



# Schools newsletter

March 2015

Dear Colleagues

Quite a brief newsletter this time, but do read on as there are some important announcements, invitations, administrative reminders and competitions which I am sure will be of interest to you. We will bring you news early next term of developments in relation to the Joint Education Team, but in the meantime let me share with you two exciting news announcements – one in each Diocese – which have just made our copy deadline.

First, Rev'd Canon Alison White has been appointed by HM The Queen as the next Bishop of Hull – and only the second woman Bishop in the Church of England (though we understand now closely followed by a third!) As many of you know, Alison is currently priest in charge of Riding Mill and Newcastle's Diocesan Advisor for Spirituality and Spiritual Direction, having formerly taught at Cranmer Hall in the University of Durham. Alison's husband Frank is of course Assistant Bishop of Newcastle and is currently carrying the heavy responsibility of leading the Diocese during the Vacancy in See following Bishop Martin's retirement in 2014. He will continue in that important role while the Whites move their family home to Hull. Do please hold soon-to-be Bishop Alison and Bishop Frank in your prayers as they await Alison's consecration in York Minster on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Secondly, just yesterday Lord Nash, Under Secretary of State for Schools, signed off the funding agreement for the Free School we have proposed at Wynyard, North of Stockton-on-Tees. This was the last possible day for the decision to be made ahead of pre-General Election Purdah, so we just made it in time! As you would rightly expect, Wynyard, just like all our other academies, will be a Church of England school in the Diocesan family in every sense. Please pray also therefore for Wynyard Church of England Primary School as it prepares to welcome its first intake in September 2015.

My colleagues and I send our sincere good wishes to you and to all in your school community for a happy and blessed Easter.

Yours ever  
Jeremy Fitt



# National Leaders of Governance

Just a reminder for all of our governors about the National Leaders of Governance scheme which offers free support to governors. National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) are experienced Chairs of Governors, chosen and trained by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) to offer support to Chairs of Governors and governing bodies throughout England.

There are currently 13 NLG's in the North East, and they offer a wide range of support including:-

- Mentoring new Chairs,
- Governing body health checks
- Reviews of Governance
- Advice on specific processes such as academy conversion, or governing body reconstitution
- Helping schools access training and governor networks

All the support (other than External Reviews of Governance) is free of charge. More information about support, and also how to apply to be an NLG is on the DfE website:

**National leaders of governance: a guide for potential applicants - Detailed guidance - GOV.UK.**



Each region currently has a NLG Advocate, working to increase awareness of NLG support and identify potential NLG's. The Advocate for the North East is Julia Millard, and she will be visiting all areas of the region over the coming months to talk to governors, Head teachers and officers involved in school improvement about NLG's.

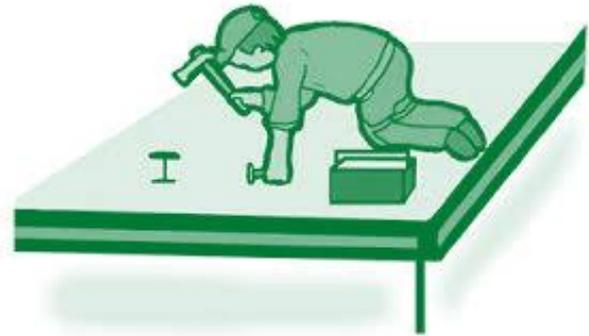
A single point of contact for anyone who wishes to engage an NLG for their school or discuss the application process is currently being set up and details will be circulated in the summer term.

In the meantime, Julia can be contacted at [millard\\_julia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:millard_julia@yahoo.co.uk) or alternatively you can send an email to [liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org.uk](mailto:liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org.uk) if you would prefer the Joint Education Team to contact Julia on your behalf.

## Points to consider when replacing a flat roof

We urge all schools who are thinking about replacing the membrane of any flat roofs to make sure that they use a qualified consultant alongside a contractor who uses membrane materials which have a minimum 20 year guarantee.

Please speak to your consultant about insulating the roof prior to putting on the weatherproof membrane as it is more economical to insulate the roof before replacing the covering.



