

# RE Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2021

## HAS NORMAL SERVICE BEEN RESUMED?

Welcome to the latest edition of the Oxford Diocesan RE Newsletter. I am sure that like me you are very much hoping that we will see something that looks a lot more like usual service. Having said that however, we are very mindful of the climate emergency, so much of our support and training package will remain online where appropriate. If you are looking to book a session with one of our advisers, please note that we will ask whether it can be delivered using Zoom or Teams or a platform of your choice.

As usual, this newsletter contains information about the latest training courses and resources, as well as a brief resumé of the RE Network meetings in the summer term.

We are also excited to announce that there will soon be a new Diocesan website, with a new look, some new resources and a more user-friendly interface. Make sure you make a note of the new web address as soon as it is launched. The RE Scheme of Work is also undergoing a review, and new units should be available to use during the course of this term.

To comment on anything in this publication, to submit an article for next term or to request support from the diocesan RE adviser please contact:

Anne Andrews by [email](#) or phone 07884 655097



## CONTENTS

CPD opportunities this term	2
Future training events and CPD opportunities	3
Virtual Visits: From the Network meetings	4
New Resources for RE	5
Ofsted RE Research Review	7
Cross-Curricular Opportunities	8

## CPD OPPORTUNITIES – THIS TERM AND NEXT

**RE Network Meetings** offer an opportunity to teachers of RE to meet together to improve their subject knowledge, discuss developments in RE and carry out work moderation. These meetings are free for schools in the Diocesan Service Level Agreement (SLA), and a small charge is levied per meeting for schools outside the SLA.

### Autumn term dates:

**22 September 2021** 4.00 – 5.30pm (online using Zoom)

Theme: Retrieval practice and activities

**18 November 2021** 4.00 – 5.30pm (online using Zoom)

Theme: Assessment for Progress

*The costs and booking links for all courses are available in the Development, Training and Support brochure, sent to schools in May 2021 and now on the website.*

### So You're the new RE Leader 8 October 9.30am – 3.30pm

This session is designed for teachers new to leading RE in a church school. Covering the basics of subject leadership delegates will have the opportunity to consider the purpose of RE, curriculum development and sequencing, monitoring, and planning with reference to SIAMS and Ofsted.

### Understanding Christianity Revisited 6, 20 October; 10, 24 November 4.00 – 5.30pm

This course is designed for teachers who are new to leading RE in a school already using the Understanding Christianity resource. Available only to schools that have undertaken training, this course will cover the structure of the resource, the methodology and an exploration of the materials. Delegates should attend all four sessions.

### RE for NQTs (ECTs) 14 October 4 – 5.30pm

This session will cover the essentials of teaching RE in a church school. Delegates will consider the purpose of RE, various methodologies and consider a range of resources. Reference will be made to the appropriate locally agreed syllabus as well as the expectations of SIAMS and Ofsted.

### NATRE conference 13 October 2021 9.30 – 3.15

**Milton Keynes Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook MK6 2TG**

This conference has been rescheduled several times from its original date of March 2020. All the details remain the same. Contact [Sarah Payne](#) for more information.



*Serving our communities in a Christ-like way where education enables all to flourish  
Humility| Fellowship| Counsel*

# FUTURE TRAINING EVENTS AND CPD OPPORTUNITIES

## Diocesan RE Networks:

### Spring

**Wednesday 26 January 2022** (Online using Zoom)

Theme: Creating and using concept maps and knowledge organisers

**Wednesday 9 March 2022** - in person across a variety of locations (details by email)

Theme: Work moderation. Participants will need to bring samples of work to discuss with colleagues.

