

Grace and peace to you this Lent.

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/).

HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE - TRANSFORMATIONAL TEACHING

We look forward to seeing over one hundred of you next Wednesday at Kettering Park Hotel for our spring term Headteachers' Conference, 9.15am – 3.30pm (conference registration, coffee and refreshments from 8.45am). Following the opening worship with children from Glapthorn CE Primary School, Tom Sherrington will address the momentous theme of 'Transformational Teaching', keeping the many and various needs of all our children foremost in our thinking and exploring together:

- The essentials of effective professional learning. What does the research say? The key elements of a strong CPD or coaching programme.
- Common challenges with learning. What are the common issues in learning, especially for those at the margins? Six common issues and how to address them.
- Responsive Teaching in practice. Some key elements of effective interactive, responsive teaching, with practical examples.
- Mode B Teaching. Elements of teaching that foster student agency and add important dimensions to a rich, transformational curriculum.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE EDUCATION TEAM TRAINING COURSES COMING UP SOON

We are running the following courses over the next few weeks.

Holy Week and Easter in the Classroom led by RE Today, Tuesday 27 February 2024 9.00am—11.15am via Zoom

RE Network led by Jane Lewis, Thursday 29 February 2024 4.15pm—5.30pm via Zoom

New to RE Leadership Day led by Jane Lewis, Thursday 7 March 2024 9.30am—3.00pm at Hayfield Cross CE Primary School, Hayfield Crescent, Hanwood Park, Kettering NN15 5FJ

New to the Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead in Northamptonshire Schools led by Lesley Pollard Tuesday 12 March 2024 9.30am-3.30pm at Hayfield Cross CE Primary School, Hayfield Crescent, Hanwood Park, Kettering NN15 5FJ

SIAMS Updates for Headteachers led by Jane Lewis, Tuesday 12 March 2024 1.30pm—3.00pm via Zoom

Contextual Safeguarding led by Richard Ward, Thursday 21 March 2024 9.30am – 12.30pm via Zoom

Roles & Responsibilities of Church School Governors for experienced Governors led by Peter French, Tuesday 26 March 2024 6.30pm—8.30pm via Zoom

Safer Recruitment led by Jill Sneddon, Wednesday 27 March 2024 9.30am—3.30pm at Bouverie Court

FREE PLACES AT THE WORLD EDUCATION SUMMIT

Sophia Whybrow (swhybrow@osiriseducational.co.uk) has been in touch from the World Education Summit to say: 'I invite you to sample the World Education Summit sessions at no cost for you and your colleagues for two weeks. The [World Education Summit](#) (WES) brings together the very best in education from around the world to support your academies. By simply choosing 10 sessions over a year aligned to your trust priorities you get the latest thinking from the actual academics/leaders. We have curated the top [10 WES 2023 sessions](#) for you to see how WES can seamlessly integrate into your existing professional learning. [Click here to access](#), we hope you enjoy it... See the phenomenal 2024 line-up - bit.ly/WES24SummitGuide.'

LAUNCH OF DIOCESAN RE SYLLABUS FOR THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH (2024 - 2029)

We are very excited to launch our revised RE Syllabus for Church schools in the Diocese of Peterborough on Tuesday April 30th 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 \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](#) and then select [Diocese of Peterborough New RE Syllabus Launch \(google.com\)](#).

CPD SCHOOL VISITS

A number of headteachers have asked for recommendations re. visiting other schools which have defined areas of strength and, of course, before the pandemic we published a school CPD visit map to support this. So, we have updated the school CPD visit map and would like to share it with you, as attached, as a rough guide for considering possibilities. However, I would just add quite a significant caveat here. As Albert Einstein, is purported to have said, 'Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted'. Some of the most precious spiritual strengths within our schools cannot be readily counted. Moreover, small pupil populations in many of our small village schools can lead to a degree of statistical invalidity, and just one pupil with exceptional needs in a small village school can skew an entire school's data outcomes. Having said all that, we hope this 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.

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS' DAY AT UPPINGHAM SCHOOL

Our School Chaplains Day on 12 June 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. As in previous years, this will be a day of fellowship and training for all school chaplains in Peterborough Diocese, from both the independent sector and the maintained sector, and for parish clergy who support schools in a chaplaincy capacity. There will be a small charge of £15 per person to cover the cost of refreshments and lunch at Uppingham School, but in all other respects this will be a free event. To book a place simply email education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

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

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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](#)'

BISHOP STOPFORD SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Mrs Victoria Hutchinson was licensed by Bishop Jonathan Meyrick on Friday 16th February, and a lovely picture capturing the most poignant moment in the service 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](#).

THE KING'S (THE CATHEDRAL) SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

King's is recruiting a new School Chaplain. Further details are attached.

BIG HELP OUT

Olivia Williams (olivia@together.org.uk) from Together (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!

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.'

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.

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.

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.

BRACKLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT

After many years of exemplary service, Mrs Rosalyn Peet is retiring from her role as Headteacher of Brackley Church of England Junior School. The Governors are seeking to appoint a strong and passionate leader committed to putting children at the heart of the school and providing the very best education for the whole child. Further details are attached.

NATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS & THIS WEEK'S SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING

Compilations of all the latest academy and school news from school improvement consultant Tony Stephens are attached, together with the most recent safeguarding briefing from specialist safeguarding consultant Andrew Hall.

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.

PRAYER FOR LENT

Father God, at the beginning of Lent, we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus Christ and for his life here on earth. We thank you that Jesus went around doing good, healing people, welcoming the stranger, offering forgiveness, giving hope to those without hope, bringing joy to those who were sad, mending broken lives. We pray that, during this special season of the Church's year, we may learn more about Jesus' life and come to understand more of your amazing love for us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

AND FINALLY

'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' (2 Corinthians 13: v14)

May I wish you every blessing for the season of Lent!



Peter Cantley
Diocesan Director of Education