



Schools newsletter

April 2014

Dear Colleagues

A very truncated newsletter this time, I'm afraid, as we continue to struggle with lack of capacity following the retirement of Brian and Mike (both of whom, I'm pleased to say, are still assisting me substantially with particular workstreams)

I will write to you again early in the new term to share our evolving plans for continuing support for all our schools. In the meantime may I wish you and all your colleagues a Happy Easter and every blessing.

Yours ever

Jeremy Fitt



Dear Colleagues

Please find below a flyer advertising a Young Leaders Award Conference led by the York Church of England Diocese on Wednesday 7th May 2014. I understand that Archbishop Sentamu is very keen that all Church of England Schools in the Arch Diocese have the opportunity to take advantage of this.

Jeremy Fitt
Director of Education



Active Citizenship in Your School: A Young Leaders Award Conference

Interested in providing active leadership opportunities for your learners and improving SMSC? We would be delighted to see you at our Spring conference

AGENDA

- 10.30 Tea, Coffee and Pastries, Networking and Welcome
- 11.05 Workshop
'Creative Leadership by Young Leaders'
- 11.25 Address by the Archbishop of York
- 11.40 *The Contribution of the Young Leaders Awards to Inspection: "SMSC and more"*
- 12.10 Address by Headteacher
The Young Leaders Awards from a school perspective
- 12.30 Two Course Lunch, Tea and Coffee
- 1.15 Workshops
The Young Leaders Awards in more detail
(You will have the option to hear about Key Stage 2/Key Stage 3/Key Stage 4)
- 1.45 Workshops
'Show and Tell' led by Young Leaders
(You will have the option to hear about Key Stage 2/Key Stage 3/Key Stage 4)
- 2.15 Tea, Coffee and Plenary



Wednesday May 7th
From 10.30am — 2.45pm
(Registration from 10.30am)
At Bishopthorpe Palace
Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2GE

Cost: FREE

To reserve a place contact us at ytadmin@archbishopofyork.org or call 01904 772 375

"Active Citizenship in Your School: A Young Leaders Award Conference"

May 7th 2014, 10.30am-2.45pm

This is a **free** event designed to introduce you to the **Young Leaders Awards** which are a dynamic active citizenship resource currently engaging thousands of young people across the north of England and empowering hundreds of schools to connect with their local communities, serve others and make a real difference while contributing greatly to the SMSC agenda.

The conference, which is being held at **Bishopthorpe Palace, York**, will include a keynote session from the Archbishop of York and a presentation from Head teachers who are currently running the programme on the impact of the Awards in their schools. Furthermore, there will be more detailed workshops on each level of the Awards as well as interactive sessions **led by young leaders** themselves.

Should you wish to learn more about the Awards prior to the event please [click here](#) to view a summary. You can also view further information on our [website](#)

 [ABYyouthtrust](#)

 [archbishopofyorkyouthtrust](#)

<http://www.abvrt.com>

Asbestos Management and Fire Safety Information

A big thank you to all who responded to my email requesting a copy of the schools' asbestos management plan and fire risk assessment. Can I remind everyone that the responsibility for managing both risks lies with the Headteacher and not the school caretaker or receptionist.

I have agreed to meet with a local provider to discuss the possibility of buying into their risk management system which offers a 'one stop shop' in terms of asbestos, fire and legionella management. Please bear this information in mind before you sign up with your current provider as there could be cost savings to be had.

Further details to follow.

Eileen Bell

Asbestos Warning: Second World War Gas Masks

The Department for Education has advised that gas masks from the Second World War period potentially contain asbestos.



The Health and Safety Executive advice is that it does not think it appropriate for children or teachers to wear or handle a gas mask unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the particular mask does not contain asbestos.

Please seek health and safety advice should you have any concerns on this issue.

Further guidance on asbestos management in schools can be found on the GOV.UK website.

