

DDE MONDAY BULLETINS SEPT 2023 – SEPT 2024

WEEKLY BRIEFINGS

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## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Sung Worship

May I share with you a song that's so appropriate for this season leading up to Pentecost and beyond - Matt Maher's live recording of 'The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)' and a version with lyrics for singing along to, as well as a version with actions: [Matt Maher - The Lord's Prayer \(It's Yours\) \(Official Music Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#) and [The Lord's Prayer - Matt Maher \(Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#) and [The Lords Prayer Motions - YouTube](#). The song featured in the Sixth Form assembly of a school I was inspecting last week and formed part of an invitational, inclusive and inspirational time of collective worship. I'm sure children and young people of all ages across our schools would enjoy this song, which brings to life The Lord's Prayer in a fresh way.

### 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](#).

## DBE

### A Letter of Welcome for Parents / Carers New to Church Of England Schools

Archdeacon Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, has provided a letter of welcome to parents / carers new to Church of England schools in Peterborough Diocese, as [attached](#). Please email this out to all parents / carers who are new to your school.

### 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)

Associate Director – [andrew.read@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:andrew.read@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).

### Joining a Multi-academy Trust

61 of our 103 schools belong to one of our 8 multi-academy trusts, and 4 more schools are joining a multi-academy trust this year. As a Diocesan Board of Education, we are involved in the governance of all these MATs, as Members and Directors, as well as in supporting the governance of 5 standalone academies, and currently 37 voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools, and serve on the education committees and forums of our LAs. We are always happy to provide advice in relation to the kind of thorough due diligence process that governors would need to engage in, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Diocesan Board of Education, before expressing a preference to join a MAT. We usually give a presentation for about half an hour and then open up the matter for discussion with governors and senior leaders for around half an hour. If you would like to book such a presentation simply email me directly.

### 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

### **Autumn Term Headteachers' Conference – Inclusion, Formation & Fulfilment**

At this term's conference on 13<sup>th</sup> November, we will explore the theme of 'Inclusion, Formation & Fulfilment'. Heads and clergy working together very effectively, along with Lucy Moore, Head of The Growing Faith Foundation, Charlotte Nobbs, Peterborough Diocese Children's Mission Enabler, and Alex Carton, Head of Learning and Engagement at Peterborough Cathedral, will explore how we can maximize the benefits of parish churches and church school communities working together imaginatively and creatively, and in partnership with Peterborough Cathedral. Elizabeth Olulari, who leads on the 'Leaders Like Us' programme for the Church of England, will then address the theme of including diverse communities that have been subjected to injustice. Natalie Jackson will set out a whole school approach to SEND and what makes for the highest quality SEND leadership. Then in the afternoon Marc Rowland will describe the ingredients for an effective disadvantage strategy and explain how to enact it. A copy of the conference speakers' biographies is [attached](#).

### **Autumn Term Governors' Conference – The Vision & Strategy of The Diocesan Board of Education and Developing the Christian Distinctiveness of our Church of England Schools Through Effective School Governance**

Each Governors' Conference will be led by Peter Cantley, Diocesan Director of Education, and Andrew Read, Associate Diocesan Director of Education. The first Governors' Conference on 13 November will be free of charge for all Governors and include a two course dinner from 6.00-7.00pm, followed by training from 7.00-9.00pm.

### **Cathedral Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for Diocesan Schools**

More than any other type of church building over two millennia, our cathedrals convey a profound sense of God's transcendence, and we would dearly love cathedral worship to be an essential part of every pupil's educational experience in Peterborough Diocese. The hymns at our Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for Diocesan Schools, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2.15pm, will be a mixture of traditional cathedral hymns and more modern worship songs, providing our children and young people with an authentic experience of traditional cathedral worship. In order to help your pupils enter into the service fully, may we recommend the following recordings to help with practising the hymns and songs in school:

*Bless The Lord*

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\) - Matt Redman \(Best Worship Song Ever\) \(with Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

*My Lighthouse*

[My Lighthouse ~ Rend Collective ~ lyric video \(youtube.com\)](#)

*Shine Jesus Shine*

[Shine Jesus Shine \(worship video w/ lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

*Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*

[CWM RHONDDA GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT REDEEMER \(youtube.com\)](#).

