

DIOCESE OF
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RE News

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I hope you enjoy this very special edition of RE News. This term, the newsletter is wholly dedicated to fantastic work schools are doing in religious education and collective worship. I would like to thank the schools which have kindly contributed reports and photographs of recent achievements in their schools.

These schools are:

- Potterhanworth CofE Primary School
- Owsten Ferry St Martin's CofE Primary School
- Scothern Ellison Boulter's CofE Primary School
- Coleby CofE Primary School
- Great Gonerby, St Sebastian's CofE Primary School
- Scunthorpe, St Peter and St Paul CofE Primary School
- Lincoln St Christopher's Special School

If your school would like to celebrate and share good practice in RE through this newsletter and on the Diocesan website, then please submit your reports and photographs to Paul Thompson before the end of the summer term.

Newsflash! – A training day not to be missed!

'Spiritual development through Music and RE: Practical ideas to inspire your pupils.' Wednesday 10 July 2013

With Lat Blaylock/Fiona Moss of RE Today and Stephen Fischbacher, Creative Director of Fischy Music. Fischy Music supports emotional, social and spiritual health and wellbeing in children through songs. www.fischy.com

Travelling from Edinburgh to be with us for the day, Stephen will demonstrate practical sessions using his songs, and how good learning activities for RE lessons can arise from the songs. It will focus on Christianity and pupils' own developing spiritual lives in fresh and dynamic ways. The day will cover both KS1 and KS2 and it is equally relevant to teaching staff, support staff, Bishop's visitors, clergy and governors associated to church and non-church schools. For more details and a booking form, please see the Diocesan website www.lincoln.anglican.org or e-mail sandy.willmott@lincoln.anglican.org.

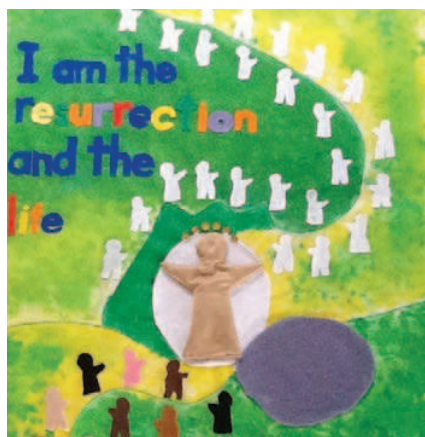
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St Sebastian's Banners

A very exciting RE day was recently held at St Sebastian's Church of England Primary School in Great Gonerby, Grantham. The children worked in their 'house' groups which involved children from Foundation Stage to Year 6 working together.



Each group was tasked with creating 2 banners – one which told part of the life of Jesus and the other one of His parables. The Annunciation, Nativity, Crucifixion and Resurrection were the subject of four of the banners with The Prodigal Son, The Lost Sheep, The Sower and the Seed and The Good Samaritan making up the remainder. The photographs illustrate not just what they did, but why they did it. They also made a short film that reflects the day which is going to be on the school website in the very near future. The headteacher, Linda Baldwin, said: "It was a truly inspiring day for all concerned – testament to the hard work and dedication of my staff in planning it (especially Helen Metheringham as RE Co-



ordinator) - but also to the children for embracing the ethos and a different way of working together to achieve something to be really proud of."

St Martin's CE Primary School, Owston Ferry pupil led worship

Jane Ayris, RE coordinator at Owston Ferry St Martin's Church of England Primary School, kindly submitted the following report about ways in which the children can further develop their involvement in leading worship.

Jane reports that it is very important to us that their involvement adds value to the service and is not tokenistic. Although the Year 6s read prayers regularly and are responsible

for setting up the hall for daily worship we knew that this was not enough and that we were not using or developing their skills or potential. The first steps in this journey were started two years ago when we established our 'Lighting the Candle' group who plan, deliver and evaluate



worships on a regular basis. These have included worship outside on the school field which was developed from the ideas produced by this group.

However although the Lighting the Candle have produced some innovative ideas we still felt there was untapped potential within the school. The idea that children plan and deliver worship that interests and motivates other children effectively because, children know what children want, was the philosophy behind our latest project. We have established Circle Time Groups for each year group that are led by Year 6 pupils which meet to discuss topics on a monthly basis. The challenge that was set for these groups was to plan and

deliver a worship to the whole school. Each group had a member of the present Lighting the Candle Group who could offer advice and support throughout this process. These worships happened on a weekly basis and it was wonderful to see the range of topics that the children felt comfortable in exploring; from 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' to the 'Stoning of St. Stephen'. It was also very

interesting to see which groups used a similar format to the teachers and which tried something completely different. As with all situations with children some were better prepared than others but this usually showed in the quality of the delivery of the worship. To help us understand how effective these

worships have been the Year 6s were asked to complete an evaluation of each worship and then as RE co-ordinator I also completed an evaluation to give an adult perspective. Their comments have provided real insight to how they view different styles of worship.

As this project reaches its conclusion I now need to meet with the Year 6 leaders and discuss what they have learned from this process and how they feel this can be used to improve our daily worship in school. I feel the real value of this project is the children now understand what is involved in making an interesting and inspiring worship. Pupil voice will lead the way in developing worship in our school.

