Adviser - [andrew.lakatos@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:andrew.lakatos@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Schools' Safeguarding Adviser - [lesley.pollard@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:lesley.pollard@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Executive Administrator - [alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Administrator - [louise.ross@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:louise.ross@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Finance Officer - [mark.bedford@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:mark.bedford@peterborough-diocese.org.uk).

## Prayer for Schools

As a DBE and DBE Education Team, we pray for all our Church of England schools every day. We also remember particular schools in prayer at the beginning of DBE and DBE Committee meetings, and are always happy to receive specific prayer requests at any time. We count it a privilege to be able to pray for you and with you.

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## ENVIRONMENT

### Cop 28 & Eco Schools

The Pope's recent address to Cop 28, as read out by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin, can be found here: [Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP28\) \(2 December 2023\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#). It was reported on by the BBC here: [Pope Francis calls for end to fossil fuels at COP28 in Dubai - BBC News](#) and a full recording can be found here: [2023.02.12 Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin delivers Pope Francis' speech at the COP28 - YouTube](#). It would make for an excellent discussion with pupils and students in religious education, science and collective worship.

### Eco Schools

Eco Schools have now launched their 'cut your carbon' campaign for schools. For further information see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgQhaO2wYvw>.

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## EVENTS

### Cathedral Educational Experiences

Alex Carton from the Cathedral education team has been in touch to say:

'Why not extend your visit to the Cathedral by booking a Mother Church session with the Cathedral education team?

- Learn about the role of the bishop, sit on the Bishop's throne and make paper mitres to take back to school
- Trace your journey from school to your Mother Church
- Celebrate your pilgrimage to your Mother Church by making your own pilgrimage badge (inspired by medieval pilgrim badges) to take back to school
- Learn how 'Peterborough' got its name and make your own 'Peter's Keys' Prayer cards
- Reflect on your part in the Diocesan Church School Family at our prayer station and add your art work to a collaborative work which will be displayed in the Cathedral

The activities will be set up around the building throughout the day – during the rehearsals – and schools wishing to take part will receive a map to guide them as they 'free-flow' between them. There will also be some spotter sheets for children to find out more about the fascinating history and the building itself! We do need schools to book, however, and ask for a £2 fee per student to cover the cost of our materials.

We hope that you will consider enabling your students to take part in these activities designed to help children reflect on their experience of being in a church school, understand that the Cathedral is their 'Mother Church' and enjoy learning about an awe inspiring sacred space!!

To book or for more information contact Alex or Toni at the Cathedral:  
[schoolvisits@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:schoolvisits@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk).

## **Give An X – KS5 National Voter Registration Event**

Dr Krish Kandiah and the Sanctuary Foundation are putting on a special, live, 15-minute, online event for Key Stage 5, college and sixth-form students at multiple times during National Voter Registration Day, on 16<sup>th</sup> April, to inspire and register your young people to vote in this year's General Election. Further details are [attached](#).

## **Launch of Diocesan RE Syllabus for The Diocese of Peterborough (2024 - 2029) - Tuesday 30 April**

We are looking forward to launching our revised RE Syllabus for Church schools in the Diocese of Peterborough on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering Parkway, NN15 6XT from 9.30am - 3.30pm. Stephen Pett & Fiona Moss (RE Today staff team) will lead workshops to support the teaching and development of the units in schools. This event is for primary and secondary RE Teachers and it is absolutely vital that all RE Subject Leaders attend. In view of the considerable costs involved, there will be a charge of £150 per school representative. To book click on the link [Course, Conference & Consultancy Programme 2023-2024 \(d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net) and then select [Diocese of Peterborough New RE Syllabus Launch \(google.com\)](#).

All Church schools can use the Revised Diocesan RE Syllabus regardless of status. It is very closely aligned to the Understanding Christianity material which most VC schools are using as their resource for the teaching of Christianity. Although the Peterborough and Rutland Agreed syllabus is new, it is 7 years since the Northants one was written. There has been much that has changed in RE over that time and the Revised Diocesan RE Syllabus will provide all the new thinking and developments in RE that we must consider when we are creating our RE curriculums and how that curriculum is delivered in the classroom. There will be new units of work to introduce if schools choose to do so, also.

## **National Secondary Leaders' Network**

The Church of England National Secondary Leaders' Network is holding a whole day event on 25th April, entitled 'What is the unique mission of my school?'. Further details are [attached](#).

