

# DBE Schools Bulletin

January 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions

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## Looking forward in 2022

A new year offers the chance to look forward with a great sense of hope and expectation. It is hard to believe, nearly two years on, that our schools, along with our country, are still living with the pandemic and continuing to manage its impact on the day to day life in schools. However, what we continue to see is the wonderful resilience, determination and exceptional professionalism from our school leaders and staff teams, as you seek to provide the very best education, care and support to your children, the families and the community you serve.

The DBE and its officers are committed to continuing to provide a high level of support, advice and guidance to you, our school leaders, staff and governors. Our aim is to respond accordingly to your school's current needs and to recognise the challenges that you continue to face. Our programme of events, courses and meetings are detailed in this month's bulletin. As this new term commences, it has been confirmed that SIAMS inspections will be suspended for the month of January, an acknowledgement nationally of the pressures and disruptions schools are experiencing.

As we look forward to all that this new year holds, with both anticipation and optimism, I offer these words of encouragement from Proverbs 3: 5-6,

*'Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'*

Wishing you and your school community a very happy and prosperous 2022.



## Invitation for RE Teachers & Schools to Participate in Farmed Animal Welfare Project

Chester DBE is partnering with Prof. David Clough to develop educational resources based on his **Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare (CEFAW)** project.



The project is looking for **RE teachers at Primary or Secondary level** to join a **one-year project** developing educational resources related to the project findings for use in schools. Teachers will meet monthly online with the Research Team, attend an in-person residential including a farm visit, receive funding for two days' supply cover, and have the opportunity to apply for a Farmington scholarship extending this cover to 30 days. There is also the opportunity to gain MA module credit for work on the project.

We are also partnering with Prof. David Clough to **work with schools** on ways his Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare (CEFAW) project might inform the life of the school, such as assemblies, catering policies, or contact with local farms. The project is looking for a **pilot group of schools** to join a **one-year project**. Participating schools will develop an action plan in dialogue with the Research Team relevant to the school's context and interests. Case studies will be produced at the end of the project highlighting good practice for dissemination to other schools.

**The deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 30th January 2022.** [Find out more here.](#)

## Open4Community

Chester Diocese has linked with Manchester Diocese to establish an ongoing arrangement with **Open4Community**, a portal for churches and church schools looking for grant funding.

The portal allows tailored searches of about 98% of the grant making bodies in the UK, along with a funding newsletter and filtered funding updates. In addition, the dioceses provide regular webinars introducing the portal and helping people to make the most of it.

You can access the portal at [Open4Community](#). The introductory webinar dates are shown below. Please click on each date to register for your chosen event on Eventbrite:

[Thursday 10th February @ 7pm](#)

[Tuesday 24th May @ 2pm](#)

[Thursday 8th September @ 7pm](#)

[Tuesday 15th November @ 2pm](#)

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is on 27 January, and there are lots of free resources online to help teachers lead assemblies, activities or lessons with students. New this year are lesson plans about the *Kindertransport* and a flexible set of worksheets called 'Days to remember', which give an introduction to different genocides through one day, one person and one artefact.

You can find all the school materials at [www.hmd.org.uk/schools](http://www.hmd.org.uk/schools).

Marking HMD helps your students to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, more recent genocides and contemporary issues. They will increase their knowledge, empathy and desire to take part in social action. This is especially important at a time when hate crime, extremist views, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate are on the rise.

Contact the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Education Officer today for help and support and to get started: [education@hmd.org.uk](mailto:education@hmd.org.uk).



## Virtual Ethos Conference

**Virtual Ethos Conference  
on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - 9.15am-3pm**



The fifth annual children's Ethos Group Conference in Cheshire West and Chester has again been organised and planned by leaders and children from St Oswald's, Mollington, Tarporley and Witton Church Walk CE Primary Schools with support from The Bishop Bluecoat CE High School.

The theme for the day this year is: **'Love'**

The event is **FREE**.

To make a booking or to find out more information please click on the link: [Flyer 2022.pdf](#)

## Worship in a church school

What makes working in a church school so special? When answering this question many people cite the joy of collective worship, whether that be the whole community coming together with shared vision and goose bump inducing, heartfelt singing or the intimate setting of form / class-based worship that allows friendship and knowledge of the Christian faith to grow.

In many of our schools, collective worship is most definitely the heartbeat of the school that permeates through the day. As a diocese we value and greatly appreciate those who take on the responsibility of leading on this important aspect of our school lives and want to further our support of those who are making this happen.