## Head Teacher Movements

### Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle

Name of School	Outgoing Headteacher	New Headteacher	Start Date	Local Authority
Cockerton CofE Primary School Darlington	Chris Metcalf	Exec HT: Wendy Aitken	Feb '15	Darlington
St Aidan's CofE Academy Darlington	Catherine McCoy	Acting HT: Nicole Gibbon	Feb '15	Darlington
Blue Coat CofE Junior School Durham	Lynne Scott	Emma Roffe	Apr '15	Durham



The Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle  
**Joint Education Team**  
Church House St John's Terrace North Shields NE29 6HS



16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Educational Trip to Auschwitz 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Dear Colleague

We are writing to invite you on an organised trip to Auschwitz, near Krakow in Poland. Currently we have **2 places left on the trip**. This visit is to be led by the Revd. Gavin Wort and similarly to last year, is being organised by Lesley Hillary (Bishop of Newcastle Inter-Faith and Ethnic Relations Advisor) and Natalie Chapman (RE Consultant) It will include tours of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz - Birkenau, a visit to the Jewish Cultural Centre in Oswiecim and a tour of the Kazimierz district of Krakow. It is also hoped that workshops on the Christian Response to the Holocaust, the Sacrifice of Maximillian Kolbe and the Holocaust from the Jewish Perspective shall be offered. The aim of the visit is to gain further insights into what happened during the Holocaust and how this has affected the Jewish and Christian communities – both then and now.

The cost of this trip is £480.00 per person (based on a group of 20) This price includes flights, transfers, accommodation for three nights on a dinner, bed & buffet breakfast basis staying at the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer and admission costs to Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenau with a work shop taking place at Auschwitz 1 which will be led by a curator from Auschwitz. There will also be an opportunity for participants to meet before the visit and hear from a Holocaust Survivor about his experiences of Auschwitz. There are up to twenty places, open to all teachers, school chaplains, and clergy, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The feedback following the visit was overwhelming positive, with many teachers and clergy and students expressing how useful the trip had been and was going to be when teaching about the Holocaust in RE. The trip is designed to support the teaching and learning of the units of study included within the syllabuses and opportunity to discuss curriculum links and future planning of RE and the Holocaust shall be organised before, during and after the visit. In particular the units to be looked at, whilst in Krakow shall be People of Faith (Questful RE, Primary Syllabus unit 6.7) and 'Should we commemorate the Holocaust?' (Illuminating Pathways, Secondary and Middle schools, unit 8.5); there are other opportunities to study the Holocaust within the RE syllabus, in both the primary and secondary planning, but these units shall be the primary focus.

If you or your colleagues are interested in this visit to Auschwitz and require further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Lesley Hillary ([l.hillary@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:l.hillary@newcastle.anglican.org)) or Natalie Chapman ([nrchapman76@gmail.com](mailto:nrchapman76@gmail.com)) In order to ensure that the trip takes place a non-refundable deposit of £200.00 plus a copy of your passport which would need to be made by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, with final payments being made by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Yours sincerely

**Jeremy Fitt**  
**Director of Education**  
**Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle**

**Lesley Hillary**  
**Inter-Faith and Ethnic**  
**Relations Advisor**

**Natalie Chapman**  
**RE Consultant**

Tel: 0191 270 4164



The Church  
of England

Fax: 0191 270 4101

## Reconstitution Reminder

Another reminder that the governing bodies of all schools which have not reconstituted their instruments of governance since 2012 are required to reconstitute by September 2015.

Academies are not required to reconstitute although they can do so if they wish.

Many of our schools have already done this or are in the process of doing so, but if your school has not yet done so, this must be considered early in the summer term as the instruments should be finalised and sealed by **1st September 2015**.

We sent out some guidance on the reconstitution process before Christmas and have also sent out model documents but please contact [liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org) if you need any further information.

### Terms of office following reconstitution

DfE guidance states that if Governors are remaining within the new structure in their current category then they will continue to serve out their terms of office. However, if they are newly appointed on reconstitution or re-appointed to a different category, a new term of office will start from the date of reconstitution.



## Admissions Reminder

Please remember that your Admissions Policy for applications for places in 2016/2017 needs to be formally determined (and evidenced in a governing body minute) and adopted by 15th April 2015.



The final policy should then be published on your school website showing the correct date.