We look forward to welcoming the Malcolm Arnold Academy Choir, The King's (The Cathedral) School Choir, The Peterborough School Choir and Uppingham School Choir, who will form our combined senior school choir this year. We also look forward to being blessed by the singing of our combined primary school choir from All Saints Church of England Primary School Northampton, All Saints Church of England Primary School Peterborough, All Saints Church of

England Primary School Wellingborough, Croughton All Saints Church of England Primary School, Brixworth Church of England Primary School and William Law Church of England Primary School. A copy of the order of service is [attached](#).

### **Archbishops' Young Leaders Award**

The Archbishops' Young Leaders Award offers a programme that develops courageous advocacy, leadership and character. It's a very popular award which has been run in over 1,000 schools nationwide. You can find out more through AYLA's free online sessions this term for both primary and secondary schools via [AYLA Events \(archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk\)](https://archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk).

### **Cathedral Education Team**

The Cathedral's latest School Visit Brochure can be found here - [SchoolVisitBrochure24\\_A4\\_12pp\[53\].pdf \(peterborough-cathedral.org.uk\)](https://peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/SchoolVisitBrochure24_A4_12pp[53].pdf) - a range of exciting and engaging activities using the Cathedral as an inspirational resource! To contact the Education Team at Peterborough Cathedral, to find out more and book a school visit email [schoolvisits@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:schoolvisits@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk). We hope that every child in a Church of England school in Peterborough Diocese will have at least one opportunity in their school years to visit Peterborough Cathedral.

### **Christianity As A Global Faith**

The Church of England Education Office would like to invite you to the launch of a new resource for teaching about Christianity as a global faith, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September in London. Further details are [attached](#).

### **Experted**

ExpertEd's free webinars offer schools and pupils the chance to learn through live interaction with experts in a variety of curriculum areas, providing enrichment and curriculum coverage. Schools from across the country connect directly from their classroom via Zoom. Pupils put their questions to our speakers through live Q&As with each event. An overview and some introductory videos may be found on their website [www.expertedlive.org](http://www.expertedlive.org). Further details of the autumn term programme are also [attached](#).

This term, Family Science, a series of evening webinars for your pupils and their families, designed to stretch and challenge children in years 5-8, and two events designed for classes to participate in during the school day. Registration links are included in the [attached document](#) and a Family Science invitation letter for parents / carers is also [attached](#).

### **ExpertEd Impact Report**

Many of our schools have benefitted from participating in Oundle School's ExpertEd programme over the last year. An impact report on the 2023-2024 programme is [attached](#).

### **National Younger Leadership Groups 2024-2025, Archbishops' Young Leaders Award Webinars & Follow The Star Collective Worship Resource**

Elizabeth Howat, Head of Archbishops' Young Leaders Award, has been in touch to extend an [invitation](#) to schools for pupils to join the National Younger Leadership Groups 2024-2025, and for staff to attend the free twilight Archbishops' Award Information Webinars, and to share a brand new collective worship resource with schools – Follow The Star, Calm and Bright. Further details are [attached](#).

### **RISE Theatre's God's Planet Autumn Tour**

A few of our schools had this production from RISE Theatre in the autumn term last year. It came highly recommended from those who shared about it at the RE Network meeting in the spring term. Feedback from colleagues who have worked with RISE Theatre has included: 'We



*had a wonderful day with RISE Theatre at our 'God's Planet' day. They helped all the children to think about God's planet and why it needs protecting. They also helped us to understand more about how we can play our part as 'Planet Heroes'. This quote represents a number of similar quotes from schools who have enjoyed a visit from RISE Theatre. Alongside the workshops and performances across the whole school, RISE provide schools with suggested activities they might do in the classroom over the rest of the 'God's Planet' day. Older pupils learn about 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch' and the issue of plastics in the oceans. Pupils then creatively turn single-use plastic items into beautiful underwater scenes. RISE are currently offering a discount on bookings for the day, if schools book before the end of June. Further details can be found here: [GP Tour - Autumn 2024 \(d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net).*

### **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](#).

### **The Role of the Monarchy**

James Saunders Watson, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, would be delighted to visit any of our schools in Northamptonshire, and to engage in a Q&A discussion with pupils regarding the role of the Monarchy. Also, if your school has a significant anniversary or event, the Lord-Lieutenant would be happy to visit and possibly to arrange for a representative of the Royal Family to also attend. If this would be of interest, please contact me directly.

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## **EXTERNAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Church of England NPQs**

The DfE have changed the funding and allocation of places for all NPQ lead providers for the 2024-25 academic year, so here are the details of what’s available to the teachers in your schools.

