

Schools newsletter

May 2015

Dear Colleagues

Many thanks for your letters and emails of congratulations for my new post of Director of Education – whilst this is a daunting task it is one I look forward to with great excitement. By way of an update, while Jeremy is recovering from his operation I am the acting Director prior to taking up the substantive post in September.

For those of you who have not met me, I have been a Head of a Primary School for 7 years before working for the Diocese. I am a LLE and have supported several schools in difficulty and worked with local authorities on several initiatives linked to ICT, Literacy and Maths. I am a Section 48 Inspector and have experience of both Primary and Secondary Inspection.

As Jeremy is not with us you will be aware that I have been unable to attend many of your cluster meetings and other events to which members of the team have been invited. I can only apologise for this as I am tied to attending meeting with LA's, Steering Groups for schools in categories or RI and Ofsted. Until September the team is very thin on the ground as I can only work four days a week as I am committed to St Peter's for one day a week until then. Liane Atkin is now with us three days a week focusing primarily on Governance but also working with Academies, Headteacher recruitment and other legal issues that arise.

However, you will see on the Joint Education Team website that I have placed an advert for an Assistant Director of Education, School Effectiveness. I am negotiating with the Boards to further expand the team as soon as possible to offer further support / brokerage as required by schools.

In October we will be delivering a conference focussing on key areas. Please save the date for your diaries - **Wednesday 21st October 2015**. Further information is to follow. We have already confirmed Ofsted, who will be talking us through Inspection under the new framework, and we hope to be able to offer a series of workshops in the afternoon looking at SIAMS, RE assessment (The New Syllabus and issues that have arisen) and Governance in relation to preparing for Ofsted. I hope as many of you can join us as possible, and I hope to hear from you what you now expect from us.

I look forward to working with you, and for you, in the future and hope to deliver a new way of working which will benefit the children of our Dioceses, yourselves as school leaders and the communities which you all serve.

Kind regards

Paul Rickeard
Acting Director

Making Payments...

We kindly urge all schools to please make sure that any payments to the Diocese are made to the correct bank account.

This will ensure there are no delays in processing your payment, and that any cheques we receive with the incorrect payee details are not returned to you, which can often be an inconvenience if cheques need to be cancelled and issued again.

Please also send a remittance advice note to accompany BACS transfers if made direct from the school (if the local authority are paying us on your behalf they normally submit a remittance slip to ourselves)

All invoices for Partnering Agreement payments, Governors 10% contributions towards projects, or for any conferences/training events will include the bank account details for payments via BACS or cheque.

If you are unsure of anything when making a payment please do not hesitate to contact the Joint Education Team - we are happy to help!



Appointing Foundation Governors

Some of our schools have expressed confusion around the process for appointing foundation governors and requested a draft protocol for adoption by the governing body on the steps to be taken.

A draft is now available on our website [HERE](#) so that governing bodies can, if they wish, tailor this to their own school and adopt.

Election Summary

The National Society have compiled a summary of the key facts from the Conservative Manifesto relevant to education.

You can view this here: [National Society Summary of Conservative Manifesto](#)

Final Reconstitution Reminder

Many of our schools have now reconstituted their governing bodies in time for the 1st of September deadline. However, there are still some schools who have not reconstituted (academies are not required to do so)

The Diocese must approve the reconstituted instrument of government once it has been drafted by the LEA and in cases where the PCC appoints some of the foundation governors then the PCC will also need to approve.

Model instruments and guidance have been sent out previously but please do not hesitate to contact Liane Atkin if you need these again or wish to discuss the process further.

The legislation is clear that the instruments must be signed and sealed by the LEA by the 1st of September so this is a final reminder to please make sure your governing body looks at this this term (if it has not already done so) and that drafts are sent to Liane Atkin at:

liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org as soon as possible for approval on behalf of the Diocese.



Governor E-Learning (GEL) Training Reminder



Just a reminder on information previously sent out to Chairs and Heads. Governor E-Learning training offers simple training for governors on all main areas together with updates on hot topics. There is also the chance to print off certificates of training which is useful evidence, particularly before inspections.