### Summer

**Thursday 19 May 2022** (Online using Zoom)

Theme: Connecting Units, Connecting Language

**Wednesday 22 June 2022** - in person across a variety of locations (details by email)

Theme: Setting priorities for 2022-2023, producing action plans, resource and idea sharing. All sessions run from 4.00 – 5.30 pm

*The themes for the above meetings may be altered in the light of national RE developments*

## Understanding Christianity – New full course



**27 January 2022 9.30am - 3.30pm** – Day 1 (Face-to-Face in Church House Oxford)

**2 March, 23 March, 27 April, 11 May, 15 June, and 29**

**June** - online Zoom sessions from 4.00 – 5.00pm

*This course is designed for schools accessing the training for the first time and the cost includes the price of the resource. The same delegate should attend all sessions and access to the full Understanding Christianity website is given on completion of the full course.*

## Development Thinking in RE

30 March 1.00 – 5.30pm

Featuring Dr Richard Kueh (HMI) this half day session will provide teachers with an opportunity to consider curriculum design and “ways of knowing” in the light of the Ofsted RE research review. This will build on last year’s conference discussion about Balanced RE and worldviews. More details will be available soon but save the date.

All costs and booking links are to be found in the Development, Training and support brochure that was sent to schools in May 2021 and is available on the diocesan website.

## Calling Secondary RE Teachers:

In September secondary RE teachers across the diocese will be meeting together online to talk about KS3 curriculum. Please contact [Anne Andrews](#) for more information about the session and to select your preferred date: 09/09, 14/09 or 21/09.

## VIRTUAL VISITS: FROM THE NETWORK MEETINGS

One of the positive outcomes from the last 18 months has been the increase in the number of online resources available. The RE Network meetings in the summer term provided teachers with the opportunity to participate in a virtual tour of a Mandir and tours of two different Mosques – one Sunni and one Shi'a. Each tour was accompanied by a commentary from a member of the community, ensuring that key features were pointed out. There were also opportunities to ask questions of members of the communities. The Mosques were both in the Diocese and are happy to be contacted for visits: [Maidenhead Mosque](#) and the [Granby Mosque](#) in Milton Keynes



The films watched at the network meetings were made especially for the sessions, so it may be possible to contact local places of worship and ask if they would be able to make something similar. Asking them to pre-record ensures that poor network connection issues are minimised, but if a good quality connection is available, there are advantages to a live tour, as questions can be asked immediately, and the tour adapted to individual schools.

The virtual tour does not offer the same level of interaction or impact as a real life visit, but it may be that for many of you, there is no option but to remain online. However you plan to conduct the tour, remember that there are resources on the diocesan website to help you make the most of a visit. These are the Crossing the Bridges resources, produced by the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub. While for a virtual visit the booking forms might be less useful, the pupil workbook might help to focus attention on the learning objectives behind the visit.

### Churches:

[Westminster Abbey; Canterbury Cathedral](#)  
[Church tours on RE Quest;](#)  
[St Magnus the Martyr, London](#)  
[Southwark Cathedral; The Sistine Chapel](#)  
and [11 other](#) famous sites

### Gurdwaras:

[Gravesend](#)  
[Dubai](#)  
[True Tube](#) version  
[Soho Road](#)  
  
[Multiple venues](#)

### Mosques:

[Glasgow Central Mosque](#)  
[Abu Dhabi](#)  
[East London Mosque](#) (BBC)  
[True Tube](#) version

### Mandirs

[True Tube](#) version; [My Life, My religion](#) (BBC)  
[Merches Place, Cardiff](#)

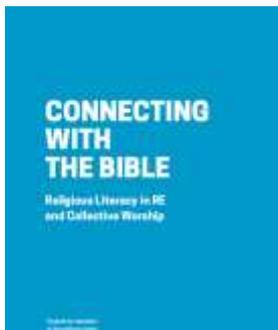
### Synagogue

[American synagogue; Plymouth Orthodox;](#)  
[True Tube](#) version  
[BBC](#) version

Do remember to check for yourself that the video meets the requirements of your lesson and your students. If you come across other suitable tours of faith venues, please let the RE Adviser, [Anne Andrews](#), know and it can be included in future editions of this newsletter.

# NEW RESOURCES FOR RE

## From the Diocese: Connecting with the Bible



Arriving soon in your school will be the exciting new **Connecting with the Bible** pack, written by diocesan advisers, and offered free to all schools in the SLA, thanks to funding from the Bayne Benefaction.