Key dates for consultation on admissions are earlier next year so for any changes to policies to apply for 2017/2018, consultation will need to take place between 1st October 2015 and 31st January 2016, with formal determination and adoption by 28th February 2016.

If you have any queries please contact [liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org)

## We want to hear from you!



We like to celebrate the achievements of our schools. If you would like us to showcase any award-winning projects (particularly those with regional or national significance), or if there are any events you think we should mention, please let us know and we will endeavour to include them in our next newsletter.



Email: [lisa.padgett@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:lisa.padgett@drmnewcanglican.org)

## Making payments to the Diocese

We kindly urge all schools when paying their Partnering Agreement this year, making any payments for conferences/training events or for governors contributions towards projects, to please ensure that payments are made to the correct bank account as specified on the invoice. Thank you.

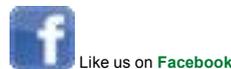
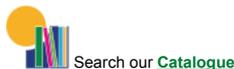


## Religious Resources Centre Easter closure times



The RRC will close for Easter at 5.30pm on Tuesday 31st March and will re-open at 10.00am on Wednesday 8th April.

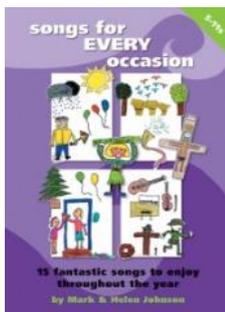
Don't forget you can always find discussions and ideas on the Forums on our website, and on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Please click on the links below:



# Enrich your RE and Collective Worship today!

The RRC has an excellent collection of suggested resources for use in Collective Worship and RE but if you don't have time to pop in and explore before the end of term how about these for starters?

## Songs for Every Occasion – Mark and Helen Johnson (PM 245.5)



Designed for use with 5-11 year olds, this resource from Out of the Ark music, part of the popular *Songs for EVERY* series, contains 15 catchy songs to use throughout the year.

Containing songs specific to times in the school calendar, including Harvest, Christmas, Remembrance Day, Easter, holidays and the start and end of term and others that can be used to tie in to the curriculum, this is ideal to be used in primary schools.

Contains 2 CD's with songs and backing tracks and a book with lyrics and sheet music.

Other books in the series are also available to be borrowed from the RRC.

## Creative Parables – Revd Sheila Hamil

New **FREE** resources on the parables are available now! The Revd Sheila Hamil, RRC member and an enthusiastic developer of resources for the teaching of Christianity, has recently produced a collection of songs inspired by the Parables that Jesus told.

These songs, complete with videos and lyrics, are free to use in schools and parishes. As usual her work will be available to order but you can access them freely [here](#).

Also available: drama, prose and poetry.



## PopUK.org

PopUK is a project designed to develop Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural learning through vibrant singing and recording of a CD.

This CD features a collection of seven fantastic songs, all sung by the children of St Hild's College CE Aided Primary School, Durham, which are followed by karaoke versions of each song.

For further information, or if you would like your own school to produce a CD, head to the PopUK website by clicking [here](#).



## Bring It All To Me – Fischy Music



This resource pack contains a CD of 20 songs for all ages based on emotions expressed in the Psalms including enjoyment, anger, despair and feeling safe, plus backing tracks and a CD-ROM of teaching materials including teaching notes, lyric sheets and music score.

Ideal to use with all primary school age children.

# Divine Poetry Competition



## Help your class to get creative about chocolate this Fairtrade Fortnight

Every year, we collaborate with our friends at Divine Chocolate to run a poetry competition. It's an opportunity for your class to learn more about the benefits of Fairtrade and to get creative by crafting poetry all about Fairtrade and cocoa farming.

This year's competition's theme is, '**When I grow up, I want to be a cocoa farmer**', encouraging applicants to think about the benefits of fairly-paid cocoa farming as a career choice.

The judge for this year's poetry competition will be **John Dougherty**, leading children's author and poet. There are three age categories for poems: **7-11**, **12-16** and **17+**

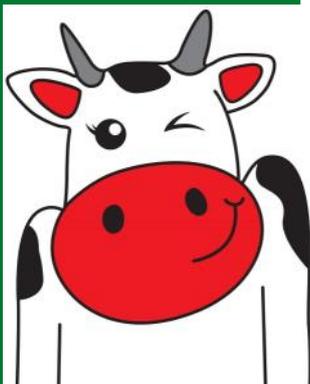
For inspiration, take a look at [last year's winners and runners up](#).