Some schools already have access to this training and some governors will prefer face to face training but the training could be a useful resource for new governors and those who are unable to attend face to face training sessions due to other commitments.

Once a school is signed up to the training this gives each governor a separate log in so that they can access the training from home. If you would like to find out more or sign up for a free trial please visit www.elc-gel.org

GEL have confirmed that if schools sign up via the Diocese the total annual cost to schools will be £60 per school. If your school is interested in this training, and has not already confirmed interest, please confirm this to liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org by **5 June 2015** in order to sign up to access the training from September.

Central Walker CE Primary pupils get arty at St Anthony of Egypt Church

One of our schools, Central Walker CE Primary was recently involved in an exciting art project working with other schools at West Walker, Tyneview, Walkergate, Benfield and Walker Technology College to make St Anthony of Egypt church in Byker a more welcoming place.



The year 4 children worked over several months with the artist, Sally Southern, to create beautiful artwork to decorate the inside and the outside of the church culminating in an exhibition on 15 May. The children's sketchbooks were on display as well as the finished artworks and it was wonderful to see the schools working together with the church to create such a welcoming space.



Teaching Resources from the RRC

Creation, Incarnation, Salvation...

Do these words fill you with confidence or dread?

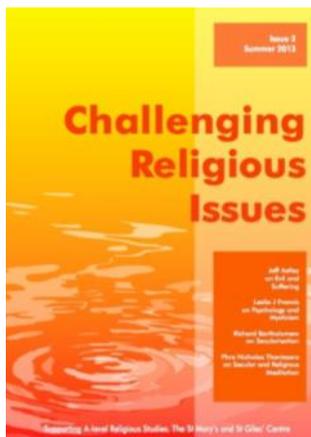
If you, or any of your colleagues lack confidence or subject knowledge about these key Christian concepts then take a breath – the RRC with Barnabas in Schools is here to help!

Coming soon: 'Christianity: Core Concepts' - initial subject knowledge training for Primary teachers of RE.



Artwork by Lily Walsh, Year 7, Gilbert Inglefield Academy

To register an interest for yourself, or other members of your team, please telephone: (0191) 375 0586 or email: enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk



More Than Books...

The RRC offers more than just the physical resources at both of our sites. We also source and recommend great ON-LINE resources too. Secondary school teachers may find this FREE online journal useful:

Challenging Religious Issues is a journal supporting A-level Religious Studies for students and teachers. Articles are written by leading scholars and practitioners and a wide range of popular AS and A2 options are covered. All journals can be accessed freely: [HERE](#)

To be the first to find out about news and resources, LIKE us on



Make the Difference:
How churches can support schools
in the North East.



north east
Religious Resources
your religious learning resources centre

Make the Difference!

Would you like more support from your local church in your RE teaching?

Would their engagement enrich your curriculum or worship?

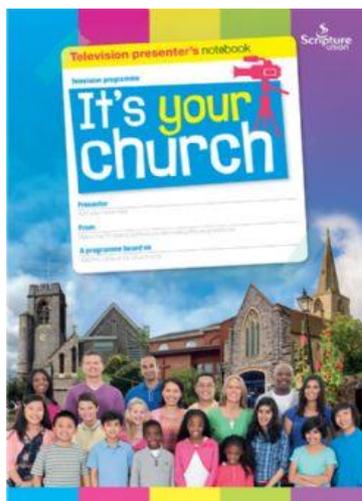
If so we can help them to help you! The RRC has been working with trusted partners in the North East to produce this guide to agencies in our region who work alongside churches to help them support schools. For more information click: [HERE](#)

Be reassured: all the organisations listed sign up to the 'Everyone Matters' guidelines which can be found by clicking: [HERE](#)

Scripture Union Resources

It's Your Church is a 16-page A4 booklet aimed at 8- to 11-year-olds who are visiting a church as part of their RE syllabus.

