Dear Headteachers, Executive Headteachers, Diocesan Schools Consultants, Chaplains, DBE Members, MAT Chairs, MAT CEOs, Chairs of Governors, Vice Chairs of Governors, Foundation Governors, Bishop’s School Supporters and Bishop’s Visitors

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

We have a few places left at our Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for Diocesan Schools with Bishop Donald and Archdeacon Richard on 29th September at 2.00pm.  To book seats for staff, governors and pupils in your schools, please contact Alex Benoy via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

**Bishop’s Retirement**

Yesterday, Bishop Donald announced his retirement, writing:

‘*With a mixture of emotions, I announce today that I shall be retiring as Bishop of Peterborough at the start of next year. My final day at work, Sunday 8 January, will include an afternoon farewell service in the Cathedral. Details of this will doubtless be circulated nearer the time.*

*This is not the time for retrospectives, or for crystal-ball gazing. There is a process for appointing a new diocesan bishop, and we have a Vacancy-in-See Committee which will play its part in that. Leadership of the diocese during the episcopal vacancy will be decided and announced, probably in the autumn.*

*Those who know me well will know that I have no intention of stopping ministry, but in the next stage it will almost certainly be part-time, and by a wise but painful convention it will be well away from Peterborough Diocese.*

*At this point I simply repeat what I have often said since I came here in 2010, that being your bishop continues to be a great privilege and (mainly) a great joy. I look forward to six more months of that.’*

**National Church of England Education Conference**

The programme for the 27 January 2023 Church of England Education Conference in London has just been published.  Details of all the main speakers contributing and of how to book your place are attached.

**Courageous Advocacy Project at Stanion CE Primary School**

Sandy Ettridge has been working on an imaginative courageous advocacy project at Stanion CE Primary School. It has brought together the whole community, leading to some rewarding and inspiring outcomes that the whole school community achieved together, not least the beautiful Art Gallery, some of which has been 'on tour' to Lowick Church.  Further details and photos are attached.

**Jumping Fish – Supporting Spiritual Development, Collective Worship and RE**

Jumping Fish have just announced three new editions to their Experience Journey collection of resources, for Lent, Easter and Advent; details are attached.

**Holy Land Pilgrimage**

Bishop Donald is planning to lead a Holy Land Pilgrimage from 17-25 September.  Our Bishop writes:

*‘The coming pilgrimage will obviously be the last one I lead as Bishop of Peterborough. I thought it would be helpful to do a reconnaissance as so much was reported to have changed during lockdown. I was able to get to Jerusalem for a short stay last month, and am delighted to report that there are now no covid-linked restrictions at all on entering and exiting Israel. All was very straightforward, and in fact getting in and through immigration was easier than it has ever been. The easyJet flights to and from Luton were also straightforward, with no hints of cancellations or other such problems. The hotel we use in Jerusalem has recently opened up after a difficult two years, but they were well organised and staffed. I am looking forward very much to our time there and in Galilee.*

*We still have places available: in fact we are slightly below the number we need to make the trip viable. We will have to close the list or cancel the trip in early August, as we need to confirm final numbers for the flight a full month ahead. Full details are* [*here*](https://www.lightline.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Peterborough-Sept.pdf)*. If you have any questions, please contact* *Joanne Gibson* *my PA. If you decide to book, please make sure you reserve the morning of Saturday 20 August for a pilgrimage briefing, and let* *Joanne* *know so we can keep you up to date with plans.’*

**Academy & School News Update and Safeguarding Briefing**

Please find attached the most recent academy and school news summary from educational consultant Tony Stephens and a copy of the last safeguarding briefing of the year from Andrew Hall.

**Thought for the Week**

May I share with you these uplifting words from Psalm 108:v4 to inspire and encourage you as you approach each day and reflect on God’s amazing love and faithfulness in this week ahead…

*‘great is your love, higher than the heavens;*

*your faithfulness reaches to the skies.’*

**Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from this Sunday, remembering St Thomas who initially doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead, but who later became one of the most travelled missionaries in the first century, eventually taking the Gospel to India…

*Almighty and eternal God,
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,
allowed your holy apostle Thomas
to doubt the resurrection of your Son
till word and sight convinced him:
grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe
and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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