The closing date for entries is 1 May 2015. Please email completed entry forms to [poetry@divinechocolate.com](mailto:poetry@divinechocolate.com) or post to **Poetry, Divine Chocolate, 4 Gainsford Street, London, SE1 2NE**.

Get more information and download an entry form [here](#).



# Mooove over, poverty!



**This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), we're saying 'Mooove over, poverty' and we've gone cow crazy because of the amazing work that's happening in Ethiopia.**

**You'll meet Adi, who used to be one of the poorest women in her community. With our online resources you'll learn how Christian Aid has transformed her life by giving her a cow.**

There are also plenty of ideas to help your school to raise money to help women like Adi in Ethiopia. Order a **resource pack and poster** to:

- Learn about Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia
- Hold a cow-themed fundraising day in your school
- Create cow-themed crafts in your class

**Order your cow pack today by emailing [orders@christian-aid.org](mailto:orders@christian-aid.org)**

Please ensure that you include your name, address, quantity needed and which version you require: 'Primary Fundraising pack and Poster' or 'Secondary Fundraising pack and Poster'.

Once you've received your pack you can use our resources including an event planner, cow money box template, cow mask template and children's activity sheet: everything you need to hold an amazing event in your school.



# New RE teacher recruitment campaign

A new RE teacher recruitment campaign, Beyond the Ordinary, launches this week. It is helping to find individuals who have the drive, interest and personality to teach one of the most diverse, questioning and relevant subjects in schools today.

There are places for around 800 trainee RE teachers this year. RE teachers come from all walks of life, from post-graduates with relevant degrees to those changing careers to teaching a looking for something a bit different.

To launch, we have made a short film ([teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary](http://teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary)) to show the energy, fulfilment and challenge of teaching RE. Seen through the eyes of Lynsey Wilkinson, Head of RE at Redhill Academy near Nottingham and her students, the Beyond the Ordinary film shows how RE helps young people make sense of the world around them.

The short film gives the teacher's view on a subject, where the answers are rarely straightforward and sometimes raise more questions. We are also delighted that students from St Mary's CE High School in Cheshunt are the face of the new campaign, including on the website and in flyers.

Beyond the Ordinary is a Religious Education Council initiative. Key partners involved in the project include the National Association of Teachers of RE, the Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education and Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

Our campaign is set against the backdrop of newly re-instated government financial incentives to cover training costs, ranging from £9,000 for a first or PhD to £4,000 for a 2:1.

RE is unique as it has such an established and supportive community of networks, links and partnerships. We hope you will be able to help get this message out to as many relevant contacts as possible. To do this, if you are able to, please circulate this message or cascade information, to your networks and through social media.

To find out more or to contact us please visit [www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary](http://www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary)

Thank you,

Kathryn Wright  
(Chair, REC Teacher Recruitment Steering Group)

[kathryn@cstg.org.uk](mailto:kathryn@cstg.org.uk)



**TEACH:RE**  
TO ENTHUSE. TO EDUCATE. TO INSPIRE.

**SPRINGS**  
DANCE COMPANY

in partnership with

**tearfund**

# THE GREEN PROJECT

Springs Dance Company specialises in RE, and PSHE/ Citizenship through dance and helps young people learn about and learn from the Christian faith.