## **No Place Like Home Art & Poetry Competition**

Krish Kandiah from the Sanctuary Foundation, who will be speaking at our Headteachers' Conference in June 2025, has been in touch to say: **'This is a unique opportunity to hear students' voices as they reflect on the global challenge of displacement through poetry and art.** We are delighted to be partnering with the British Library and the Church of England Education Office, with the final entries being displayed at the British Library during World Refugee Week (17-23 June 2024). An amazing range of judges will be voting on the entries and they include presenter Melanie Giedroyc, actor Sir Jonathan Pryce, Dr Siobhan Jolley from the National Gallery, Alex Whitfield from the British Library and Alysia Lara Ayonrinde from the CofE Education Office. You can find more information on our website: [www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/art](http://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/art).' Further details are also [attached](#).

## **Peterborough Cathedral**

There is an amazing programme of services, concerts, exhibitions and special festivals coming up at Peterborough Cathedral, our 'Mother Church' in the Diocese. It is always such an awe-inspiring experience for our children and young people to experience the worship at Peterborough Cathedral, and there really is no better time than Christmas. I write as the father of two former cathedral choristers and cannot begin to describe what a wonderful experience it is to celebrate Christmas in a cathedral. Cathedrals really seem to come into their own at this time of year, and may I encourage you to share, with all the families that you're in touch with, the highlights of what is on offer at Peterborough Cathedral over this festive season and beyond, into the New Year. Further details are [attached](#) .

## **RISE Theatre**

RISE Theatre have been in touch to say: *'We are delighted to announce that we will be taking our interactive primary school day - 'God's Planet' - on tour for the seventh time next spring - from January to March 2024... After sell out summer and autumn tours this year, 'God's Planet' continues to be an incredibly popular primary school day and we would love to continue to spread the message as far as we can! I especially want to highlight that we are running a special offer until the 30th November for all school bookings and a further discounts for academy and group bookings which I hope makes the day accessible for even more schools.*

*Warmest regards and thanks in advance*

*Lucy Mckenzie*

*Operations Support*

*0118 324 7775*

*RISE Theatre CIC*

*[www.risetheatre.co.uk](http://www.risetheatre.co.uk)*

*Further details are [attached](#).*

## **School Chaplains' Day – Wednesday 12 June**

Our School Chaplains Day will be led by Bishop James Newcome at Uppingham School. Bishop James was formerly Bishop of Penrith, Bishop of Carlisle, a Lord Spiritual, Clerk of the Closet, Head of the College of Chaplains of the Ecclesiastical Household, Chaplain to the Royal British Legion. In November 2023, King Charles III appointed Bishop James as a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. We are greatly honoured to have Bishop James with us for the day, leading the training for our School Chaplains. Further details are [attached](#).

## **St Philip's Centre**

Helping our students' understand the complexities of a multi-faith world and preparing them to be effective citizens in a very diverse UK society is undoubtedly one of our greatest challenges. The St Philip's Centre in Leicester has a great deal to offer in this respect, helping to enhance the quality of education in schools. Ramila Chauhan from the St Philip's Centre has been in touch with details of programmes and support packages they are offering, which are worthy of consideration.

*'The Religion and Belief Roadshow presents a comprehensive school day event that enables pupils to explore a variety of faiths under one roof. We are fortunate to offer exposure to Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, and Sikh faiths. Our aim is to have a presence of at least 6 faiths, with the goal of accommodating all nine whenever possible.*

*The event is designed with a marketplace ambience, giving students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and fragrant aspects of diverse cultures. Each faith is represented by a stall/table showcasing artefacts, manned by a practitioner available for student inquiries. Additionally, a clothing tent showcases clothes worn by various faiths, accompanied by musical elements, making it a truly multi-sensory experience.*

*The standard cost for this event is £2500, for a maximum of 300 children. This cost covers all expenses associated with the event day. This includes the presence of a DBS-checked and safeguarding-trained faith practitioner, faith-related artefacts for student exploration, any materials used in activities, our supervision throughout the visit, and all pre-event organizational tasks. However, we kindly request the school to provide refreshments and lunch for the delivery team.*

For a preview of the Roadshow program in action, please follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FDB2eqd3xE>

You can appreciate that the cost has gone up considerably since the last time we did the Roadshow for the Diocese, I have spoken to my manager and he has agreed to a price of £1500.

