



RE News

dioce.se/churchschools



Happy New Academic Year!

I hope you had a wonderful summer and you are feeling recharged for 2013-2014. I am delighted to provide you with this term's copy of 'RE News' which includes lots of current information on Religious Education.

Paul Thompson, Deputy Director of Education

paul.thompson@lincoln.anglican.org

01522 50 40 10

Local school wins National RE Award

An account by Liz Peachman (RE Lead at Ellison Boulter's CE Primary School, Scothern)

Whilst attending an RE cluster meeting in January, Paul Thompson drew our attention to the Hockerill NATRE RE Award 2013. The award was inviting entries showing innovation in RE. My headteacher has always encouraged and supported the many adventurous RE lessons which I have dreamt up over the last 8 years!

For me there is one unit, taught to upper KS2 pupils which I always look forward to teaching. This unit is entitled 'Religion in the Community' and we



compare and contrast how faith is demonstrated in works and service in Christian faith and a comparative religion. Last year we learned about the work of Lincoln Street Pastors and that of the Sikh Langar (a room attached to every Gurdwara where food is served to anyone without charge). Our learning in this unit includes meeting some of the Lincoln Street Pastors, listening to an interactive presentation and asking them our questions. We also recreated a Langar in the school's studio. Pupils serve or are served a Langar meal. One of our parents demonstrated the making of chapatis which the pupils also got to taste, and a member of staff demonstrated the playing of a Sikh dhol drum. Assessment opportunities were in abundance during this unit.

The judges summed up their

decision to award us first prize in the Primary Sector by praising the way we had adapted the syllabus to produce a very good outcome with limited resources. They were particularly impressed with the questions the children were asking.

Mr Derek Humphrey (Secretary of the Hockerill Educational Foundation) presented the prize during our Collective Worship. The school received £700 for RE resources and £400 for my professional development. At the presentation were special guests Paul Thompson (Diocesan Deputy Director of Education), Mr and Mrs S Griffiths (representatives of the local Jewish community), Joy and Marvin Liddle (Lincoln Street Pastors) Reverend Andy Burrows (Scothern Methodist Minister) and Margaret Parker (Bishop's visitor).

Celebrating Good RE in the Diocese

Our Trip to Walsingham

by Grace Burrows (Year 6)

Edenham Church of England Primary School



In June we went to Walsingham to talk about our beliefs at *Wonderful God, Beautiful World*. We had to use our imaginations to draw a garden with whatever we wanted to put into it. After drawing we went on a nature walk and saw the ruins. During the lesson there was an ant infestation! The lesson was a listening one. We had to write down what we heard and put it where we thought the sound was coming from. Eventually we sat down for a relaxing lunch.

Next we met up again and went to look at the wall paintings that told stories because people in the past couldn't write. After seeing the paintings we went to light candles for our loved ones. We then went for our final service to end the day with prayer and reflection.

Walsingham was a beautiful place, with approximately 36,500 pilgrims visiting every year. It is a magnificent place that is worth going to. A truly great day.

The Bible In Action at Manor Leas Infant School

An account by Alison Ball (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)

Last term, each class actively explored the Bible with 'Barnabas in Schools'. The children took part in a Bible 'workout' exploring the types of books that make up the Bible. They participated in a Bible story with lots of actions then heard a Godly Play-style story explaining how the Bible had progressed from stories around the campfire to an app on an iPad www.manor-leas-infant.lincs.sch.uk

We then gave the children free response time and were bowled over with the results. The children made scrolls, Bibles, Lego story characters, campfires (so they could sit round it to tell their own stories), wrote their own commandments, wrote Bible stories they had heard at other times and even remembered the Bible contained songs and wrote their own songs!

The South Axholme Pilgrimage Project

An account by teacher, Gemma Harris, of Westwoodside CE Primary School

In the summer term, Year Five children from all over the Isle of Axholme gathered together for a pilgrimage project at the local secondary school, South Axholme. The schools involved were Owston Ferry, Belton, Wroot, West Butterwick and our school, Westwoodside.

First, Mr Bob Fish talked about his pilgrimage to Machu Picchu. Then we paraded with our school banners and explained what they meant to us. We sang different hymns on the theme of pilgrimage, including 'One more step' and 'He who would valiant be'. The South Axholme band accompanied us, which we really enjoyed.

After that, children from each school talked about where they go to on pilgrimages and why they are special to them. We did a short performance, demonstrating our pilgrimage to our local church, St Nicholas' in Haxey. We walk there at special times of the year including



Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service. We prepared a 'Scratch' ICT presentation and a collage of us walking to the church. We really enjoyed the pilgrimage event and hope other Year 5s do in the future.