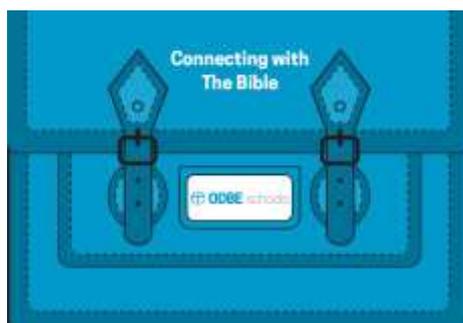
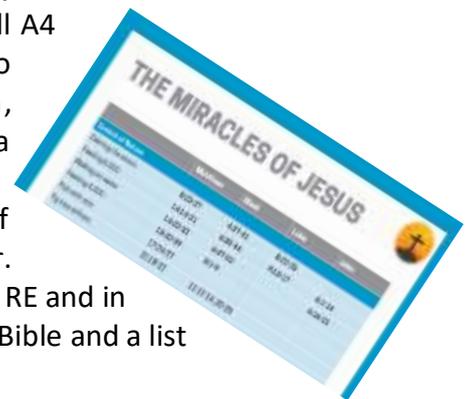
This pack contains a series of cards, each of which focuses on a different aspect of the Bible. These include a brief overview of each of the books of the Bible, lists of the Parables and Miracles of Jesus and biblical references to some of the key concepts of Christianity. Concepts such as Trinity, what the Bible says about God and What Jesus says about himself are explained in full A4

cards. In addition there are a range of activities for using the bible to create inspiring acts of worship and encourage pupil participation, such as creating story prayers or collects, laying the table and a prayer dice game.

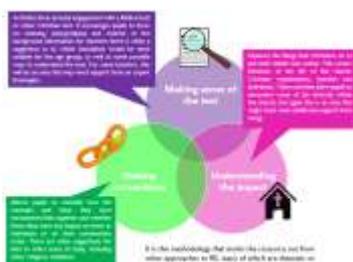
Artwork from pupils at Aylesbury Vale Academy decorates many of the cards, which come complete with a satchel styled storage folder.

The introductory booklet contains information on using the Bible in RE and in collective worship, as well as some historical information about the Bible and a list of resources that you may find helpful.

The Bible cards are not intended for use with pupils, but to support all those teaching RE with knowledge of the Bible and Christianity. Look out for your packs, arriving in schools this term.



## Supporting schools with Understanding Christianity



Members of the clergy will also be receiving a new document this term. The Diocesan RE Adviser has produced a booklet that will help them to support schools that are using the Understanding Christianity materials. It contains an overview of the resource, and suggestions on the kind of support that might be needed. Encourage your local clergy to make use of the document.

**Theos Think Tank** – a film

[Nobody Stands Nowhere](#)

If you are looking for a way to encourage teachers and pupils to think about their own worldview this simple animation is a must. Lasting only 2 and half minutes, it presents a way of understanding what is meant by a personal worldview and how our views impact on who we are and what we do.



**Books at Press** — books for EYFS and Key Stage 1

[Belonging and believing](#)



Based around 8 families with different world views, each with a five or six year old child, this series looks at the lived and diverse reality of belief in Britain today. Each family reflects a particular expression of their beliefs according to their specific tradition and/or personal family background. Many of these are lesser known traditions and illustrate that a diverse range of beliefs and practices exist within a faith. The families reflect the beliefs of Tibetan Aro gTér Buddhists, Swaminaryan Hindus, Chabad Jews, Independent Community Church Christians, Hanafi Muslims, Sikhs, Bahá'ís and humanists.

More information is available on the [website](#), where the books are also available to pre-order.

**And the not so new:**

[RE Online](#) has a growing website, with more resources, blogs and access to research papers. There are essays offering subject knowledge development, teaching resources and discussion starters for staff meetings.

NATRE has increased the range of free resources that are available on the website. There is a series of lessons drawing on [RE and Anti-bullying](#), perfect for anti-bullying week, Resources on [Anti-racist RE](#) as well as the [Real People, Real Faith](#) series of films produced by the Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub. A new project is underway on Worldviews, so there will be new resources coming soon. Membership of NATRE comes with a range of benefits, such as access to a wider range of resources and discounts for courses. Strictly RE, a national RE conference, is already schedule online again, for 29 – 30 January 2022 and a discount is offered on the cost for NATRE members and early booking. Put the dates in your diary. Last years' conference was really inspirational.