I have attached our brochure which contains other programmes which may be of interest to your schools, particularly the Multi-Faith Carousel.

**Multi-Faith Carousel** is a programme of up to 4 different faith practitioners delivering workshops simultaneously and rotating around different classrooms. This gives the children an opportunity to meet a faith practitioner, ask questions and more importantly see the similarities and differences between the different faiths. This works well with a year group. £80 per faith, per class + Travel (35 Max class size, duration 55 mins per class).

Our charges cover all of our side of costs for the day – DBS checked, safeguarding trained faith practitioner, faith-related artefacts for the students to investigate, any materials we use in activities, our supervision of the visit on the day and all organisation beforehand. We offer these on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.’

Further details of these programmes and more are [attached](#).

### **Zellar – Sustainability Solution for School**

Zellar have launched a competition with support from key partners to raise awareness and celebrate sustainable projects in schools. Over £1,000 worth of green prizes are being offered. Further details are [attached](#).

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## **EXTERNAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Centre for Chaplaincy in Education National Education Chaplaincy Conference**

Gill Harrison from the National Institute for Christian Education Research has been in touch to say that: ‘The CCE National Education Chaplaincy Conference, Faith in Wide Places is taking place in London at St Mellitus College, 24 Collingham Road, SW5 0LX on Thursday 13 June. Book your place now!

For a full programme and a link to the conference booking page please follow this [link](#). Our keynote speaker will be Dr Paula Gooder, speaking on Faith in wide spaces, faith in the public square in the bible. There will also be times for prayer, worship, fellowship, networking and fun. Access the full programme [here](#)’

### **County Lines for Schools Resources Training Session**

Amy Bishop from The Clewer Initiative has been in touch to say: ‘Teachers, Educators and school staff all play a vital role in safeguarding the pupils in their care. County lines is a major, cross cutting issue which can involve drugs, violence, gangs, CSE, modern slavery and missing persons. The majority of victims are aged between 7 and 18. The Clewer Initiative are pleased to have developed lesson plans in collaboration with Cumbria Police for both primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of county lines with children and young people.

In this online session on 17<sup>th</sup> April 16:00-17:00 we will be presenting The Clewer Initiative's new resources for schools and explaining how they can be used by teachers. All primary and secondary school teachers and educators are welcome on this course and we would especially encourage anyone who has a responsibility or interest in PSHE, pastoral care or safeguarding to attend.

If you would like to attend, please sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/775611223047?aff=oddtcreator>

Please see further information about the schools resources here:

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/resources/county-lines-lesson-plans-for-schools#:~:text=The%20Clewer%20Initiative%20has%20produced,on%20children%2C%20families%20and%20communities.>

If you have any questions please email us: [clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org](mailto:clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org).'

### **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice**

Last Wednesday evening, Elizabeth Olulari, National Education Lead for Racial Justice at the Church of England Education Office, explained the importance of these key EDIJ themes, which are foundational to Church school education. She also highlighted some courses being run by the national team that may be of interest to school leaders particularly: the Inclusive Curriculum Leadership course - [Courses - Foundation For Educational Leadership \(cefel.org.uk\)](https://www.cefel.org.uk/courses/foundation-for-educational-leadership) and the Leaders Like Us programme - [Leaders Like Us - Foundation For Educational Leadership \(cefel.org.uk\)](https://www.cefel.org.uk/leaders-like-us).

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## **GOVERNORS**

### **Charting The Course To Good Governance**

The NGA's latest publication on good governance, entitled 'Charting the course to good governance; common challenges', is now available - [erg-report-publication-final.pdf \(nga.org.uk\)](https://www.nga.org.uk/erg-report-publication-final.pdf). It is full of insightful advice and observations; a must read for any school governor.

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## **POLICIES AND REPORTS**

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Please find [attached](#) a model anti-bullying policy from Tony Stephens, which could be adapted to create a policy which would suit the vision and values of your school. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one model policy, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **Consultation on Draft Government Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Gender Questioning Children**

The Church of England Education Office has welcomed the publication of this draft guidance and responded to the Government consultation. The CEEO response identifies a number of areas where the Government can add clarity, including around a robust requirement for pastoral support for individuals and families, and to ensure that the guidance is aligned to the



findings of the Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People led by Dr Hilary Cass. Additionally, CEEO has advised the Government that the legal assertions included need unpacking to give school leaders more confidence that their actions won't be contested if they follow the guidance.