So, we warmly invite you and your associated clergy to join our **Collective Worship in Church Schools Network**. Aiming to meet once a term, via Zoom, we will look to share resources, ideas, explore the implications of the [CEEQ Guidance for CW](#) and work through big questions together as we seek to offer high quality worship in our schools. **There is no charge for this network.**

Meetings will last one hour, **9:30-10:30am** on the following dates:

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 *\*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE\*\****

*The meetings are available to book through [Bookwhen](#).*

***Looking forward to seeing you there!***

As we have engaged with the Growing Faith adventure, we realise too that our clergy would greatly value that time to be supported and support schools in this. Do share this information with those who support your school.

Also, we have made an addition to our training programme this year to include a session specifically for **Clergy working with Church Schools** on the **9<sup>th</sup> February at 1:30pm via Zoom**. If interested, please contact [sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org)

## January/February 2022 Courses

**\*\* DELEGATES WILL BE NOTIFIED IF A VENUE IS CHANGED FROM 'IN PERSON' TO 'ONLINE'**

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
14/01/22	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs &amp; Incumbents Briefing</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>
18/01/22 <b>**DAY 3**</b>	<a href="#">Early Careers Teaching Support -2 Year Programme</a>	<b>VARIOUS LOCATIONS</b>
18/01/22	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School/Academy***REPEAT***</a>	<b>CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **</b>
19/01/22	<a href="#">Understanding Christianity - Day 1 of 2</a>	<b>CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **</b>
24/01/22	<a href="#">***NEW***'An Introduction to Lyfta Diversity Resource'</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>
25/01/22	<a href="#">Effective Partnering - Church School Partnership (TWILIGHT)</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>
26/01/22	<a href="#">World Faiths-Judaism (TWILIGHT)</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>
01/02/22	<a href="#">Distinctive Leadership</a>	<b>CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **</b>
02/02/22	<a href="#">Fresh Voices-Young People &amp; Participation</a>	<b>CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **</b>
08/02/22	<a href="#">Governor Training-Statutory Inspection of Anglican &amp; Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	<b>CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **</b>
08/02/22	<a href="#">Effective Partnering- 'Courageous Advocacy &amp; Global Neighbours' (TWILIGHT)</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>
10/02/22	<a href="#">Chairs Clinic &amp; Networking</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>
10/02/22	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a>	<b>CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **</b>
16/02/22 <b>**CHANGE OF DATE**</b>	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2021-22 **DAY 2**</a>	<b>CHRIST CHURCH MORETON C OF E</b>

### Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

**DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.**

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<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
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<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org">sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org</a>	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

**Headteacher Cluster Meetings**

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>2022 DATES</b>		
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Monday 14 March Thursday 16 June	1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 31 January Thursday 26 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 24 January Monday 20 June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 24 March (New Date) Thursday 23 June	10am -12pm
Warrington/Halton HTs	Tuesday 8 February Monday 16 May	10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Macclesfield HTs	Tuesday 18 January Tuesday 17 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Thursday 27 January Tuesday 24 May	10am -12pm
Chester HTs	Thursday 3 March Wednesday 22 June	10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 4 February - NEW DATE Friday 8 April - NEW DATE Friday 10 June - NEW DATE	12.30pm -2.30pm

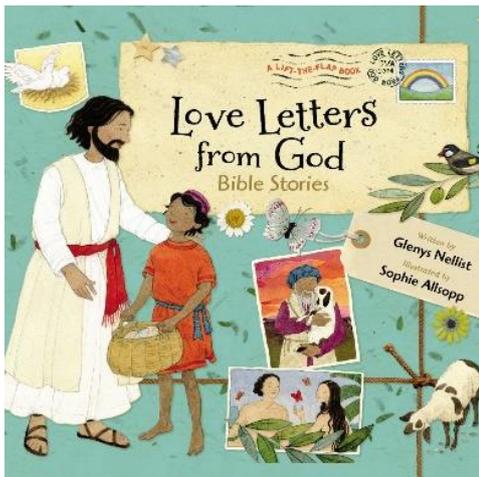
## News from Schools

### Bidston Village C of E Primary School

Children took part in a service of remembrance on Thursday 11th November. They read scripture and presented a poppy wreath.