St Peter and St Paul's Pupil Parliament

At St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School in Scunthorpe, the pupil parliament recently debated the theme of collective worship. Children from each class met with Headteacher, Katie McGuire, to look at how collective worship impacts on the daily lives of the school community. One member of the parliament reported that 'we like it, we like singing everyday – it makes us happy and joyful... Worship makes us feel peaceful'. Another member of the

parliament reported what it feels like when the candle is lit 'Sometimes I feel God is with me, sitting next to me.' 'I feel it like a tingling sensation in my chest.' The Parliament debated how they could make collective worship even better in school and they decided that the children could lead worship sometimes and that they could create a praying and reflection space in school. Pupil Parliament meets regularly to discuss a range of issues in school.

Lincoln St Christopher's Colour Celebration

On 8 March, Lincoln St Christopher's held a special RE Day. Mary McGuire, RE Coordinator, reported that the day was based on the theme of 'Celebration of Colour' and she describes the workshops which engaged the primary children.

Christian Stories told in colour

We listened to the creation story and made stained glass windows reflecting each day of the creation.

The Jewish Shabbat - a day of delight

We thought about what a day of rest and celebration might be like and learnt a celebration dance using coloured ribbons.

Holi - a Hindu Festival of colour

We heard about this colourful festival and made our own coloured tee shirts.

Exploring Colour + pattern in Islam

We looked at the way Muslims use colour and pattern to show how they think about God. We made our own pattern designs



Holi - A Hindu Festival of colour

Celebrations at Potterhanworth

The Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Christopher Lawson, visited Potterhanworth Church of England Primary School on 27th March to unveil the new school mural (drawn and designed by children from Years 5 and 6) and to lead the Holy Communion Service afterwards during which he presented children from the school with a Bible. A number of Y6 children were also given a Children's Achievement Award Certificate for Bell Ringing and they rang the church bells before and after the service. Also attending the service was the Diocesan Director for Education, Jackie Waters-Dewhurst as well as parents and parishioners from the surrounding villages. This was a



celebratory occasion as the school has recently appointed a new Head Teacher, Debbie Challinor, as well as achieving 'good' in their recent Ofsted, 'outstanding' in the Section 48 inspection and Silver Award in the RE Quality Mark. Debbie Challinor said, "As the new Head Teacher I was delighted to be part of this celebratory afternoon. There was a real 'family feel' to the Holy

Communion Service which was so well supported by our community. Watching the children being blessed by the Bishop of Lincoln was such a joy and I'm sure the occasion will hold lots of special memories for all who attended."

With thanks to Sue Kelly, RE and Worship Co-ordinator for kindly providing the report and photograph.

Coleby CofE's Class Three visit to Shree Sanatan Mandir, Leicester

Hannah M, Harry S and Lian

Class teacher from Coleby Church of England Primary school, Claire Fairhurst arranged a school visit to the Shree Sanatan Mandir in Leicester. The following report has been written by class 3 pupils, Hannah, Lian and Harry.

Recently, Class Three have been studying the religion Hinduism. So when faced with the opportunity of actually visiting a Hindu temple, it is no surprise that we said yes! And then, on the eighteenth of March, the trip day finally arrived...

When we arrived we made our way to a small boot room to remove shoes (a sign of respect). After doing so, we were led into the temple itself. Here, we found many Hindus performing a ceremony called Arti. We all sat upon the floor and experienced the incredible ceremony. There were many murtis on the shrines, the prayers were chanted, drums and bells sounded, the air was filled with the heady aroma of incense – our senses were over whelmed! The whole experience was very different to an Anglican church. After the ceremony we went to another room and our guide answered our questions. We learnt that Hindus believe in



one God who has many representations. We were told that Hindus like the use of lots of colour to show that God is beautiful. We were then allowed to go back into the temple and take a closer look at the colourful, brightly lit murtis. When we entered the temple we rang a bell to let God know we were there. Many people were making donations and offering gifts of food and flowers to the murtis.

We ate our packed lunches in another room – a vegetarian one to show respect to our hosts. When it was time to leave we were given presents of chocolates!

We had been made very welcome and everybody was very friendly and keen for us to understand some Hindu beliefs and traditions.

Godly Play at Ellison Boulters

Liz Peachman, RE coordinator at Ellison Boulters CE Academy, explains how they have recently been exploring the use of Godly Play within RE lessons.

On 20th March, our Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a 'Walk through the Easter Story' led by one of our parents, Mrs Cathryn Jones.

Dressed as Peter, Mrs Jones guided the pupils on a walk from Psalm Sunday (in the school grounds), to the upper room (school library), then on to the Garden of Gethsemane, the Crucifixion and ending with the Resurrection (in the school studio).

There was a fantastic response to the 'Wondering' questions posed by Mrs Jones. It was evident that the pupils were thinking at very deep level about what they had experienced.

A range of activities were then offered to enable pupils to express their response to the story. Pictured are examples of what they produced. Finally, pupils shared what they had created and the inspiration behind it.

A Y6 pupil said:

'I enjoyed it because when going and experiencing each scene it really played on your emotions, from being sad to happy. I think my favourite part was doing the activities, it helped you express your emotions.'



Contact

To make a comment about this edition of RE NEWS or to seek more information about any of the articles, please do not hesitate to contact:

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