### **Disability Equality Scheme**

Please find [attached](#) a model document from Tony Stephens, regarding key principles for devising a disability equality scheme. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **How to Become Attachment and Trauma Friendly**

Please find [attached](#) a model plan from Tony Stephens about how schools can become attachment and trauma friendly. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **Leadership of Teaching and Learning**

Please find [attached](#) a model document from Tony Stephens, regarding the leadership of teaching and learning. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; these is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **Race Equality Policy**

Ensuring that everyone in our schools is treated with respect and dignity, and committed to the same throughout their lifetime, is vital and represents an ongoing challenge to the depth, quality and influence of the education we provide. To support you in you in this, please find [attached](#) sample race equality policy from educational consultant Tony Stephens. I trust you find this helpful for reviewing and improving your own policy.

### **School Leadership for Change**

Please find [attached](#) a paper from Tony Stephens about school leadership approaches to bringing about change. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

Please find [attached](#) a model policy, from Tony Stephens, regarding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; these is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **Student Welfare and Inclusion**

Please find [attached](#) a model policy from Tony Stephens about student welfare and inclusion. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

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## RESOURCES

### **A Million Children Living in Destitution in the Twelfth Most Prosperous Nation**

Last month the Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported ([UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](https://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2024)) that around 3.8 million people in the UK, including 1 million children, experienced destitution in 2022, more than twice the proportion recorded in 2017. Destitution is defined in the report as the deepest and most damaging form of poverty, where people cannot afford to meet their most basic physical needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed. Such widespread levels of destitution, I'm sure we would all agree, are a national scandal.

As we approach a General Election, we all need to be courageous and vocal advocates for the children in our care, and to play our part in helping to ensure that the political manifestos of all political parties address this national scandal. In continually endeavouring to do everything possible to make a broken system work, as we have to, and then also often providing extra free school meals and running food banks etc., we run the risk of legitimising and giving credence to a deeply flawed system, if we don't call out this injustice. To govern is to choose and, quite simply, we need governments to make better choices.

More than ever, we need to ensure we provide a transformational education and step up to the plate as principled leaders in our profession, without necessarily being party political. We often associate Lent with a time of personal soul searching and this year especially it ought to be a time of national soul searching for us all. If you would like to make your voice heard on this national injustice, may I encourage you to consider the advice offered by the Joint Public Issues Team [What do you want to see in a General Election manifesto? – Joint Public Issues Team \(jpit.uk\)](https://www.jpit.uk/what-do-you-want-to-see-in-a-general-election-manifesto).

### **Academy & Schools News Update and Safeguarding Briefing**

Please also find attached the most recent [academy and school news summary](#) from educational consultant Tony Stephens, and a [safeguarding briefing](#) from specialist safeguarding consultant Andrew Hall.

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a template policy on Assessment, Recording and Reporting, particularly with secondary schools in mind, as [attached](#), but which primary colleagues may also find helpful.

### **Bible Stories Portrayed In Cartoon Style Artwork**

Revd Henry Martin works in the Diocese of Manchester and in free moments he enjoys sketching and painting. He has kindly donated his artwork to help you tell Bible stories and share the good news of Jesus. You can download them from here: [FreeBibleimages :: Contributors :: Rev. Henry Martin](#). You might like to try inviting your pupils to add speech bubbles and animation to the PowerPoint images, and then to present them during collective worship. One such example, for last week's Headteachers' Conference, telling the story of The Prodigal Son, is [attached](#).

### **Big Help Out**

Olivia Williams ([olivia@together.org.uk](mailto:olivia@together.org.uk)) from Together ([www.together.org.uk](http://www.together.org.uk)) has been in touch to say: 'I'm pleased to share that we have now created a series of specialised assets for teachers to get involved with the Big Help Out 2024.

We are making sure that The Big Help Out gives teachers the chance to lend a hand and shape a new generation of volunteers, and give their students a chance to create a meaningful impact on their school/local area:

- A newsletter & social post - [example here](#)
- [Link to the Big Help Out website for all BHO resources](#)
- [Link to Vote for Schools for all education based resources](#)

Remember we're asking that teachers:

**Educate** with our Vote For School resources: March 11th - 22nd

**Plan** for the day using our suggested activities: April - May

**Get involved** with their students on the Day: June 7th

Finally, we're still looking for a school and celebrity to launch schools X the Big Help Out and showcase how students are an integral part of making an impact. If your organisation would like to get involved let us know!