Please visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/asbestos-management-in-schools

Faith Schools Conference

Chance Your Arm is an education and training provider with the aim of respecting diversity and promoting cohesion. The conference, 'Faith Schools in a Secular Age - Confirming Identity and Defining Mission', will address key issues facing Faith Schools in contemporary society and focus on how schools can affirm their mission, identity, values and vision in an increasingly secular age.

With a distinguished panel of speakers led by **Dr Priscilla Chadwick**, Chair of the recent report entitled *The Church School of the Future*, and **Paul Barber**, Director of the Catholic Education Service, the conference will be of benefit to Headteachers, Leadership Teams, Governors, Chaplains, Diocesan and LA Officers and anyone with a stake in high quality Faith School provision.

This CPD opportunity is both cross phase and inter-faith and will be of value to those working in both the maintained and independent sectors. In addition to the main speakers there will be three interactive workshops led by eminent and successful hands-on practitioners.



Please [click here](#) to download details and a booking form for this important event. If you need more information or have any questions please do not hesitate to phone or email your enquiry to: info@chanceyourarm.co.uk

Chance Your Arm Education & Training takes pride in offering high quality courses and believes in giving value for money. Please visit www.chanceyourarm.co.uk for more information.

Faith Schools in a Secular Age - Confirming Identity and Defining Mission

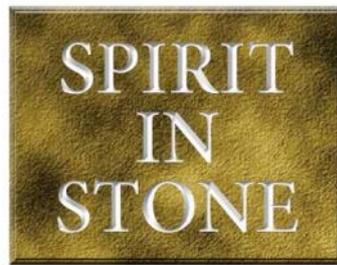
Hinsley Hall, Leeds - 9th June 2014

Keynote Speakers: Priscilla Chadwick and Paul Barber

How will I benefit?

This conference will provide delegates with the opportunity to:

- Define and confirm identity, vision and values in a secular society
 - Clarify key issues relating to leadership and governance
 - Promote good practice in fostering spirituality and well-being
 - Affirm and defend distinctive mission and ethos
- Identify and replicate key components of outstanding SMSC provision
- Extend and enrich knowledge and understanding of inter-church partnerships
 - Share insights and information with a wide range of stakeholders



THE LINDISFARNE LEGACY

All eyes were on the North East in Summer 2013 as the Lindisfarne Gospels made a spectacular visit to the region. The Gospels were created in Northumbria during what used to be called the Dark Ages, which turned out to be a misnomer when you consider the wonderful art, manuscripts and buildings from the period!

As colleagues from Durham University and Durham Cathedral prepared for the visit of the Gospels, churches in the region began to consider how they might tell the stories of their role in the history of the North East. The Gospels were created for God and St. Cuthbert at a time when Anglo-Saxon Northumbria was shaped by the growth of Christianity in the region: stories of the Northern Saints tell of monasteries, churches and wonderful manuscripts. Many of those buildings survive today and are still serving their communities as places of worship. Their stories didn't end when Cuthbert's body, with the Lindisfarne Gospels, began its journey to Durham - they continued and collected more, equally fascinating, stories.

The team at Inspired North East* recognised that there was a need to tell the stories of our great churches to a wider audience so, with the support of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant**, 'Spirit in Stone - the Lindisfarne Legacy' project was born. Spirit in Stone is working with about 60 churches in the region, from a variety of denominations, to help them tell their story, create materials such as trails and develop learning resources for school and adult groups. The churches involved in the project are grouped in 8 clusters: stretching as far north as Bamburgh, travelling down through Northumberland to include those in Glendale and along the A696, before taking in city churches in Newcastle and Sunderland, then journeying down through Darlington to Hartlepool and out to Stanhope. They are a rich and diverse cluster of churches; many date from the time of the Northern Saints, but others tell of their involvement in shaping (and surviving!) events in the region including the birth of the railways, the Arts and Crafts movement and wars.