#### *Availability of places*

The DfE has limited the number of funded places available on NPQs this year and at the moment any funding is only guaranteed for this autumn cohort - so now really is the time to apply for an NPQ to make the most of the funding and to guarantee one of the limited funded places. The closing date for applications is the 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Apply here - [NPQs - Foundation For Educational Leadership \(cefel.org.uk\)](https://www.cefel.org.uk)

#### *NPQ Funding*

Courses which will be fully funded for all schools up to the DfE limit on places:

- NPQ for SENCO
- NPQ Headship
- NPQ Leading Primary Maths

Other courses, as detailed below, will be fully funded for some schools; these will be funded for staff in PP50 schools (those in the top 50% of schools when ranked on pupils eligible for Pupil Premium); a list of PP50 schools in Peterborough Diocese is attached.

- NPQ Senior Leadership
- NPQ Leading Teaching
- NPQ Leading Teacher Development
- NPQ Executive Leadership
- NPQ Leading Behaviour & Culture

For these 5 courses, schools that are not fully funded can also pay for places on the course.



Where can staff do an NPQ course in our area?

The NPQStandard route has a mixture of online and face to face sessions run by local delivery partners. The following face to face courses are available in our part of the country:

<i>Course available and who it is intended for</i>	<i>Delivery Partner running the course</i>	<i>Location</i>
<p><a href="#">NPQH</a> - for headteachers and aspiring headteachers.</p> <p><a href="#">NPQSL</a> - for senior leaders and aspiring senior leaders.</p> <p><a href="#">NPQLT</a> – for those leading a subject, phase or department or those aspiring to be.</p> <p><a href="#">NPQLBC</a> – staff with responsibility for leading behaviour, inclusion or who lead pastorally.</p>	LEARN AT	Leicestershire and Peterborough
<p>In addition the following courses are run nationally:</p> <p><a href="#">NPQEL</a> - for executive headteachers, those with responsibility across a trust or those who aspire to be.</p> <p><a href="#">NPQLTD</a> which is for those who are mentoring ECTs or have a role leading professional development in their schools. This course will be run as a national programme with most sessions online and a face to face conference in Manchester at the beginning and end of the course.</p> <p><a href="#">EHCO</a> – Coaching for head teachers in their first 5 years of headship.</p>		

To find out more about any of these courses please contact Kate Sicolo or the NPQStandard team at [npq@churchofengland.org](mailto:npq@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 \(cefel.org.uk\)](http://cefel.org.uk) and the Leaders Like Us programme - [Leaders Like Us - Foundation For Educational Leadership \(cefel.org.uk\)](http://cefel.org.uk).

### Hope for Families

Hope for Families is a charity which improves childhood outcomes through effective parenting programmes. Colleagues from many schools have commented very favourably on the quality of the charity’s work. Further details are [attached](#), and for an informal exploratory conversation about how the charity could meet the needs of your parents, please contact Louise Willis via [louise@hopeforfamilies.org.uk](mailto:louise@hopeforfamilies.org.uk).

### Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Details of NSCP’s training courses for this school year are [attached](#).

### NPQSmall

For colleagues in small schools, those with under 150 pupils in primary and 800 in secondary there is a unique NPQSmall offer. This is designed specifically for small schools in both content

and delivery. There are NPQSmall versions of NPQH, NPQSL, NPQLT, NPQLBC and NPQSESCO.

Benefits for staff:

- Fully online – so no need for time consuming and expensive travel.
- Flexibility of when to attend over half the sessions.
- Case studies and materials relevant to a small school context.
- Your qualification will have the same standing as our face to face NPQs.

For more information about NPQSmall contact Richard Jackson or the NPQSmall team at [NPQSmall@churchofengland.org](mailto:NPQSmall@churchofengland.org) to get involved and reserve some places on this exciting scheme.

## Wellbeing

Maria Brosnan, Founder of Pursuit Wellbeing ([Home - Pursuit \(pursuitwellbeing.com\)](http://pursuitwellbeing.com)), has been in touch to say...