### **Bishop Stopford School Growing Faith Podcast**

Hannah Persaud, the national Growing Faith Networks Lead, has put together a podcast with pupils from Bishop Stopford School, commenting: 'The whole team wanted to say thank you and were blown away at the pupils' thoughtful and thought-provoking responses to some really big questions.' Here is the link for the podcast which is now live on the [Growing Faith website](#) and the Growing Faith Spotify playlist: [Growing Faith Foundation | Podcast on Spotify](#)

### **Climate Coalition**

The Climate Coalition have been in touch share their latest film and set of resources for engaging children and young people in climate activism. Further details are [attached](#).

### **CPD School Visits**

We hope the [attached](#) map, which highlights schools with well above average pupil progress data and / or with excellent / outstanding inspection outcomes in the various components of Ofsted and SIAMS inspections serves a purpose in helping you identify possible schools to visit for CPD purposes.

### **Cross-Curricular Literacy and Oracy Guides and Policies**

Please find [attached](#) two [guides and policies](#), from Tony Stephens, regarding the development of literacy and oracy across the curriculum. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; these are two such papers, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

### **Educating our Students about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

May I recommend the following educational resources which colleagues in many Church of England schools have found helpful:

<http://www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk>

<https://blog.eis.org.uk/piuc/level-3-4-teachers-guide/>

[https://neu.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/NEU3179%20Israel%20%20Palestine%20%20Issues%20for%20Schools\\_0\\_1.pdf](https://neu.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/NEU3179%20Israel%20%20Palestine%20%20Issues%20for%20Schools_0_1.pdf)

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/teaching-resources-2#heading-1>

[Israel and Hamas: What's happening? | Newsround - YouTube](#)

[What is life like for children in Israel and Gaza? | Newsround - YouTube.](#)

In addition, Jane Lewis has recommended some AREIAC resources for secondary colleagues, RE teachers and those leading PHSE type sessions or perhaps work with 6<sup>th</sup> forms, following an email from Alastair Ross, Chair of AREIAC. Alistair has written to say: 'The South London Inter Faith Group recently held an online meeting about the Israel/Palestine crisis with two speakers: Dr Chris Hewer, who spoke on the historical background and differing narratives and Julie Siddiqi, who shared how the crisis in Israel/Palestine is affecting us here in our own communities in the UK. The Group has kindly agreed to share the link to the You Tube recording which you may find useful for your own understanding as well as helping to inform any teaching or educational work you are doing. The edited version of the recording can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/100079737889190/videos/1738257716668704> and lasts around 45 minutes.

You may also like to look at [www.togetherforhumanity.co.uk](http://www.togetherforhumanity.co.uk) which aims to build a movement united against hate, with a focus on fostering a sense of collective unity amongst groups with a shared commitment for peace and coexistence between Israel and Palestine. Of course, other groups and individuals are committed to this work but this is a new initiative you may not have come across.'

Jane has suggested that the video itself might be suitable for 6<sup>th</sup> form students, but otherwise it would be for staff to watch, to support their teaching and engagement with students on the on-going issues in Israel and Palestine. Jane has come across both the speakers involved in this conversation and they speak with sound sense and realism.

This is a time for galvanising everyone in our school communities, in partnership with parish church communities, to provide help for all those people suffering terribly in Israel and Gaza, through absolutely no fault of their own in the overwhelming majority of cases. In pursuing courageous advocacy projects, you may wish to provide support for:

Christian Aid - [Middle East Crisis Appeal | Christian Aid](#)

Tearfund - [Middle East Emergency Appeal - Tearfund](#)

World Vision - [Middle East Emergency Appeal | World Vision UK](#)

Save The Children - [Donate to the Gaza Emergency Appeal | Save the Children UK](#).

### **Enterprise Education & Work Related Learning**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a helpful paper on Enterprise Education & Work Related Learning, as [attached](#), which secondary colleagues may find particularly helpful.

