

Welcome to this November's newsletter!

KNOWING GOD'S LOVE AND CHANGING GOD'S WORLD FOR THE BETTER

Earlier this year at our spring term Headteachers' Conference, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell reminded us that the greatest disadvantage children and young people are faced with is not knowing that they are loved by God. Making God's love known is the most joyful and fundamentally important thing we can do in educating children and young people in our schools. For ourselves also, often pulled this way and that way by ever-changing demands in a frantic and hurried world, we can easily lose a sense of perspective and of God's love for ourselves. Sometimes, before we press on with the next demand on our time, we need to take time to stop and to receive God's love. St John reminded us that 'God is love' (1 John 4: v16) and St Paul proclaimed that 'in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17: v28); wherever loving words are spoken and loving actions are expressed in our schools, God is at work and we are invited to join in with this divine endeavour, as well as to take time to reflect and experience the deep joy of knowing God's love for ourselves.

Of course, whilst God loves us as we are, he loves us too much to leave us the way we are. Jesus' brother, James, wrote that: 'faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead' (James 2: v17). God calls us to love our neighbours and to change the world for the better, to 'act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly' (Micah 6: v8). Perhaps more than ever, in the light of COP26, we are so aware that warm words and half-hearted commitments will not be enough to save our planet from impending disaster. If we are to truly love our global neighbours, we need to take much more assertive and wide-ranging actions to stop the planet overheating and prevent environmental catastrophes on an ever-increasing scale. God's love brings with it a spiritual, moral and social imperative. This has huge implications for curriculum design and the character development of our pupils. We need to empower our children and young people to become agents of change, on a local, national and global level, during their school days and beyond. God's calling to us all, to receive his love and express his love to one another, demands nothing less. As the hymn writer Isaac Watts put it, reflecting upon God's love shown supremely in Christ's sacrifice upon the cross for our sins: 'Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all'!

HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE – REIMAGINING AND REINVIGORATING EDUCATION IN A POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE

This term's Headteachers' Conference will be on 25th November via Zoom. Bookings can be made via the website at: [Event booking - The Diocese of Peterborough \(peterborough-diocese.org.uk\)](https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/event-booking) and via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk. The Headteachers' Conferences are also open to SLT members and Chairs / Vice Chairs of Governors, whilst having been primarily designed with headteachers in mind. All the termly conferences are Zoom events this year and so there's the added benefit of being able to multi-task from your office, whilst listening in; you can join, leave and re-join the conference at any stage, if you have urgent matters to deal with in school. We are delighted to be able to welcome to this conference: Professor Dame Alison Peacock, CEO of the Chartered College of Teaching; Lorna Fitzjohn, Ofsted's Regional Director for the East of England; Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS; Jane Lewis, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education and Andy Lakatos, Diocesan Schools' Effectiveness Adviser; and Tim Oates CBE, Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment. Details of the speakers' biographies are attached and the programme is as follows:

9.15am Opening worship – 'Back To The Future' – Reflections On Reimagining And Reinvigorating Education

Peter Cantley, Diocesan Director of Education, will lead us in worship with Archdeacon Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, Peter French, Deputy Diocesan Director of Education, and Jane Lewis, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education.

9.45am – The Chartered College Of Teaching And Reimagining And Reinvigorating Education

Professor Dame Alison Peacock, CEO of the Chartered College of Teaching, will share the vision and mission of the Chartered College of Teaching, and address the main conference theme about 'Reimagining and reinvigorating education in a post-pandemic future'.

10.30am MORNING BREAK

10.45am – Ofsted's Expectations Of Post-Pandemic Education, The Best Recently Documented Practice And Aspirations For Our National Education System

Lorna Fitzjohn, Ofsted's Regional Director for the East of England, will share Ofsted's expectations of post-pandemic education, best practice which has been recently documented and her aspirations for our national education system.

11.30am – The Nature and Purpose of SIAMS and The Implications for Church of England School Leadership

Dr Margaret James, the new National Director of SIAMS, will set out the nature and purpose of SIAMS under her leadership, and what this will mean for Church of England schools in practical terms.