- *We know that 89% of Headteachers are chronically stressed. (Education Support, Teacher Wellbeing Index, 2023).*
- *We know that stress is an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease. (Wirtz, P.H., von Känel, R. Psychological Stress, Inflammation, and Coronary Heart Disease, 2017).*
- *We know that coronary heart disease is the number one cause of death in the UK and globally. (British Heart Foundation, 2021).*

*We have developed a programme specifically for Headteachers, School Leaders and CEOs. It consists of 4 x two-hour sessions aimed at helping participants understand and reduce the impact of stress. By using wearable technology, participants can see these concepts in real-time. The sessions are for individuals or small groups of 4 to 8 participants, and can be held in person or online.*

Further details are [attached](#). If you would like to join a Zoom call to meet with Maria and to hear more about what Pursuit Wellbeing has to offer, after school one afternoon for 30-40 minutes between 4.00-5.00pm, do let me know and I'll include you in the Zoom invitation.

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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 \(nga.org.uk\)](#). It is full of insightful advice and observations; a must read for any school governor.

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## OFSTED AND SIAMS

### SIAMS 2024-2025 and Beyond

A copy of the [national annual SIAMS report](#) and a copy of the [SIAMS inspection list for 2024-25](#) are attached. Of course, we are not driven by an inspection compliance mentality; and we would like all our schools to be 'excellent' schools every day of the year, recognising that that

'excellence' is a journey and not simply an outcome. We continue to be one of the highest performing dioceses nationally, with a 100% J1 / good or better SIAMS inspection outcome across all our schools since 2018. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to help you achieve and continue to achieve such remarkable standards, for the sake of all the children and young people in your care.

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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.

### **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.

## **Sir Martyn Oliver's speech at the NAHT Conference**

You can read Sir Martyn Oliver's speech from this weekend's NAHT Conference here: [Sir Martyn Oliver's speech at the NAHT conference - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/sir-martyn-oliver-s-speech-at-the-naht-conference).

## **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/what-we-do/our-research/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 Update](#) from educational consultant Tony Stephens, and a [Safeguarding Briefing](#) from specialist safeguarding consultant Andrew Hall.

### **Academy Trust Handbook 2024 & Schedule of Musts**

The DfE has published its 2024 Academy Trust Handbook, which came into effect on 1 September and is available now as a PDF to download - [Academy trust handbook 2024](#)

[publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)), along with a Schedule of Musts for all Chairs and Trustees - [ATH Schedule of Musts 2024.xlsx \(live.com\)](#). May I encourage all Chairs and Trustees to ensure that their Trusts are fully compliant with all the DfE's essential requirements at the start of this new academic year, and to provide assurance of this for the Diocesan Board of Education.

### **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.

### **Attachment Theory, How Schools Can Become Attachment and Trauma Friendly, and a Help Guide**

Please find some attached advice on attachment theory from Tony Stephens, a paper from headteacher Stuart Guest on how schools can become attachment and trauma friendly, and a help guide written by Melinda Smith, Lawrence Robinson, Joanna Saisan and Jeane Segal.

[Attachment Theory](#)

[How Schools Can Become Attachment and Trauma Friendly](#)

[Reactive Attachment Disorder and Other Attachment Issues](#)

### **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](#).

### **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](#)

### **Braunston CE Primary School MP Visit**

What better time than to invite an MP into your school than when a General Election is looming. Well, Lianna Willis, Headteacher of Braunston Church of England Primary School, did just that. You can read more about it in Lianna's letter to her parents and carers, as [attached](#).

### **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.



## **Creative School Projects**

Sandy Ettridge has been involved in leading some very creative, rewarding and successful projects recently – a bespoke project at [Stanion CE Primary School](#) with a focus on courageous advocacy, and a project creating visual displays with the children at [Flore CE Primary School](#) to reflect their school's vision statement. The work went exceptionally well and the visual outcomes look really wonderful. Every display has involved every child and staff member. Photos are included within the attached PPTs.

## **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.

## **DfE Renews Grants of £1200 for Senior Mental Health Lead Training**

The government has once again announced further grant funding to cover training for Senior Mental Health Leads. The grant offers £1200 to eligible state-funded schools and colleges in England to train a senior mental health lead. Further details are [attached](#).

## **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](#).

### **Educational Papers Worth Discussing in Staff Meetings - Outstanding Schools, Post 16 Leadership, Poverty, Disadvantaged Students & Improving Literacy**

Tony Stephens has published a couple of analytical papers on outstanding schools, a similar paper on post 16 leadership and management, and two further helpful papers on student poverty and supporting Pupil Premium and disadvantaged students. Tony has also shared two guidance reports from the Education Endowment Foundation for improving literacy in KS1 and KS2. Copies are attached.