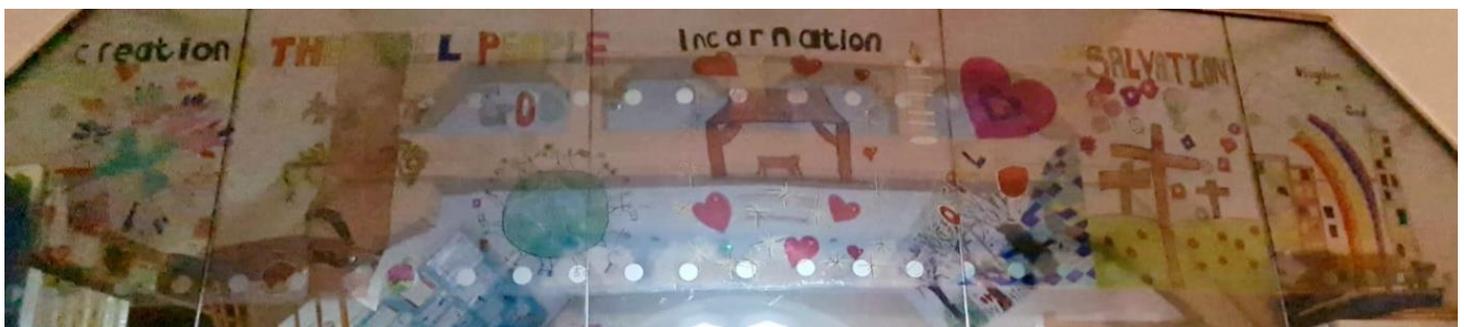
### Dodleston C of E Primary School



Using the beautiful book, 'Love Letters from God', pupils have developed their understanding of how the Bible tells one Big Story with Jesus at the centre. As the children listened and explored the Bible stories in 'Love Letters from God', they linked this to Christian concepts in the Bible and where it fitted in His plan.

Each child created a concept box using natural materials and in classes, they designed and created a frieze for our Mezzanine, which illustrates the Christian concepts from the Bible. The children then wrote their own letters to God.

The children, staff and community can continually refer to the concepts throughout their time at Dodleston using their concept boxes and their beautiful artwork on display



## Eccleston C of E Primary School

Congratulations to Eccleston C of E Primary School who are delighted to have been awarded The Rainbow Flag Award, recognising their work on LGBTQ+phobia and inclusion.



## Fulshaw St Anne's C of E Primary School



At the start of the new school year, everyone was delighted to be able to start visiting St Anne's Church again and they started to attend weekly with one class at a time. However, by the end of September they had a significant number of COVID cases in school amongst the children and staff and had to initiate an outbreak plan which meant that they couldn't come together to celebrate Harvest in the usual way.

So, as they had done for all other major celebrations in the last year, they collaborated virtually to create a Harvest celebration which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Children worked hard to harvest the apples from the school orchard and make crumbles, which were sold to parents to raise £57.50 for Food Friend, as well as all the donations of food items from all the lovely parents.

Gardening Club have been very busy indeed in the allotment and have been growing and harvesting a very impressive amount of food this year: onions, garlic, shallots, purple sprouting broccoli, kale, cabbages, sprouts, courgettes, potatoes, peas, tomatoes, carrots, radishes, sweetcorn, runner beans and broad beans. They have also been willow weaving and planting new stems as well as growing tulips and crocus for Mothers' Day gifts. Everyone is very proud to be a peat-free school and to be supporting the local 'Love the Lane' community group by growing pumpkins for their October trail event.

## Kingsley St John's C of E Primary School



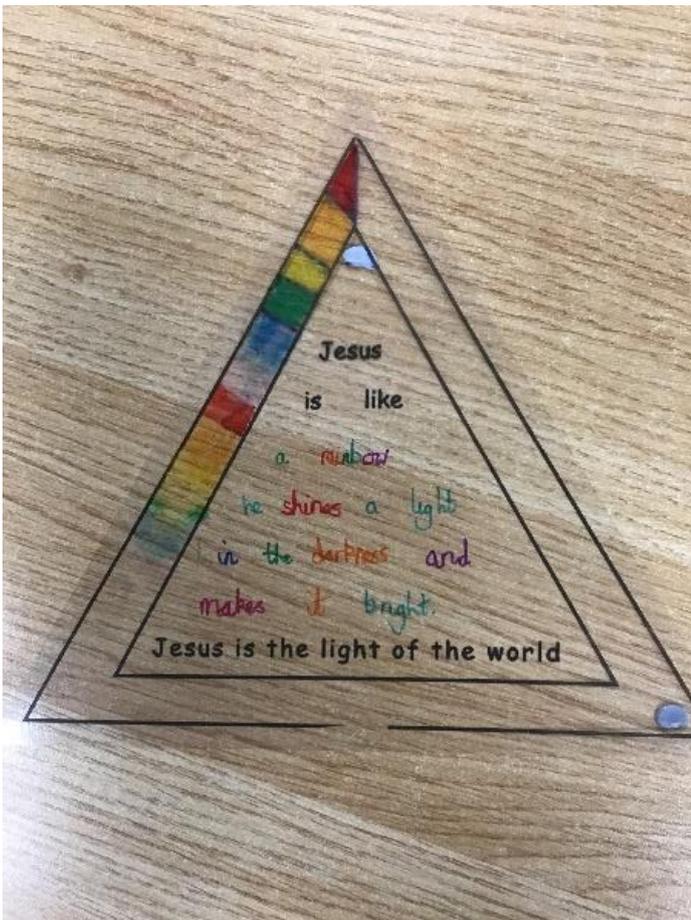
Kingsley St John's C of E Primary School have successfully begun their journey to become a Rights Respecting School, showing their commitment to this to achieve the Bronze Award.