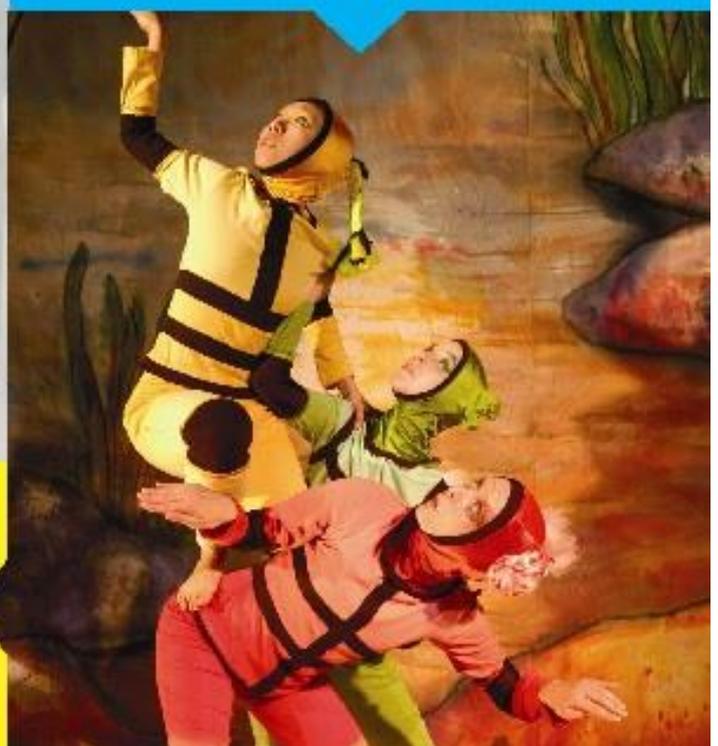
**The Green Project leads pupils through a series of dance workshops which consider the creation around them.**

Children will learn and create movement, exploring the environment and their impact on it. Participants will engage with green issues in an exciting, thought-provoking and positive way. The workshops culminate in a performance by the pupils, which can be shown to peers and parents alike.



**'THANK YOU FOR SUCH A CREATIVE DANCE SESSION'**

Y3 teacher, Roxton



The project is ideally delivered over six workshop sessions followed by a performance day. The topics can be broken down between classes or looked at in more depth with a selection of classes. The topics include:

- **What do we love about our world?** The world's value, and how we benefit from it
- **Is it just us?** Exploring a sense of stewardship for the planet, for creation, as part of Jesus' call to love our neighbours
- **We are important!** Why it's worth caring and how it can be fun
- **The Creation parables; respecting God's world**  
How the Bible encourages care for creation

The project can be adapted to suit the school.

#### ALSO CURRENTLY BOOKING:

Workshops inspired by dances of the World War One era

Springs also offers tailor made workshops and projects. Popular themes include:

**Easter, Exodus, Light of the World, Narnia, The Selfish Giant, Waterbugs and Dragonflies, The Wemmick Story – You Are Special and Advent.**

**'PROBABLY THE BEST DANCE I'VE SEEN IN ANY SCHOOL, EVER!'**

School Inspector talking about a children's performance as part of a six week project by Springs Dance Company

[www.springsdancecompany.org.uk](http://www.springsdancecompany.org.uk)



#### Springs can be flexible as to how workshops fit into the school timetable.

Many schools choose to use the company a day a week through the term. Some schools prefer to fit the workshops into an intensive week or another format.

Assemblies are also available.

Please call us to discuss the best option for your school.

To book, or for a friendly chat about what we do, please call us on:

**07775 628 442** or email:

**[info@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:info@springsdancecompany.org.uk)**



# SPIRITUAL RETREAT: a creative response to Godly Play



**Friday 1st May 2015, 5pm – Sunday 3rd May 2015, 5pm**



Shepherds Dene,  
Riding Mill,  
Northumberland,  
NE44 6AF

Residential, including full board **£195 per person** including  
all food, tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and accommodation

**Leaders: Mary Cooper & Rachel Bainton (Godly Play UK trainers)**  
Trained spiritual director also available

Time and space to reflect and explore through the media of story, wondering, silence  
and to continue exploration through a variety of creative / craft resources, in the  
grounds, within the labyrinth, and surrounding countryside

Shepherds Dene is an outstanding example of the 'Arts and Crafts' style of  
architecture. The house has been refurbished in the last few years, and provides all the  
home comforts you would expect of country house living. It is located 1 mile from  
Riding Mill station, 30 minutes from Newcastle Central Station. We are happy to collect  
you from the station if you ask in advance

**For further details of the weekend contact Mary on [cooper.mary@blueyonder.com](mailto:cooper.mary@blueyonder.com)**

**To book, contact [Julie@shepherdsdene.co.uk](mailto:Julie@shepherdsdene.co.uk)**

If you live locally and would prefer not to stay over, please do contact us as you would  
be most welcome as a non-residential participant (£35 per day)