

SCHOOL UPDATE

E-NEWSLETTER

Introduction by Director of Education Deborah Smith

I have been mulling over what to write for a few days. However, sometimes the thoughts just don't flow. I'm hoping that although not comfortable it is a situation that you sometimes also experience too. My desire is always to bring some sort of encouragement at the beginning of either the Diocesan termly Schools newsletter or this brief update E-news. If possible I would like my editorial thoughts to contain at least a little bit of wisdom too. The last few days my head has been full of so many things and jobs to do before I go on leave for 3 days it's been tricky finding space for wisdom to flourish.

As the job list has decreased so the space to think has increased. Time to consider words to encourage. Whether there's any wisdom is yet to be decided!

I have been drawn to Matthew chapter 5 verses 3-9. These verses form part of what is commonly known as 'The Beatitudes' or 'Sermon on the Mount.' The version here is taken from The Message version of the Bible. It is a modern paraphrase translation that I find sometimes helpful. Another of my favourites is the New American Standard version as it was translated directly from the Greek. However, I digress. The passage has much to offer us as we seek to live out our calling, whether that be as a school leader, as a member of the clergy, as a teacher, as a parent/friend/colleague. It speaks of us being 'blessed' but not by the things today's world counts as blessings. They bring hope and promises.

Matthew 5:3-12

The Message

3 "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and His rule.

4 "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5 "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

6 "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

7 "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full', you can find yourself cared for.

8 "You're blessed when you get your inside world-your mind and heart-put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9 "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete and fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family."

The passage reminds us that God's blessings are important. He sees the true depth of our situations and hearts and minds. Nowadays we think of being 'blessed' as a sense of happiness or joy. However, in Biblical times it was understood to represent 'divine joy and perfect happiness.' Those who possessed the qualities mentioned were and continue to be divinely fortunate. These beatitudes show us the ideal heart condition of a citizen of God's kingdom. It is good to reflect on these things as blessings and to seek God in all our situations. Whatever we find ourselves dealing with, be it sickness, absence rates, inspections looming, staffing issues, budget setting, He promises to be there alongside us.

Finally I'd like you to cast your thoughts back to summer 2020 when churches and then children's choirs recorded and released their own versions of the Aaronic blessing. The version below is sung by a guy called Joshua Aaron. He records songs in both English and Hebrew. Here he sings in Hebrew, a language that may be unfamiliar for many of us, yet was very familiar to Jesus as a child and as a man. There are subtitles too for ease of understanding.

Can I encourage you to take a few minutes to watch and listen, allowing the words to wash over you as you receive the blessing? <https://youtu.be/kzqrWae5IK4>



KEY EVENTS

Heads and Chairs Online Spring Meeting with Diocesan Director and members of the Board of Education

Monday 7 March 2022

13:30-15:00 Repeated

Monday 14 March 2022

10:00-11:30

Teams links for the above have been emailed to Heads and Chairs of Governors.

New Headteacher Induction Spring Term Meeting

Tuesday 8 March 2022

15:30-17:30

2022 Foundation Governor Conference online Save the date

Saturday 25 June 2022

10:00-13:00

March

7/14 H&C Spring Meeting
New Governance in a Church School

15 Chairing the Governing Body in a Church School

17 PSN: Leadership & Diversity

21 Session 2: Key Beliefs of Christianity Training

23 PSN: Growing Faith

24 PSN: Becoming Trauma Informed

31-1 2 Day MHFA Training

DISCLAIMER:

Please note that cancellations of our paid events may incur a charge. We recommend booking on to any of our events or services as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Y6 Leavers' Services

There are still spaces left for the Y6 Leavers' Services on the following dates. Please click on your preferred date to book on via [Eventbrite](#);

[Wednesday 8 June 2022](#)

[Friday 10 June 2022](#)

[Monday 20 June 2022](#)

Retiring Heads' Evensong

[Wednesday 8 June 2022](#)

Manchester Cathedral—17:30

Please email;

dbeadmin@manchester.anglican.org

for further details.

SIAMS Update

SIAMS inspections are due to start this term.

ABY Lent resource

We are pleased to promote a new Lent resource for 2022 from the Archbishop of York Youth Trust.

Way Maker is now available via the link below and is a great way of encouraging young leaders in your schools to reflect on the Easter story.

[Click here to download the resource.](#)

Twitter DBE

The Education Department has a **Twitter** account which you can access by clicking [here](#). Please give us a follow and find out about upcoming events, training and other information for 2022.

Letters for Creation

Manchester Diocese is partnering with the Church of England to help encourage children and young people in schools and churches to be creative in expressing how they feel about the climate crisis. The plan is for work around the subject, produced by children and young people, to be displayed around the country, in both local and iconic locations. A climate 'tour' around England is also planned to raise awareness, looking towards COP27 and beyond. Letters for Creation will help to bring churches and supporters together, therefore please share this news with colleagues and others who may be interested. More information can be found by [clicking here](#).

Peer Support Networks 2022

Growing Faith Network

[Wednesday 23 March 10:30-12:00](#)

[Tuesday 3 May 10:30-12:00](#)

[Wednesday 22 June 10:30-12:00](#)

karenbeal@manchester.anglican.org

Leadership of Diversity and Inclusion International Virtual Network

[Thursday 17 March 22— UK](#)

Session 4: Celebrating Diversity

[Thursday 21 April 22—UK/US](#)

Session 4: Celebrating Diversity

[Thursday 19 May 22—UK](#)

Session 5: Sustaining Vision

[Thursday 16 June 22—UK/US](#)

Session 5: Sustaining Vision

Becoming Trauma Informed Network

The dates for the remaining networks are included in the schedule which you can download by clicking [here](#). Schools must sign up individually via the links included in order to attend the national sessions. If you are interested in attending the diocesan run '**Becoming Trauma Aware**' sessions please get in touch with Deirdre on the following email address:

deirdrehewitt@manchester.anglican.org

Secondary School Network dates are listed below;

[Thursday 24 March 22](#)

[Thursday 5 May 22](#)

[Thursday 7 July 22](#)

Secondary school staff are welcome to join the local network, noted above, or they may find it helpful to join with other secondary schools nationally to talk about phase-specific issues. Ruth Houston of CEFEL will be hosting the national secondary '**Becoming Trauma Informed**' networks. All sessions start at 16:00. For information contact Ruth directly ruth.houston@churchofengland.org

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Please click [here](#) to download the training schedule for One Day Youth Mental Health Champion Training and Two Day Youth Mental Health First Aid Training. Once you have selected your preferred date please click on it to access Eventbrite to book on.

STAFF RESOURCES

ECO RESOURCE FOR SCHOOLS

The Manchester Diocesan Board of Education is happy to announce the launch of an EYFS, KS1-3 Eco Resource for Schools. This has been written with input from the Diocese of Norwich. It is designed to support your school in identifying areas of the syllabi where Eco themed teaching is delivered. It is jam packed with resources and provides subject knowledge enhancement (SKE). It will be emailed to all schools on **Thursday 3 March**.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Click [here](#) for mental wellbeing resources for both Primary and Secondary Schools.

Please see overleaf for information and dates for Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses for 2022.

CALLED, CONNECTED, COMMITTED

www.cefel.org.uk/cc/

BARNABAS IN SCHOOLS

Professional education provider for RE Days, resources and ideas.

Summer Newsletter 2022

Deadline for article submissions: **Monday 14 March 2022**

Please send articles to:

lauratebay@manchester.anglican.org