12.15pm LUNCH BREAK

1.00pm – 2.00pm – Making Your School Self-Evaluation And School Development Plan as Accurate And Effective As Possible, To Help Your School Fulfil Its Full Potential

Andy Lakatos, DBE Schools' Effectiveness Adviser, and Jane Lewis, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education, will share practical advice on ensuring your school self-evaluation is robust and evaluative and your school development plan demonstrates strategic thinking, with the resumption of Ofsted and SIAMS inspections in view.

2.00pm AFTERNOON BREAK

2.15pm Enabling Every Child To Succeed In Their Education, As Informed By Cambridge Assessment Research

Tim Oates CBE, Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment, will share his thoughts on enabling children to succeed in education through high quality contact time, social learning, quiet reflection and self-study.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

We are undoubtedly stronger together, as church schools and churches, when we share a complementary mission and purpose. With this in mind, may I encourage you to open a fresh conversation with your parish church about how your church school and church could work together ever more effectively this year. Attached is a template document, as a discussion starter for your SLT and governing body, for adapting to your local context in discussion with your parish church PCC.

SIAMS UPDATES

There are some updated documents available on the [SIAMS Inspections webpage](#):

- the Revised Evaluation Schedule has been updated to include a honeycomb graphic on the features of Excellence (new page 20). This is not new information and does not include any new or additional requirements but is, simply, an alternative representation which some may find useful.
- the SIAMS Information for Schools document has been updated to include section 4.5 on Quality Assurance and Inspector training, and section 7 on the SIAMS Duty Desk for inspectors.

CHURCH SCHOOL WEBSITE ANALYSIS

Janet Northing and Chris Newton, recently retired DSCs with a wealth of Church of England school leadership and governance experience, now serving on our DBE Schools' Standards & Effectiveness Committee, have begun undertaking website reviews of schools likely to be inspected this year, considering the school websites from a SIAMS Inspector and Ofsted Inspector perspective, to provide further support for all Church of England school leaders in Peterborough Diocese. Copies of the website review frameworks are attached. We look forward to sharing our reviews and recommendations with you.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S YOUNG LEADERS AWARD

Elizabeth Howat, Director of the Young Leaders Award, has been in touch to say: '*Just letting you know about our new free resource for Advent this year: 'Community Matters at Christmas'. The resource is*

Education for life, deeply Christian, serving the common good

available for pre-order now and will be released as a full resource on Monday 1st November.

Throughout Advent we will explore different communities from the Christmas story, see what they can teach us about community and how they can inspire us to make a difference this Christmas. Over four weeks, the resource celebrates how community can bring us joy, acceptance, generosity and love. The resource includes videos of pupils talking about their communities, Bible links, reflections and practical challenges and can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Schools can pre-order or sign up here: www.abyyt.com/advent.

We have also recently released a new eBook that I thought you might be interested in. *Community Matters: Helping Young People Lead with Character in a Post-Covid World* is a series of reflections from experts in the education sector, focussing on the increasing need for the prioritisation of character education, including a new set of free resources for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 which helps pupils to explore how they can play their part in creating positive change in their communities. Download the eBook for free: abyyt.com/projects/community-matters-ebook.

SCHOOL VISITS – ALL SAINTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & STOKE BRUERNE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many thanks to all of you to all who welcomed me to your schools last half-term. I was delighted to visit All Saints CE Primary School in Wellingborough and Stoke Bruerne CE Primary School during the week before half-term, and Emma Johnson, Headteacher of All Saints, and Eliza Hollis, Executive Headteacher of The Forest CE Federation, have each kindly written a few words to introduce their schools to you, highlighting their vision and values, the community they serve, and their approach to collective worship, as attached.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Gemma Kingston, from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, has put together some great ideas for CW planning for this term based on values, please see below (PDF except where stated):

Compassion	Courage	Forgiveness	Friendship	Generosity	Hope
Justice	Peace	Perseverance	Respect	Thankfulness	Responsibility

There are also seasonal CW planning ideas:

[Remembrance](#) | PPT [All Saints](#) | PDF and a [liturgical calendar for the autumn term](#) | PDF with [8 Collective Worships featuring diverse representations of Christ](#) | PPT.

Many colleagues have found Picture News resources very helpful in linking a global news perspective to worship and, Executive Headteacher, Anthony David, has written a very helpful article about 'How to get the best out of Picture News collective worship', as attached.