RE Cluster Meetings – Autumn 2013

Paul Thompson will lead these meetings and they will include opportunities for RE teachers to share good practice, glean national updates and explore a number of new initiatives and resources for the subject. All meetings will be 4pm to 5 pm.

Date	School	Address
17 September	Binbrook CE Primary School	Orford Road, Binbrook, Lincs, LN3 6DQ
18 September	Lincoln Bishop King	Kingsway, Lincoln, LN5 8EU
19 September	Owston Ferry St Martin's	Burnham Road, Owston Ferry, Doncaster, DN9 1AZ
23 September	Spalding Parish Day	Clay Lake, Spalding, PE11 2QG
24 September	Bourne Abbey Academy	Abbey Road, Bourne, PE10 9EP
26 September	Caistor CE/Methdist School	South Dale, Caistor, LN7 6LY
30 September	Great Gonerby St Sebastian's	High Street, Great Gonerby, Grantham, NG31 8LB
7 October	Halton Hologate	Station Road, Halton Hologate, Spilsby, PE23 5PB
14 October	Quarrington St Botolph's	Grantham Road, Quarrington, Sleaford, NG34 7ND

New Diocesan and Cathedral RE Adviser

To demonstrate the huge importance the Diocese of Lincoln places on Religious Education, I am delighted to say that the Cathedral and Board of Education has agreed to jointly fund a brand new post of Diocesan and Cathedral RE Adviser.

A very exciting appointment has been made but at the time of writing, the name of the new adviser has not been released. The new adviser hopes to start in January 2014 and will no doubt be keen to quickly establish close working relationships with staff in schools as well as in the Cathedral and the Diocesan Education Team. The adviser will be keen to build on the success of RE in the Diocese and explore creative ways of developing the subject further in schools and in the Cathedral.

A wonderful training day to end the year



On 10 July, Stephen Fischbacher (Creative Director of Fischy Music) and Lat Blaylock (RE Today) led an inspirational course entitled 'Spiritual Development through RE and Music'.

The day was structured with delegates having great fun learning songs of various themes related to RE and PSHE with Stephen and then to follow Lat showed how the songs could enhance teaching and learning in Religious Education. The day saw a mix of 30 teachers, headteachers, clergy, governors and Bishop's Visitors

form a choral symphony to sing the Rama and Sita story. Delegates were delighted to receive free CD and DVD resources from Stephen Fischbacher to try with children in their own schools.

One headteacher stated on her evaluation form: "A great way to end the year with some new ideas to try in the new academic year. Uplifting! I wish I had brought all the staff"

Stephen and Lat can provide training for clusters of schools. More information about their training and resources can be found at www.fischy.com and www.retoday.org.



Leading RE teachers

Leading RE teachers continue to support schools in need of developing RE. They are able to support in a range of ways from telephone advice, supporting new RE co-ordinators on a 1:1 basis, delivering demonstration lessons and provide staff INSET.

Information for schools about this programme is available on the Diocesan website. Please note the actual database is now only available through Paul Thompson to ensure there is robust quality assurance of the initiative.

Forthcoming Diocesan Courses

The following courses have been planned:

Date and Time	Course	Venue
12 September 2013 (4-6pm)	Godly Play Taster Twilight	Wilderspin National Museum, Barton upon Humber
3 October 2013	Supporting bereaved children and young people	The Old Palace, Lincoln
8 & 9 October 2013	Church secondary school festival	Lincoln Cathedral
10 October 2013	Governors' Development Day	The Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground
12 October 2013	Godly Play Taster Day – The Parables of Jesus	Branston Church Hall
30 October 2013	Special Schools Festival	Lincoln Cathedral
26 November 2013	Moving RE from Good to Outstanding	The Old Palace, Lincoln
28 January 2014	Barnabas in Schools, Why Narnia?	The Old Palace, Lincoln
18 March 2014	The Bible in Literacy	The Cathedral Centre, Lincoln
20-22 March	Godly Play (3 day accredited course)	Branston Church Hall

Forthcoming National training:

Date	Training event	Venue and Contact
28–29 September 2013	Culham St Gabriel's RE Leadership Weekend	Wokefield Park Conference Centre, Berkshire www.cstg.org.uk
4-6 October 2013 15-17 November 2013 14-16 March 2014	NATRE Westhill Seminars What, why, how should pupils know in RE? What matters in RE and can it be assessed? Learning methods for spiritual development	London Leicester Liverpool Contact www.retoday.org.uk
17 October 2013 5 November 2013 7 November 2013 14 November 2013	Unlocking RE in Academies – A series of training days provided by RE Today	Leicester Bristol Leeds London Contact www.retoday.org.uk

Grants available for the RE Quality Mark

The RE Quality Mark is nationally recognised accreditation which has been developed to celebrate high quality RE. It provides schools with a framework to capture good practice and it encourages the development and celebration of school-wide commitment to excellent teaching and learning in RE. Andy Tod (RE coordinator), now at Crosby Primary School, said: "I would recommend this to other schools, particularly those who are keen to further develop their delivery of RE, as it

will provide a road map to success."