During 2014, churches involved in the Spirit in Stone Project will host a series of free learning events for schools, involving professional artists and church volunteers. Children's guides to churches will be developed and we aim to create a CD ROM of teachers' materials for primary schools which will include historical information on churches in the project; key stories from each church; a guide to using church visits to support learning and suggested pre-visit, on-site and post-visit learning opportunities which will complement both the National Curriculum and local Agreed Syllabuses for RE. This work is being coordinated by a part-time Project Coordinator, Elizabeth Baker, who was previously in charge of education at Durham Cathedral and, before that, at Bede's World in Jarrow.

'Spirit in Stone - the Lindisfarne Legacy' is an exciting opportunity for schools to learn the stories of historic churches in the region and explore new learning opportunities. More details on specific events will be circulated, but for further information about the project see our website: www.spiritinstone.info

* Inspired North East is a joint initiative of the Church of England Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle, working with local congregations to help achieve a sustainable future for church buildings as living places of worship, used and enjoyed by local communities, welcoming to visitors and unique heritage assets.

** The Heritage Lottery Fund have given a grant of £38,700 under their 'Your Heritage' grant scheme. 'Your Heritage' grants support projects that relate to the national, regional or local heritage of the UK and help people to learn about their own and other people's heritage (learning)



Can you help?

The Religious Resources Centre would like to create a database of artists and projects that have successfully supported our NE schools in the creation of any of the following:

- wall art/murals
- stained glass windows
- worship spaces
- outdoor reflection areas
- spiritual gardens

There may be other projects that you would like to tell us about but these are our starters! We will use this database to disseminate information about the best practitioners to other schools in both Dioceses.

Does your school have something to share?

All you need to do is email us with your telephone number and the name of the best person to talk to (enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk) and Deborah (staff member at our Percy Main site) will contact you to get the information we need (who, where, what and if you have any photos we can share/download from your website to illustrate what was done) All schools who offer information will be showcased and celebrated!

Please do help us to help other schools benefit from your good practice!



Supporting every child's right to go to school

Send My Friend to School brings together thousands of children across the UK to speak up for the right to education, and remind world leaders of their promise that all children should get the chance to go to school.



Spread the word



World leaders promised every child an education by 2015 but 57 million children are still missing out on school. Over one third of the children out of school have a disability.

Please join our global campaign in 2014 and help us get **ALL** children into school.

Order your FREE schools pack with teaching resources for children aged 5-14:

www.sendmyfriend.org

Religious Resources Centre Online

Are you looking for new ways to engage your pupils with the Big Questions of Life? Do you need new resources to stimulate your thinking?

Have a look at *We're Thinking About..!* in the Engage section of the RRC website!

<http://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/were-thinking-about/>

The screenshot shows the 'Forgiveness' forum page on the Religious Resources Centre website. The page header includes the site name and navigation links: Home, What We Offer, People & Places, Engage, About Us, How To..., and Contact Us. The forum title is 'Forgiveness' and it contains 7 topics (+ 1 hidden) and 24 replies, last updated by Tim 1 hour, 8 minutes ago. A table lists the topics with columns for Topic, Voices, Posts, and Freshness.

Topic	Voices	Posts	Freshness
Introduction Started by: Tim	1	1	1 month, 1 week ago
What is forgiveness? Started by: Colette	2	4	5 days, 2 hours ago
Do people of faith have a duty to always forgive? Started by: Colette	1	3	5 days, 2 hours ago
Film and Forgiveness Started by: Colette	2	5	5 days, 3 hours ago
Recommended Resources Started by: Colette	1	13	5 days, 3 hours ago
Who can forgive? Started by: Colette	2	4	2 weeks, 4 days ago

We're Thinking About ...! is an online resource and discussion area. Every couple of months we choose and discuss a NEW topic that has a link to the Diocesan Syllabus' for both Primary and Secondary RE.

We post stories, resources, personal testimony and links to online materials to build a fantastic resource for teachers (and a really interesting and thought-provoking area for everybody else, clergy and governors included!)

At the moment our topic is FORGIVENESS, coming soon is the NORTHERN SAINTS.