PROFESSOR JOHN HATTIE – WORLD CLASS TEACHING AND LEARNING

The best teaching and learning webinar I have seen this year is undoubtedly Professor John Hattie's webinar on 'visible learning'. It really is the key to enabling children and young people to fulfil their potential and, incidentally, achieving 'outstanding' Ofsted outcomes. It would provide an excellent basis for a staff team meeting or INSET session, for both teachers and teaching assistants, about how pupils learning most effectively. You can access it here: [on-demand now](#).

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY - CHURCH SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Liverpool Hope University will be running a 6-month online training programme, beginning in January. The Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP) is aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. The programme has been developed by experts and professionals with a background in church school leadership, governance and inspection.

The aims of the course are to:

- Raise your awareness of the changing expectations of Governing Boards and meeting today's challenges in the education sector, whilst holding on to the mission and vision of a church school.
- Engage professionally with others in a collaborative and interactive module.

- Study online in your own time, whilst benefitting from access to personal tutors and group reflections.
- Key themes include the changing context, mission, vision and values, collaborative learning, decision making and accountability.
- Access support with using the online Virtual Learning Environment and Zoom, developing skills which extend to everyday life.

Further details are attached.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

Leslie Coathup from Storytime magazine, a social enterprise supporting reluctant readers and one of the biggest school magazines in the country, has been in touch to offer a resource for helping children to talk about and deal with their feelings. A copy of the free mental health school pack from Storytime is attached.

The Farming Community Network has produced a mental health / wellbeing book for farming children, which can be downloaded from:

<https://wettransfer.com/downloads/5e62520afeca7821252dabe306b5e03020211008154800/cbc7254634abe0325de937257f9aeb1420211008154800/19c377>. There are also a limited number of hard copies available free of charge on request from help@fcn.org.uk.

Also, Youthscape has launched an impressive set of free resources entitled BRAVE. BRAVE is a free library of downloadable resources from Headstrong - a Youthscape project supporting young people's emotional wellbeing online, whilst resourcing those who work alongside them. You can access these resources here: [Brave | Youthscape](#).

SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

We are fortunate to live in one of the most charitable countries in the world and there are a whole host of grant application opportunities open to schools this autumn, to support education, SEND, community support, mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, music, outdoor learning, tree planting and breakfast clubs, to mention but a few of the opportunities. Further details are attached.

JOINING A MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Most of our 103 schools now belong to a multi-academy trust and we are conscious that many VA / VC governing bodies and standalone academy trusts are assessing their options going forward. As a Diocesan Board of Education, we are directly involved in the governance of 9 multi-academy trusts, as Members and Directors, as well as in supporting the governance of 5 standalone academy trusts and 40 VA / VC schools, and serving on the education committees of our 4 LAs. We often attend governing body meetings to provide advice and guidance on strategic issues. We are more than happy to provide advice in relation to joining a multi-academy trust. Typically, we would give a brief presentation and then open up the matter for discussion and questions from governors, and if you would like to book such a presentation simply email Alex Benoy at: alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk. Following this introductory presentation, we would suggest inviting the CEOs of any MATs with Church of England schools in our Diocese to present to your Governing Body and staff team. We are naturally very proud of our own diocesan MAT, PDET, which now includes 33 of our Church of England schools, and we believe that any primary school contemplating academisation should give very serious consideration to joining PDET; PDET offers a comprehensive top quality CPD programme and a very wide range of support services. At the same time, we are fully committed to sustaining a mixed economy. We want to see all the MATs that we are involved in flourishing and going from strength to strength, and we seek to provide all our schools and MATs with the same high standards of support. If you feel that the strategic future of your school would be better served within a MAT context, rather than as a standalone academy or LA school, then we would be very happy to help guide and support you on that journey.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATIONS

Christingle Celebrations are such joyous occasions and Jane Foster from the Children's Society has been in touch to say: *'Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. The Children's Society first Christingle service took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop*

Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol — the Christingle — to do this.

Over the last 50 years, Christingle celebrations have raised millions of pounds to support our life-changing work with children and young people. The money our Church Schools raise can help connect them to our services, and rekindle the hope they deserve.

The generosity and support shown at Christingle services, which are often led by our Church Schools, is overwhelming and every year we are reminded of the compassionate Christinglers that help bring hope to young people across the country.