It offers an opportunity for churches to connect with their local schools as they invite children to visit their building and community.



The booklet contains generic information about churches that can easily be applied in many different denominational settings.

The booklet is available from the Scripture Union web shop for £1.50 for a single copy, and £30 for a pack of 30 which includes a Teacher Guide and Church Leader Guide.

The guides and additional resources to accompany the booklet can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).



What's Money Worth?

How do we view money? How do we value people? What makes something valuable? How do we make wise choices?

What's money worth? is the new creative arts-based RE Day available from **Barnabas in Schools**, starting in September 2015.

It helps primary teachers and pupils (from Foundation to Year 6) to unpack some of their assumptions and beliefs about what really constitutes 'the bottom line' in achieving one's life goals, and suggests that for Christians and others, there's a lot more to life than simply 'making a living' and spending it.

All schools booking this Barnabas RE day will receive a copy of the resource book **Valuing Money** by Chris Hudson (our local Barnabas team member)



Free support material for RE and other curriculum subjects linked to this theme will soon be available on the Barnabas in Schools website at:

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/money/>

SEN case law update: Mr X v The Governing Body of a School

Some of you may be interested in a recent special educational needs Upper Tribunal case which found that an autistic girl was excluded from disability discrimination protection in relation to her tendency to the physical abuse of others.

The case involved a 6 year autistic old girl who had been excluded from school on several occasions as a result of her kicking and hitting members of staff and other children on 7 occasions over a 7 month period. Her parents claimed disability discrimination against their daughter as a result of the exclusions from school.



Autism is a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and people suffering from autism are therefore protected from disability discrimination. However, under Regulations certain conditions including the “tendency to physical abuse of other persons” are excluded from being a disability. The reasons for this is due to public policy reasons, for example to avoid protecting people where the effect of their condition may be anti-social or criminal activity.

The issue in this case was whether the child’s behaviour leading to the exclusions was exempt from the definition of disability as a result of her ‘tendency to physical abuse’. The Tribunal looked at whether the exemption also applied to children under 18 and whether it applied even where the tendency clearly arose as a result of a protected disability (in this case autism)

The Tribunal found that the cause of the child’s behaviour was undoubtedly her disability, and recognised that a child’s development is a factor which should be considered. Despite this, they found that because her exclusion arose from a ‘tendency to the physical abuse of other persons’, this particular impairment could not be considered a disability and the disability discrimination claim against the school was unsuccessful.

The full report of this case can be found by clicking on the following link:
[Mr X v the Governing Body of a School](#)

If anyone would like to discuss this case or requires any further information please contact Liane Atkin via email: liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org

Coming Soon! New Muslim 'Visits and Visitors' facility in Durham

Are you teaching about Islam? Would you like to book a visit to or from a local Muslim speaker who will help enable your students learn more about the faith?



The RRC is working with the University of Durham to develop greater capacity in this area...

We'd like to know what the demand is, and so if you'd like to make use of this service next academic year, please express your interest to enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk or telephone (0191) 3750586 and we will see what we can do!



Make savings with the Engynious SEEd Schools Solar Programme

Working with the Diocese and Durham County Council, the Engynious SEEd schools solar programme will help schools gain access to solar power wherever possible. So far two VC schools have signed up to the process but it has been discovered that one will not proceed further due to structural issues. Deborah Wilson, the School Business Manager commented, "This was a real blow to us all but we would like to thank the Engynious team for all their hard work and commitment."

If you would like your school to take part in a programme, which could give you access to clean renewable power cheaply and bring you savings on your energy costs, register an interest with Engynious. Rest assured you are not committing to anything by doing so but there might be a great opportunity waiting.

No capital needed!

You can call Ann on 07946 245 556 or email a.flaherty@engynious.com for further information. Alternatively, visit our website: [HERE](#)



Apprenticeships at TyneMet College

By investing in apprentices, you can harness fresh new talent, fill your skills gaps, solve your recruitment problems, minimise staff turnover, improve job satisfaction and keep pace with the latest developments in your sector.