### **ExpertEd**

Kirsty Burns from Oundle School has written with details this half-term's ExpertEd programme, including a session with Helen Sharman, Britain's first Astronaut, an exploration of ICT careers and four midweek family maths sessions. Further details are [attached](#).

### **Free Bibles for Schools**

If you would like to present a free copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to each of your Year 6 pupils later this year, GOOD NEWS For Everyone would be delighted to provide free copies for you.

## **Health Education**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a template policy on Health Education, particularly with secondary schools in mind, as [attached](#), but which primary colleagues may also find helpful.

## **Health & Safety**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a model Health & Safety Policy, as [attached](#).

## **Information Advice & Guidance re. Careers Education**

Putting in place a comprehensive information, advice and guidance programme that benefits students across all key stages in secondary schools is a significant piece of work which, of course, requires ongoing updating. To support you in this endeavour, educational consultant Tony Stephens has together a useful template document which is [attached](#).

## **Key Stage 3**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a useful guidance document about monitoring and enhancing performance across Key Stage 3. A copy is [attached](#).

## **Leading Schools in Times of International Conflict**

May I draw your attention to the [attached](#) document about 'Considerations for Schools in Supporting Pupils and Staff at Times of International Conflict' from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.

May I also suggest that this is a time to galvanise everyone in our school communities to provide help for all those people suffering in Israel and Gaza through no fault of their own. In pursuing courageous advocacy projects, you may wish to partner with:

Christian Aid - [Middle East Crisis Appeal | Christian Aid](#)

Tearfund - [Middle East Emergency Appeal - Tearfund](#)

World Vision - [Middle East Emergency Appeal | World Vision UK](#)

Save The Children - [Donate to the Gaza Emergency Appeal | Save the Children UK](#).

Of course, schools need to remain as politically impartial as they can be, whilst educating children and young people about the complexities of international conflicts. Useful guidance, in relation to remaining politically impartial, can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61f137688fa8f5058a4b2f44/6.7731\\_DfE\\_Political\\_Impartiality\\_Guidance\\_Pamphlet\\_WEB\\_004\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61f137688fa8f5058a4b2f44/6.7731_DfE_Political_Impartiality_Guidance_Pamphlet_WEB_004_.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools/political-impartiality-in-schools>.

## **LifeSavers Financial Education**

May I commend to you the [LifeSavers](#) programme; it is a free financial education initiative available for state-funded primary schools. Delivered by the Just Finance Foundation, LifeSavers has been created to help children manage money wisely now and in the future. LifeSavers provide a wide range of classroom resources and practical activities to help children engage with learning about money from the beginnings of EYFS through to the end of KS2. All their resources, time and expertise are completely free for schools. Their promotional video can be seen here: [LifeSavers - The Just Finance Foundation's primary school financial education programme - YouTube](#). Further details are [attached](#).

## **Periodic Subject Area Reviews**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has shared a document secondary schools about ['Periodic Subject Area Reviews'](#).

## PopUK

PopUK has updated its free singing resources, with more songs that are inclusive, distinctive and relevant. Further details can be found here: [Free song resources to start the new academic year \(popuk.org\)](http://popuk.org)

## RE Newsletter

Please find [attached](#) a copy of Jane Lewis' RE Newsletter. It is packed full of many examples of great practice, details of inspiring courses, helpful resources, stimulating ideas and expert advice.

## Research into School Attendance

Ensuring pupil attendance returns to pre-pandemic levels is proving to be challenging in many schools. Please find [attached](#) a plethora of research reports on this issue, as you chart your way forward this year, which I trust you find helpful.

## Schemes of Learning

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a guidance document about schemes of learning, particularly with secondary school KS3 and KS4 curriculum in mind, as [attached](#) .

## School Photography

Brian Irvine, the former Headteacher of Staverton Church of England Primary School, now provides a school photography service. Brian offers website and prospectus update photography for schools at budget friendly prices. He also offer portrait photography for schools, but only small schools, as he is a one man band and processes it all personally. This portrait photography service is priced to be affordable for all parents / carers. Further details are [attached](#).