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top. There is no one way to hold a Christingle celebration. From socially distanced gatherings, to intimate events online, last year showed us how communities can come together to Christingle safely in new and innovative ways. Christingles are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas), with Christmas Eve being a particularly popular time for services. But you can host one whenever you like.

- Get the date in your diary (and that of your Church). Christingle services usually take place between Advent (four weeks before Christmas) and Candlemas (2 February), with Christmas Eve being the most popular time to celebrate.
- Decide what kind of event you're going to hold. You might want to start thinking about the type of service you're going to hold. Whether you chose to celebrate in person, go virtual or do a bit of both, just know we'll be here to support you every step of the way.
- Join our [Christingle Organiser's Forum](#) on Facebook created for Christinglers by Christinglers. This group share helpful hints and tips to ensure you are making the most of your service.
- Register your Christingle event. [Registering your event](#) makes taking in collections at your service easy and safe. You'll receive a unique donation page which you can share with your attendees. Plus, we'll promote your celebration on our website so Christinglers nearby can join your service.
- Spread the word. Let your community know about your fantastic Christingle celebration so they can join in and have fun on the big day. You can order our helpful [invitation poster](#) to display at your venue, or [download our new Christingle assets](#) to add to your website or newsletters below.
- Celebrate Christingle. Watch your Christingle come to life! Always be aware of safety during your service, but most importantly, have fun and share the message of hope with your community.
- Pay in the money raised. Once your Christingle celebration is over, [please pay in your collections](#) so they can make a difference to children and young people right away. If you've taken in donations through your unique registration page, there's nothing more you need to do as the money will come directly to us.

Download our fun Christingle characters and digital assets to help promote your Christingle celebrations. They can be used on your website, in emails or across social media. [Download characters](#). Order from our fantastic [range of resources](#), including some brand-new activities and videos. Why not start with our Christingle hints and tips guide that'll help you plan a fun, safe and memorable celebration? [Order Christingle resources](#).

I would also be delighted to come and join one of your collective worships in advance of Christingle either in person where possible by Zoom or by pre-recorded video to talk in age appropriate terms how Christingle helps to change the lives of thousands of you people every year. If you have any question or would like a talk please contact me via jane.foster@childrenssociety.org.uk.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

Peterborough Cathedral Christmas resources created last year are available again with more details on the Cathedral website, so if you are struggling for musical resources please take a look at the following: <https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/music/diocesan-resources.aspx>.

BIBLES FOR CHILDREN - FREE OF CHARGE TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Bibles for Children is a National Children's Charity which presents high quality children's Bibles to boys and girls in the primary schools of the United Kingdom. They would be very happy to supply all the pupils from Year 2 upwards in all the primary schools in our Diocese! The only cost for the first delivery to each school would be 50 pence for each pupil to receive a Bible. Free copies are supplied to the teachers.

Schools wishing to receive a presentation of Bibles should apply for an application form by email - bibles4children2@aol.com. Further details are on their website - www.biblesforchildren.org.uk.

SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING

Please find attached this week's safeguarding briefing, from safeguarding specialist Andrew Hall.

NATIONAL SCHOOL AND ACADEMY NEWS

Please also find attached the latest national Academy and School News Update summary, from educational consultant Tony Stephens, and also a helpful Government Autumn Budget summary from iMAT CEO, Antony Witheyman.

A PRAYER FOR THIS HALF-TERM

*Lord, our support in education, mission & ministry,
Help us to be a support to others;
Lord, our resilience in times of uncertainty,
Help us to be a strength to others;
Lord, our companion in times of loneliness,
Help us to be a companion to others;
Lord, our light in times of darkness,
Help us to be a light to others;
Lord, our compass in times of confusion,
Help us to be a guide to others;
Lord, our rock, our confidence and our joy,
Protect us from despair and dismay,
Give us the patience to work with others and recognise our collective journey together,
That we may complete our pilgrimage
Which began, continues and will end,
With hope, in you. Amen.*

AND FINALLY

*"The LORD bless you
and keep you
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace." (Numbers 6: v24-26)*

May I wish you every blessing for the half-term ahead!



Peter Cantley
Diocesan Director of Education