[Outstanding Primary Schools](#)

[Outstanding Secondary Schools](#)

[Post 16 Leadership and Management](#)

[Student Poverty](#)

[Supporting Pupil Premium and disadvantaged students](#)

[Improving Literacy in KS1](#)

[Improving Literacy in KS2](#)

### **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.

### **FGM**

Please find attached two documents about FGM, one about [spotting the signs](#) and the other document is a [risk assessment tool](#).

### **Free Bibles for Schools**

It was lovely to receive news of leavers' services in July where pupils were presented with Bibles. If you would like to present a free Bible to each of your school leavers this year, or to pupils in any other year groups, GOOD NEWS For Everyone would be delighted to provide free copies for you. You can order them here: [Bibles for Education | GOOD NEWS for Everyone! \(goodnewsuk.com\)](#).

## Good Mental Health

Towcester CE Primary School worked very effectively with their local NHS Mental Health Support Team over the course of the last academic year. The programme the school followed included workshops, therapeutic group work, individual support and various events. Further details of this programme are [attached](#), courtesy of Sally Beaton, Headteacher, along with the Mental Health Support Team contact details for West Northants, as follows: [Mental Health Support Team \(Children and Young People\) - NHFT | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](#); the contact details for the service are listed on the page [cyp.mhst@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:cyp.mhst@nhft.nhs.uk) [0300 027 0888](tel:03000270888) or [0800 170 7055](tel:08001707055), adding that there is no link to the application though, and that further details of how to apply for this support were sent to the school from the school nursing team. Sally has also kindly said that she would be happy to speak to any schools that would like to know more or hear about the services offered and their impact.

## 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](#).

## How to Lead a Successful Secondary School

Tony Stephens, who writes our weekly academy and school news updates, once led a very successful secondary school and has [shared](#) his reflections on how he went about this, whilst recognising there are many different ways in which to do this.

## 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](#).

## Just Finance Foundation

Following a bulletin feature earlier this year from the Foundation, Paul Street ([paul.street@jff.org.uk](mailto:paul.street@jff.org.uk)) has again been in touch from the Foundation to say:

*'I contacted you recently regarding the free resources we provide for primary schools to help children learn about money – a really important life skill for their future.*

*You may be interested to know that we offer comprehensive resources for the whole primary age range to engage in learning more about money, tailored to fit with the maths and PSHE curriculum.*

*In short, we have two main resources:*

- *Milo's Money is our resource for EYFS and KS1, it features a picture book about our lovely young dinosaur called Milo who receives some money for the first time and doesn't know what to do with it so proceeds to ask advice from members of his community. This also features a digital game based on shopping and a host of downloadable teaching resources and curriculum guidance for mathematics, PSHE, literacy etc.*
- *5 Big Questions About Money is our PSHE resource for KS1 and KS2 and focuses on speaking and listening lessons teaching children about money, spending, saving, wants and needs, careers etc. It centres around our core questions of:*

- *Where does our money come from?*
- *How does money make us feel?*
- *What can we use our money for?*
- *How does our money help other people?*
- *How can we look after our money?*

**All our resources are completely free for schools.** If you'd like to do a little exploring to find out more about us, our website is here: <https://www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk/schools-hub>

You might also be interested to see more about our work with schools, and hear from some other teachers through our short video ... [LifeSavers - The Just Finance Foundation's primary school financial education programme](#)

*If you are interested in finding out more, I would love to hear from you.'*

### **Key Stage 3**

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and school 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](#).

### **Long-term Transformation of The SEND System**

Tom Rees, CEO of Ormiston Academies, writes, 'A lack of policy attention on SEND over the past decade has led to little improvement in delivery, despite significant increases in

funding... Almost 40 per cent of young people are now assigned the label of SEND at some point in their school career. This is clearly too high a number to deal with through specialist or personalised intervention. Meanwhile, evidence points to this categorisation being both inconsistent in its application and ineffective in attracting the necessary support....' To read more, please find [attached](#) a copy of Tom's article.

### **Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire & The Role of The Monarchy**

James Saunders Watson, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, would be delighted to visit any of our schools in Northamptonshire, and to engage in a Q&A discussion with pupils regarding the role of the Monarchy. Also, if your school has a significant anniversary or event, the Lord-Lieutenant would be happy to visit. If this would be of interest, please contact me directly.