[Twitter](#) has a huge amount of RE related material. If you use Twitter, there is #REChatUk on the first Monday of the month, and a range of RE experts to follow.

# OFSTED RE RESEARCH REVIEW



In May 2021 Ofsted published a [Research Review into RE](#). While this document does not carry any statutory weight, or even set out the criteria for inspection into RE, it contains a lot of really good pointers as to what may constitute high quality RE. It sets out the context for the research, and summarises recent developments in RE. From a classroom teacher point of view the sections on curriculum and assessment are essential reading.

It identifies the need for RE to be taught in a coherent sequence, allowing pupils and teachers to see how learning builds on prior learning and prepares for future learning. It identifies three forms of knowledge – substantive, disciplinary and personal, suggesting that the best RE interweaves these forms. The debate between depth and breadth is aired again, with an emphasis on the need for deep learning, within the broad and balanced curriculum.

The section on assessment makes some statements that subject leaders will find helpful when discussing arrangements with senior leaders:

*“Given the limited curriculum time allocated to RE, standardised intervals for summative assessments may mean that the curriculum domain being assessed may be far smaller in RE than in other subjects. Leaders can consider whether there is enough time allocated to RE to teach and assess the curriculum.”*

There needs to be clarity about the purpose of assessment, what they are testing and why. Seeing the curriculum as the progression model ties assessment closely to the coherent curriculum.

There are some key questions that need to be asked as a result of reading this report:

- 1) How is the RE curriculum in your school constructed?
- 2) Is it a progressive curriculum?
- 3) What is the core knowledge that pupils learn?
- 4) Do you cover the three forms of knowledge?
- 5) What do you assess and how?

While the report is quite a long read, I recommend that you take the time to consider the key points. There will be opportunities to discuss these ideas in RE network meetings and an opportunity to meet with Dr Richard Kueh, the author of the research review at the Developmental Thinking in RE session in March 2022. Start preparing your questions.

The [Religious Education Council](#) has responded positively to the Ofsted Research Review and welcomes the findings. The fact that this review is the first of the arts and Humanities reviews, demonstrates Ofsted’s commitment to ensuring that a high quality religious education is at the centre of the broad and balanced curriculum.

# CROSS-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

## Springs Dance Company

There are two dance workshops on offer from Springs Dance Company:



**SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY**

## PARABLE

### INTERACTIVE Performance Workshop

**An immersive dance, theatre and integrated workshop experience, delivered with Covid safety at the forefront.**

PARABLE provides primary schools with visually exciting and imaginative ways to boost children's engagement with RE. Adventurous, interactive and exciting, children will encounter and overcome creative challenges, accomplish tasks and influence the outcome of the performance, whilst absorbed in a vibrant world of professional movement, dance and theatre.



## A Christmas Story: Refugee

**A Christmas Story: Refugee** workshops will guide pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story *Refuge*. Through learning, creating and performing movement children will explore themes of welcome and showing kindness.

To book or to find out about what can be offered, contact: 07775 628 442 or email: [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk)

## Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January 2022

This year's theme is: [One Day](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day is **One Day – 27 January** – that is put aside to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be **One Day** in the future with no genocide. The aim is to learn more about the past, to empathise with others today, and take action for a better future. There is a four page document to download that suggests how this theme might be explored.

There are other groups that offer work on the holocaust, making it accessible to a range of age groups.

One such group is [Generation2Generation](#), which focuses on survivors and their children telling the family stories. The aim is to promote and inspire tolerance and understanding. They can offer visits and online sessions.

The [Holocaust Education Trust](#) offers a range of sessions, for pupils and teachers, including training sessions at Yad Vashem holocaust memorial in Israel.

CORE Education Trust's [Echo Eternal](#) is a commemorative arts engagement programme inspired by Holocaust survivor testimony to promote respect and understanding between different communities.