## Teenage Instructional Videos

In the best interests of broadening our secondary school extracurricular offer and supporting all who are bringing up teenagers, may I commend the following series of teenage instructional videos:

[Toilet Roll Changing - Teenage Instructional Video #1 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Dishwasher Loading - Teenage Instructional Video #2 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Hanging Up Wet Towels - Teenage Instructional Video #3 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Turning off lights - Teenage Instructional Video #4 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Vacuuming - Teenage Instructional Video #5 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[How to get your teenager out of bed - Teenage Instructional Video #6 \(youtube.com\)](#)

## The *Difference* Course

The Church of England has just launched the *Difference* course for secondary schools, following a successful pilot. Across five sessions, *Difference* teaches three habits that have the potential to transform everyday relationships: be curious, be present and reimagine. You can read more about it here: [The Difference Course | The Archbishop of Canterbury](#). To sign up and access all the resources, please follow this link: [Home - Difference: Make your faith count in a complex and divided world \(rln.global\)](#). A primary school version will be developed next year.

## This Week's Picture News

Picture News has shared a free resource, as [attached](#), re. 45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain who has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome. It explores the question 'What makes someone inspirational?' and an accompanying film can be found here: [www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss). If you choose to build this into your collective worship,

you might like to combine this with an exploration of the importance of using the talents and abilities God has given us, through considering the parable of the talents / bags of gold (Matthew 25:v14-30).

### **Watch and Pray – Wisdom and Hope for Lent and Life**

Simon Atkinson & Elizabeth Howat, Heads of Curriculum & Inclusion & AYLA in the Church of England Education Office, have been in touch to introduce a new schools' resource for Lent.

'On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Although he pleads with his disciples, "Stay here with me... Watch and pray," they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his time of great suffering. This season of Lent, we invite your school to join us as we **Watch and Pray**, discovering what it means to wait, bringing wisdom and hope for Lent and life.

Our **free collective worship resource** draws on the wisdom of Black Spirituality and has been inspired and informed by the 2024 Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, [Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith by Selina Stone](#) (SPCK). A [daily reflections booklet for adults](#) (CHP) exploring the same themes has been written by Carlton Turner. There is also a daily challenge [booklet for children and families](#) (CHP) which is closely linked to our resources.

### **Resources each week include:**

- Liturgical Suggestions
- Bible passage activity
- Video Exploration
- Practical and prayerful actions
- Prayer
- Additional ideas for connecting home, church and school

Schools can pre-order here: [www.abyyt.com/lent](http://www.abyyt.com/lent).'

### **Ways To Improve Your School**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has shared a document from St John the Baptist School entitled ['500 Ways to Improve Your School'](#).

### **Wellbeing Best Practice**

The Ethos Committee and the Church Council at Stanion Church of England Primary School have worked together to plan a well-being project that has culminated in the publication of 'Stanion's Book of Well-being.' It's inspirational! I hope you enjoy reading it and find it helpful for promoting wellbeing in your school community. A copy is [attached](#).

### **Why keep Lent?**

'Lent, the forty days before Easter (not counting Sundays), begins this year on Wednesday 14th February. Most things in the church's year are festivals and we happily talk about celebrating them. Lent is very different. It is a minor-key period that is never 'celebrated' but only 'kept'. Some churches and Christians treat Lent very seriously, while others ignore it entirely.

Even among those who keep Lent, there is no agreement on *how* it should be kept. Many Christians try to give up something: for instance, chocolate, social media or television. It's even become a period for us to try to break bad habits, almost as if Lent gives us another opportunity to retake those New Year's resolutions seriously!

Now what exactly is Lent about? Lent is about three *preparations*.

Lent is a *preparation for Easter*. Easter, with its message of Christ destroying sin and death through his death and resurrection, is the most exciting moment in the church's year. Yet we can undercut this note of victory by being so occupied that, amid the frantic busyness of our lives, we carelessly stumble upon Easter. Lent provides us with forty days' preparation to Good Friday and Easter Sunday that forces us to prayerfully ponder the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the best way to appreciate a sunrise is to be there in the darkness before dawn, so a good way to appreciate Easter is to have come to it through Lent. We as Christians are, of course, an Easter people living in a Good Friday world.

Secondly, Lent is a *preparation for Existence*. A fatal flaw in our culture today is that people do not know how to say 'no' to bad things. It is now almost a virtue to give in to every desire that comes upon us. Yet a great element in Christian morality is to be able to say no to wrong desires. St Paul, in Titus 2:11-12, says: 'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives' (NIV). Lent gives us the opportunity to practise resisting harmful and hurtful desires. Trivial as it may appear, a battle won over chocolate, coffee or cake at Lent may help us win a battle over lust, lying or laziness thereafter.