Training apprentices is more cost effective than hiring highly skilled staff, leading to lower spending on training and recruitment overall. Apprenticeships can also help to boost staff productivity and performance.

Some of the benefits of working with TyneMet to deliver tailored apprenticeship programmes include:

- A clear understanding of your business need and tailored training solutions matched to your business objectives
- Delivery of a responsive and flexible training solution at a pace that suits your business
- Training can be adapted for delivery in the workplace or at one of our dedicated training centres at a time that suits you and your employees' shift patterns
- Training and assessment from experienced staff with access to TyneMet's exceptional industry standard facilities
- Employer incentives and funding available for training from the National Apprenticeship Service
- Relevant job-related qualifications for your staff as they develop industry-specific working practices and skills
- Free recruitment service takes away the cost and hassle of advertising for candidates
- Ongoing support with training and development from the College and regular progress reports to ensure your investment into the training programme is meeting your aims and objectives

TyneMet currently offer Sports and Teaching Assistant Apprenticeships as well as Business Administration, Customer Service, Team Leading and Management Courses which could provide your existing staff with "upskilling" opportunities free of charge.

Apprentices have a starting salary of £2.73 per hour and have to work a minimum of 30 hours, although most work 37-40 hours a week.

The training is mostly completed on your premises with work being set by an assessor who will visit for 1-2 hours every 8-12 weeks.

You may also be eligible for the apprenticeship grant of £1,500.

For details of how TyneMet can help you make the most of your existing staff and gain new team members via apprenticeship programmes, call Alexandra Park, Business Development Executive, on **0191 229 5167** or email Alexandra.Park@tynemet.ac.uk

Or visit the dedicated employers' website:

www.employers.tynemet.ac.uk



St Nicholas Cathedral Newcastle

Taking RE teaching and learning beyond the classroom

You and your pupils are invited to the Cathedral to enrich your delivery of high quality Religious Education

Sessions (from one hour to a whole day) are designed to meet National Curriculum programmes of study, and Ofsted guidance on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development – using both the Cathedral itself and the St Nicholas Education Centre.

Key Stages 2 and 3 Whether you are following the Newcastle Diocesan Education Board RE specifications for Church Schools, or your local SACRE specification, we can offer support for the following key themes: Christian Festivals and special days; the Church – buildings and communities; the Bible; Worship; the Eucharist; Prayer; and Rites of Passage.

Sessions include both interactive teaching and opportunities for pupils to engage in a variety of activities, including cross-curricular links with Art and DT.

New in 2015-2016 We are offering **Spirituality Days** (and half-days) for Key Stage 3 pupils. The days will engage pupils in an active exploration of the spiritual dimension of human life.

Key Stages 4 and 5 We can support your work in teaching Christianity at GCSE. We can also support students' learning in the areas of Christianity, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion at AS and A2 levels.

We are pleased to visit you in your school to discuss what you would like your visit to cover and to ensure that your session at the Cathedral meets the teaching and learning needs of your pupils.

For further details, an exploratory discussion or to make a booking, please contact:

Revd Canon Steven Harvey

0191 232 1939

steven.harvey@stnicholascathedral.co.uk

Godly Play

Accredited Core Training in the NORTH EAST



JUNE 2015

3-day course - Evenwood, County Durham

Venue: Evenwood Parish Hall

Dates: 10th - 12th June 2015 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Times: 8.30am - 6.30pm (except on final day of course which ends at 5.30pm)

Cost: £295 (non residential, includes training handbook and lunches)



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

4-day course - Monkseaton, Tyne and Wear

Venue: Church of St. Mary, Monkseaton

Dates: Friday 18th and Saturday 19th September, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th October 2015

Times: Each day begins at 9.30am and ends at 4.30pm (5pm on the last date)

Cost: £310 (bring a packed lunch)



Trainers: Rachel Bainton and Mary Cooper

Booking forms and further information on: <http://godlyplay.uk/courses/>