We have some brand new Northern Saints resources to launch online, some fabulous new topic bags and an online movie from Dr Tomlinson Middle School to share so do keep an eye on the website, or through our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Some of the **Engage** materials are open access but most of it will be for RRC members only so please do login to our web-page and have a good look around. (If you don't know how to do this please contact us and a real person will talk you through the whole process – 0191 270 4161 or 0191 375 0586!)

YOUR SCHOOL (and local Church) CAN CONTRIBUTE TOO!

Is your School or Church named after a Northern Saint? Have you got any Northern Saint related experiences or stories you are willing to share with us? Have you any schemes or work or resources you have developed that you would like to share with your colleagues?

Are there any questions your students have that you'd like us to try and answer? Perhaps you've used a fantastic resource and you'd like to write a short review as to how you used it and why it was so interesting?

There are so many ways to get **Engaged!**

The National Society and Christian Aid

In August 2013 Christian Aid appointed Susan Rayment as its Education Coordinator for England. The purpose of the post is to build knowledge and understanding of global justice among young people in Church of England schools and to be active in promoting Christian Aid within those schools. A key aspect of this role is also to deepen Christian Aid's partnership with Church schools and academies to promote and resource effective teaching and learning about global justice as part of their distinctive Christian ethos.

The Church of England is one of the major sponsors of Christian Aid. Christian Aid is the Church of England's humanitarian, campaigning and development agency. Christian Aid and the Church of England are committed to working in partnership. We are committed to working in partnership with the National Society to build knowledge and understanding of global justice among young people in the English schools' sector.

The partnership between The National Society and Christian Aid is based on a shared mission to eradicate poverty and achieve social justice all, regardless of faith or nationality. The intended outcome is to develop a strong connectivity between the work of Christian Aid and The National Society for global equality. Church schools are already doing much to address issues of social injustice and inequality and the impact of this is assessed through the SIAMS evaluation schedule.

Christian Aid develops many materials and resources available for school use to introduce the global dimension to the school curriculum. They generate curriculum-linked activities to help pupils learn about life around the world including ready-to-use assemblies which challenge and inspire action on global issues. There are classroom activities and games to help students engage with world issues and reflect on their own role as global citizens.

The project will see the production of resources/materials around a select number of themes for use by Church schools.



Christian Aid Week

This year, Christian Aid Week explores the work that Christian Aid's partners are doing to tackle violence and build peace across the world.



Edile, who is nine, lives in the Las Camelias humanitarian zone with his family. They, like so many others, arrived in the humanitarian zone after fleeing the horrors of war. Many in his community have lost close relatives and friends to the conflict. All have lost their homes and possessions. All of them are survivors.

Our partner, The Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace (CIJP), has played a crucial role in setting up humanitarian zones in Colombia. They are demarcated areas offering a safe refuge to people living in areas of conflict.

To find out more about Edile's story and to download educational resources, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/learn-caw-2014-secondary



More Than Books

The Religious Resources Centre is more than books: we are also a hub of information and FREEBIES!

We get many emails from organisations wanting to offer us new resources. We put most of this information out through our Facebook and Twitter accounts (www.facebook.com/ReligiousRC and www.twitter.com/ReligiousRC) but just in case you've not yet 'Liked' or 'Followed' us and are missing out here's a taster...

There are two feature films which secondary RE specialists may wish to keep an eye out for: *Jerusalem* (a National Geographic documentary) and *Noah*. Both of these are being supported by Damaris - an organisation keen to make links between contemporary media and Christianity. *Jerusalem* is going to be an IMAX show but the trailer will be good for anyone looking at Jerusalem as a place of pilgrimage and the resources may be useful in that light.



See www.damaris.org/jerusalem for FREE online resources including a secondary school assembly (with footage from the documentary) and 'Tools for Talks', which offers downloadable film clips, background information, talk illustrations for speakers and suggestions for use.

For *Noah* visit www.damaris.org/noah Here you can watch (and download) the trailer, see previews of the resources Damaris are creating and place your order for a **free resource pack** that will soon be available.