### **National Association of Teachers of Religious Education**

We have been in discussion with NATRE about the best rates they could offer to schools which would like to access their very impressive and substantial RE resources. For 11+ schools taking out a membership for the year, they have offered a 30% reduction on their £370 annual charge per school. If you would like to access this rate through the Diocesan Board of Education, simply let Alex know via [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk).

### **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'](#).

### **Picture News**

Picture News have shared an excellent collective worship resource for this coming week, which focuses on the theme of unexpected events from both a current affairs and biblical perspective, which is [attached](#).

### **Planning For The Year Ahead in Secondary Schools & Supporting Literacy In The Early Years**

Please also find [attached](#) a guide from Tony Stephens about planning for the year ahead in secondary schools and a primary school document from the Education Endowment Foundation about approaches and practices to support literacy in the early years, <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years-evidence-store/early-literacy>

### **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 \(popuk.org\)](#)

### **Preparing Children to Receive Holy Communion**

Revd Pippa Madgwick faithfully prepared the children at St Mary's and St John's CE Primary School in North Luffenham to receive Holy Communion over many years, and has now retired, and Pippa has offered the attached materials for schools and clergy to assist in this. We hope that many more children in our schools will be offered such an opportunity and trust the attached resources prove to be beneficial.

[Baptism and Admission Service 2024](#)

[Preparation Sessions 2024 for Receiving Holy Communion](#)

[Preparing Children to Receive Holy Communion](#)

[Teaching Booklet for Admission to Holy Communion](#)

## **Pupil Premium Primary School Guide**

Please find [attached](#) a guide from Tony Stephens for primary schools considering how to maximize the Pupil Premium.

## **Pytchley CE Primary School Spiritual Garden and Library Opening**

Ashley Scott, Executive Headteacher, and colleagues at Pytchley have been celebrating the opening of a new spiritual garden and library. You can read more about it here: [Kettering village church school welcomes new Bishop of Peterborough to open garden and library \(northantstelegraph.co.uk\)](http://ketteringvillagechurchschoolwelcomesnewBishopofPeterboroughtoopenGardenandLibrary.northantstelegraph.co.uk)

## **Raising Attainment in Secondary Schools & Personal, Social and Emotional Development in Primary Schools**

Please also find [attached](#) a guide from Tony Stephens about raising attainment in secondary schools and a primary school document from the Education Endowment Foundation about approaches to supporting personal, social and emotional development, <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years-evidence-store/personal-social-and-emotional-development>.

## **RE Newsletter**

Please find [attached](#) a copy of Jane Lewis' RE Newsletter, packed full of great training and CPD opportunities, best practice and news. We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Ziggy Brown, as our RE Adviser, who will be working closely with Jane.

## **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](#).

## **Secondary School Attainment Culture & Early Years Communication and Language Development**

Please also find [attached](#) a guide from Tony Stephens about establishing and maintaining an attainment culture in secondary schools and a primary school document from the Education Endowment Foundation about supporting communication and language development in the early years - <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years-evidence-store/communication-and-language>.

## **Secondary School Data Tracking and Underachievement Intervention & Mathematics In The Early Years**

Please also find [attached](#) a guide from Tony Stephens about data tracking and underachievement intervention in secondary schools and a primary school document from the



Education Endowment Foundation about mathematics in the early years: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years-evidence-store/early-mathematics>.

### **Secondary School Outstanding Guide**

Please find [attached](#) a guide from Tony Stephens for secondary schools in pursuit of Ofsted's outstanding grade.

### **Successful School Leadership**

Please find [attached](#) a helpful paper published by the Education Development Trust on Successful School Leadership, written by Christopher Day and Pamela Sammons.

### **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.

### **Ways To Improve Classroom Management**

Please also find [attached](#) some advice on how to improve classroom management from Tony Stephens. 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.

### **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](#)

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## **SPIRITUAL INPUT**

### **BBC Broadcast of Pentecost Service from All Saints' Northampton with Bishop Debbie and Father Oliver Coss**

If you missed the BBC's live broadcast from All Saints' Northampton, and would like to view the Sunday service from All Saints Northampton with Bishop Debbie and Father Oliver Coss, here's the link: [BBC iPlayer - Pentecost - 2024: A Celebration for Pentecost](#).

### **Daily Hope**

If you would like to receive a daily scriptural reflection to inspire you, may I recommend the daily emails and podcasts from [Daily Hope with Rick Warren - Devotional - Pastor Rick's Daily Hope](#), which are often featured on Premier Christians Radio and UCB Radio.

### **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)