The award lasts for three years and costs £475 to participate in the programme. There is a lot of information about the programme on the website www.reqm.org.

The Diocesan Board of Education Finance Committee has agreed to place financial support behind the scheme. Church schools with fewer than 150 pupils may apply for a grant for 50% of the costs (£237.50). More details about the grant application process will be provided at the RE cluster meetings and in a separate letter in the autumn term.

Lincolnshire Local Agreed Syllabus

The Agreed Syllabus has been made available to all schools in Lincolnshire.

The electronic link for the syllabus: <http://diocese.se/pt8mT6>

The Diocese is liaising closely with the Local Authority to arrange some training for schools in this academic year. More details will be provided soon.

National updates

There have been a number of national reports on RE during 2013 including an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report entitled 'RE: The Truth Unmasked'. This 3-month long inquiry included a review of evidence from over 400 sources. It found:

- over 50% of those teaching RE in secondary schools have no qualification or relevant expertise in the subject
- in more than half of the 300 primary schools participating in the inquiry, some or all of the pupils were taught by someone other than their class teacher
- a quarter of all primary schools that responded said the lesson was given by a teaching assistant
- primary and primary trainee teachers lack confidence and expertise in teaching RE, especially in diverse and multi-cultural classrooms
- support for RE teachers at a local level has been dramatically reduced by LA funding cuts and the academies programme
- bursaries for RE trainee teachers have been removed and there has been a radical reduction in applicant numbers for 2013/2014
- because of this lack of training and support many of those teaching RE are unable to meet the DfE's Teaching Standards,

selling young people short in their schools.

A full copy of the report can be downloaded at the link below:

dioce.se/qxP8Dg

Dr Barbara Wintersgill, author of the 'The Truth Unmasked' report,

has produced two briefing papers for governors which outline schools' responsibilities with regard to RE, give an overview of the problems identified by the report and suggest some actions governors might undertake to bring about improvement in their schools. They can be found on the Diocesan website:

dioce.se/churchschools

Two websites revamped for RE teachers

Culham St Gabriel's and the Religious Education Council have developed their websites and they are an invaluable source of information for anyone with responsibility for RE. Please visit www.reonline.org.uk and www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk

A selection of new RE resources

Schools are requested to share their experience of new RE resources. Please send your reviews to paul.thompson@lincoln.anglican.org and they will be publicised on the Diocesan website.

New resources include:

- a. The Lost Sheep Animation and

others – www.max7.org

- b. Seven films for Good Learning in RE www.natre.org/good_learning
- c. 'Food for Thought' – Reflections cards for secondary school tutor groups (Diocese of Salisbury)
- d. 'Love and Sex matters' KS1 – KS4 (Diocese of Salisbury)
- e. RE-Route – multimedia resource for KS3
E-mail: mayfly@blueyonder.co.uk
- f. 'Religious Education, Making Sense of World Religions' by Christine Howard (aimed at non-specialist primary teachers)
- g. Developing Music through RE www.natre.org.uk/music (430 songs organised into 70 RE themes) Can also submit own ideas / songs
- h. The Bible in Literacy Project www.bibleinliteracy.org (Interactive resources for engaging children in Biblical text)
- i. RE and the Early Years www.booksatpress.co.uk (Books and free resources for Early Years RE) Can borrow boxes of resources
- j. RE Today 2013 www.retoday.org.uk (inc Essential RE, Talking Pictures etc)
- k. Barnabas in Schools - www.barnabasinschools.org.uk (theme days, articles, resources inc 'Christianity, Key Beliefs and Traditions')

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:

Paul Thompson, Deputy Director of Education at paul.thompson@lincoln.anglican.org or

David Clements, Diocesan Schools Adviser at david.clements@lincoln.anglican.org

To make a contribution to the next edition of RE NEWS, contact:

Sally Doughty, PA to the Diocesan Advisory Team 01522 50 40 15 | sally.doughty@lincoln.anglican.org

To enquire about a course, please contact:

Sandy Willmott, Events Co-ordinator 01522 50 40 12 | sandy.willmott@lincoln.anglican.org

This page is intentionally left blank