The Religious Resources Centre - more than books!

North East TeachMeet - RE

Struggling to engage your pupils in RE? Looking for new ways to create enthusiasm?

Calling all secondary and middle school RE teachers, specialists and non-specialists alike, across the North-East: come along to the Religious Education TeachMeet!

"What is an RE TeachMeet?"

An RE TeachMeet is an informal gathering of teachers who are passionate about RE. TeachMeets support grass roots professional development, give encouragement to teachers who often work in isolation and helps to build your professional network. TeachMeets are framed by short talks and demonstrations from those who work at the front line of RE teaching. Why don't you sign up for one? You don't have to be a specialist, you don't need a great idea, it doesn't have to be original – just one that works in your classroom that you are happy to share to enthuse others within a short time slot (four minutes) **Come and share what works! Learn from your peers!**

Where and When: Religious Resources Centre, Church House, Percy Main, North Shields, NE29 6HS. Tuesday 1st July 2014, 5:00-6:30pm

(with a meet and greet in the Religious Resources Centre from 4.00pm)

The event will be 'speed-dating' style with a couple of whole group presentations. Everyone is strongly encouraged to share their ideas in a presentation but you can come along and just observe.

Presenters Needed

Would you like to give a four minute presentation on or demonstration of something you have used successfully in your RE classroom, e.g., an activity, a resource, an app, a simple something that has made all the difference to your learners? N.B. Presenters will also get to see other presentations.

If you would like to present please go to: www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/teachmeet-booking-form-presenters/

If you would like to just observe please go to: www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/teachmeet-booking-form-participants/



Open the Book/Speaking Volumes Event: FREE Book Offer and Schools Support

Open the Book and Speaking Volumes are running a project to make a gift of one Lion Storyteller Bible to all primary schools across the geographical area of Newcastle LA. Local churches will be raising funds to help sponsor this gift and volunteers from these supporting churches will be trained to go into the participating schools to read and make the Bible stories come alive.

This offer is part of a pilot project and, at the moment, is **ONLY** available to schools in the area of Newcastle LA. For a map showing the area and the schools that are being contacted please see the link to the map below:

<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/u/0/edit?mid=zb4nx7ERW6IU.kOq60fw32BTc>

The meeting for schools who are interested will be taking place at the RRC, at Church House on Thursday 24th April from 4.30 - 6.30 in the Bishop Bilbrough room.

If you would like to book a place, please contact the RRC via 0191 3750586 or email enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk



Sharing Bible stories with primary school children

Let your local Christian community take the strain out of delivering RE to your school

They can help you with:

- quality Bible storytelling for your assemblies with Open the Book, a national project to teach children the stories in the Bible in an exciting way.
- free books about Christianity and the Bible for study from national charity Speaking Volumes.
- access to the largest Religious Resources Centre in England – right on your doorstep in North Shields.

In June, Speaking Volumes and Open the Book will be sending you a complimentary copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible (complete with CDs) and further information about how local Christians can help you. But why not come along and meet representatives from these organisations yourself, over tea and cake, and assure yourself of the quality and integrity of this FREE offer.

Thursday 24 April 2014: 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm at the Religious Resources Centre, Church House, St John's Terrace, Percy Main, North Shields, NE29 6HS

Please contact: enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk or telephone 0191 270 4161 to reserve your place.



Part of Bible Society

Bible Society: T: 01793 410222 E: enquiries@openthebook.net openthebook.net Charity Reg. No 232759

Speaking Volumes: T: 07914 301401 E: info@speakingvolumes.org.uk speakingvolumes.org.uk Charity Reg. No 255001



Putting good books in your community



north east
your religious learning resources centre

Religious Resources Centre Easter Closure

The RRC will be closed from 5:30pm on Wednesday 16th April and will re-open at 10:00am on Wednesday 23rd April.

We look forward to seeing people on either side of our Easter break – and don't forget you can always find discussion and ideas on our Facebook and Twitter pages and on the Forums on our website: <http://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/engage/>



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