Finally, Lent is a *preparation for Eternity*. If we take Lent seriously, then these forty days can seem to be a long and often wearying season in which we never get our own way. Here, for a time, pleasures are put to one side. But Lent doesn't last. The darkness is broken by the joyful light of the glorious triumph of Easter Day. Here there is a splendid parallel with our lives. For many of us, much of our life seems to take place in what we might call 'Lent mode': things do not go as we hope, we do not get what we want and our joys appear absent. Yet, for the Christian, there is that wonderful and certain hope that however deep and hard the darkness is in our lives, it will ultimately be lifted and replaced by an indestructible joy. For those of us who love Christ, life's long Lent will end, one day, in an eternal Easter in which sin and death are destroyed for ever.

Whether or not you keep Lent, starting on Wednesday 14th February, and in what way you keep it, is your choice. But to keep Lent, thoughtfully and prayerfully, is to experience a rich and lasting inheritance. Be blessed this Lent and bless others.'

Reverend Canon J. John  
[www.canonjohn.com](http://www.canonjohn.com)

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## SIAMS

### **SIAMS Inspections 2023-24 & 2024-2025**

The list of schools which had been due to be inspected this year, but which are now being taken forward into the next academic year, and the full list of schools to be inspected under SIAMS next year have been published. Both lists are attached.

[Schools Carried Forward to 2024/25](#)

[Schools to be Inspected 2024/25](#)

Dr Margaret James has written to say: '*Since the resumption of SIAMS inspections in September 2021, after the period of suspension related to Covid-19, it became impossible for Church schools to accurately predict the academic year in which they would be inspected, as they had formerly been able to. Consequently, I decided to publish a list of schools that were likely to be inspected in any coming year, with the aim of easing the inspection pressure on school leaders. This has only ever been an estimate, however, and a school's presence on the list does not guarantee that it will be inspected within that timeframe.*



*With my team, I keep the list under review on a regular basis throughout the school year. We carried out a significant review in February and, as a result, we have removed a number of schools, carrying them forward to next year...*

*In order to ensure legal compliance, schools across the country are generally being inspected chronologically according to the date of their last inspection, although there are some exceptions to this. The exceptions are related to specific school circumstances and/or inspector capacity and availability.'*

## **SIAMS Survey 2024**

Dr Margaret James has also invited Headteachers and members of school leadership teams to take part in a short survey about SIAMS inspections and the letter of invitation, with further details, is [attached](#).

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## **SPIRITUAL INPUT**

### **Daily Hope**

If you are in need of some personal daily devotional input, may I recommend: [Daily Hope with Rick Warren - Devotional - Pastor Rick's Daily Hope](#).

### **Sports Focus**

'One of England's most in-form rugby union internationals has shared on the team's official behind-the-scenes video how he came to faith in God.

Ben Earl, who plays his club rugby for the London-based side Saracens as a backrow forward, told England rugby fans that his religious faith "clicked" just as he was about to leave school.

"We've been going to chapel every Sunday since I don't know how young, and I guess it kind of clicked for me at one moment, probably during the stress of exams and other bits around school life."

"Growing up in that time and something I took a lot of comfort out of having another support board... something that you can lean on. And it's something that I'm really passionate about, not necessarily to show too much about myself and my religion, but something that I care deeply about."

The 26-year-old said he chooses not to "shove [his faith] in people's faces" but is "very happy" to talk about it when asked.

He also mentioned that his recent spell on the sidelines, courtesy of meniscus damage sustained in a pre-match warm-up in November, was a time in which he learned a lot about his faith.

"It kind of gave me another chance to reflect on where I am as a player and as a person, but also the idea that everything happens for a reason. I actually thought that time out injured was one of the most enjoyable that I had in terms of growing myself both professionally and as a bloke."

"Everything is up to God's plan, and I truly believe in that, and all you can do is try your best. I think that's a bit of a liberator for me is something that I can lean back on and say, 'Look,

whatever happens happens, I know that this isn't up to me. I can just try my best. Whatever I'm throwing my hand out and trust that everything's gonna be alright."

Earl, who stood out for England during last autumn's Rugby World Cup playing at No.8, is currently playing a leading role in the side's Six Nations campaign...' (Article by Will Hobbs)

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