There is a clear action plan in place and the children and staff are passionate to develop their knowledge and understanding to support the United Nations Convention for the Rights for the Child.



PIC•COLLAGE

## Lostock Gramam C of E Primary School



As part of their prize for winning the Chester Cathedral Canon Chancellor Award, the children were treated to a workshop led by the Cathedral called "Amazing Light."

The children had fabulous awe and wonder moments as they explored the properties of light with fabulous scientific equipment. They then used their scientific vocabulary to write poetry about Jesus being the light that guides us, as their mission statement says. **"Jesus is transparent, he never goes away. Jesus is like a mirror; we can always see his reflection in our hearts."** They explored how Science and Faith can live happily together.

### Runcorn All Saints C of E Primary School

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Robertson took her small after-school choir to sing at the Lord Mayor's Open Day in Runcorn. This was the choir's first performance, and they sang beautifully spreading the news of the magic of Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Team Bethlehem, Canaan and Eden were very excited to retell the Christmas story this year in their Nativity Play. Although parents were not able to come in and watch, the show has been recorded and parents can come to school in the New Year to watch it with their children.



### St John the Evangelist C of E Primary School



St John the Evangelist C of E Primary School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

They welcomed Macclesfield Town Mayor, Councillor David Edwardes to join them for a celebration and tour of the school. The children enjoyed meeting the mayor and were impressed with his dance moves!

The children have learnt all about the history of the school and the school community have been sharing photos of the school from its beginnings in 1971 to now.

As well as reflecting on the past the children have been thinking about the future of the school and creating letters to the future pupils of St John's to bury in a time capsule on the school grounds. It is hoped it will provide a snapshot of life in 2021 for pupils of 2041 to read all about.

The children have also been participating in an art competition to produce the most creative '50' they can with a prize for the winner. The school created their own '50' with the use of a drone.



**Stockton Heath St Thomas' C of E Primary School**



Pupils have been thinking about those less fortunate than themselves this Christmas and took part in several fundraising opportunities throughout December.



This included our Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children, raising £170; donating 60 Christmas shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, and finally raising an incredible £1,200 to support their local hospice, St Rocco's, by taking part in a sponsored Elf Run.

**The Bishops' Blue Coat C of E High School**



Bringing hope to others is very much at the heart of the Christmas message and school vision of promoting 'life in all its fullness' for all.



At the Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England School, they believe that school life should provide a wide variety of opportunities for students and staff to bring hope to others and

make a positive difference in the world as courageous advocates of change.

During the Advent period, they have supported West Cheshire Foodbank to bring hope to people in their local area who are living in financial crisis this Christmas. They have also raised over £1,700 for Save the Children by taking part in its annual Christmas Jumper Day.

They hope and aspire to create a world with more love, equality, and justice for all and are committed to becoming a school that is increasingly socially engaged. Their social action strategy has recently engaged all students in discussing which charitable organisations to support across the year and a range of awareness-raising and fund-raising activities are planned for the new year.

### Tilston Parochial C of E Primary School

Head Boy and Girl, Megan and Joe, have shown courageous advocacy with their launch of Operation Christmas Child.

After a visit to the local Foodbank, Megan and Joe wanted to help make a difference this Christmas. Together they researched different charities and chose to support The Samaritan's Purse. Operation Christmas Child was launched in a Collective Worship, led by Megan and Joe, and within days our school family were onboard.



A Cake Sale was organised, and with the help of a team of friends, they collected 149 shoeboxes.

Everyone is very proud of the leadership skills they have demonstrated by leading worship, organising cake sales and for managing their team of helpers to prepare for the collection day.

On Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, a team arrived, the boxes were loaded up and the journey started. The boxes are on route to Romania and Africa.

Megan and Joe not only thought about others, but they also showed courage in making a difference this year.

Everyone is so thankful for the support, compassion, and kindness their school family and local community have shown in supporting our chosen charity and to make a difference to children's lives this Christmas is the best present they could ever wish for.



## Wybunbury Delves C of E Primary School

Wybunbury Delves C of E Primary School celebrated preparing for Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

Preschool retold the story of the first Christmas through the nativity 'We're Going on a Baby Hunt.' Everyone met a donkey, an Angel, Mary, Shepherds, a star, wisemen and finally saw a very special baby Jesus.



In Reception they took great pride in their retelling of the birth of Jesus as a special gift to the world from God, through their nativity 'A really noisy Nativity.'

As a whole school community, they enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas, watched a traditional Christmas pantomime and tucked into a delicious Christmas dinner.