

Church School Leaders Conference 2022
Wednesday 16th November

**Courageous Advocacy:
Equipping a new generation to act justly, love mercy and tread lightly on the earth**



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Pupil Leaders of Collective Worship

In May, children from 15 Church of England schools across the diocese gathered for a Pupil Leaders of Collective Worship conference at Southwell Minster. The children took part in



four sessions to inspire their worship in school.

The sessions were led by Revd Dave Gough, John Dodd a church school governor and retired headteacher, Anne Lumb and Jane Lewis.

Children were then given time to share their own ideas and create a plan for changing their own collective worship. Summer from St John's C of E Primary Academy, Worksop reflected "It's helped us to think about new ideas - we can do more than tech and chairs, we can expand and explore worship."



Jodie Price
Digital Communications & Engagement Lead

Reflections of a 'Retired' Diocesan Schools Adviser

April 30th came around very quickly from when I first handed in my notice to the diocese at the start of 2022!. I am sorry that I wasn't able to get around to see more of you in those 4 months but there was a lot to arrange, plan for and complete before I finished. Anne and Ally have asked me to contribute to this newsletter with a few reflections. Continued on page 3.





The Young Leaders Award have collated all their free resources that explore how children

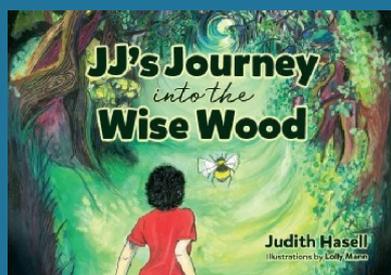
and young people can be leaders today and beyond. These resources include activities to run in the classroom and at home.

Visit the Archbishop of York Youth Trust website at

www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/yla-free-resources

Books at Press for Early Years

Devon based author, Judith Hasell is a speech and language therapist with many years of experience in supporting children and young people with communication difficulties.



Judith has written *JJ's Journey into the Wise Wood* to help young children overcome stress and anxiety by practising simple exercises and games. Judith is also a qualified yoga instructor and uses many of the techniques presented in the book to bring children to a place of emotional regulation. The book is beautifully illustrated by Lolly Mann. Her lovingly presented pictures of JJ and the woodland creatures bring JJ's adventures to life.

For more information click [here](#).

Recommended Resources



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Last summer, the Walk Through the Bible organisation produced 10 short educational videos that teach Years 5 & 6 pupils the storyline of the whole of the Old Testament. The aim was to help children make connections within the Biblical narrative and make sense of the Big Picture of the Bible.

The resource is free of charge and can be accessed by signing up for the videos on the Walk Through the Bible website.

www.Bible.org.uk



NATRE has many free resources for both primary and secondary schools on their website www.natre.org.uk. For example, the anti-racist RE resources which are new and expanding. These are practical and free.

See them here:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/>

Why not encourage children & students to take part in the annual 'Art in Heaven / Spirited Arts' competition this year. It is open for entries until 31st July from both primary and secondary students. Last year saw the highest number of entries ever received. Lat Blaylock says, 'This way of unlocking creativity 4-19 is one of our best projects.'

Details are all here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2022/>

Being a Plastic Clever School



A growing community of schools have decided to take action to reduce the amount of single-use plastics they use, becoming Plastic Clever in the process. The website Kids Against Plastic provides free resources and practical ways that your pupils can make a difference in combating climate change and support conservation. You

can sign up to the Plastic Clever Schools initiative at plasticcleverschools.co.uk

Booking now open for Time Travelling in 2023

The Education Team at Southwell Minster would like to invite schools to come and join us for a visit. You can now book online for the annual Time Travelling Pilgrimage/RE events [here](#): Key Stage 2 in March 2023 for yrs 3-5 and Key Stage 1 in June 2023 for yrs 1&2.

We also have some materials for [Year 6 online](#) this year. You will find free to use videos and activities to give you a day or two of interesting discussions, reflections and activities for the end of the year, which use the Minster as a starting point, and help children to consider what it takes to 'Make a Difference' in the world. We hope the usual Year 6 festival will be back in 2023.



In addition, please contact us or click [here](#) to find out about our other learning activities – we can do a Tailor-Made day on a variety of topics linked to the RE Agreed Syllabus, including Art and Architecture (Y5), The Romans in Southwell and themed activity mornings for Foundation Stage.

Contact Diana Ives (Head of Education) and Kirby Stebbing (Education Administrator) education@southwellminster.org.uk

Reflections of a 'Retired' Diocesan Schools Adviser

Continued from page 1

Firstly, thank you so much to all those of you who contributed to the booklet that Ally put together with the telegrams in. It was such a joy to read them and is a fabulous reminder for me of some of you and the work we did together over 19 years! I really enjoyed reading them and they made me very humble as you shared the impact I had on you and your schools over that time.

Anne managed to liaise with my husband for a farewell presentation which was great. Some of the diocesan team were able to join us via Zoom and we were in our dining room at home! The gifts I received were very thoughtful.



I can't deny that I am thoroughly enjoying my semi-retirement. As you all know I am still working for the Diocese of Peterborough, currently for 1 day a week. I would have found it difficult to finish working completely at this stage so this work is giving me routine and just the amount of challenge I need. I've enjoyed having time to do my garden, visit my mum, watch cricket at Trent Bridge and watch tennis at the Nottingham Open this week. I've also picked up some volunteering that I haven't been able to do for a while which I'm enjoying getting back to. Life is busy, but what I do have now is the choice about what I do which is great.

It was such a joy to work with so many of you over the years and I value so much the friendships made. I do intend to visit some of you and will be in touch!

I hope you all have a great second half of the summer term and enjoy your well-earned break when it comes.

With very best wishes to everyone.
Jane

Lowdham's well-being week



We recently had an amazing 'well-being' week at Lowdham C of E Primary School. We focused on keeping ourselves healthy in body, mind and spirit. A whole host of wonderful activities took place during the week including:

Godly Play; mindful yoga; rock-band fun; time in a sensory room; gardening; making flowers and delivering them to our

neighbours; rock-painting; a whole school dance; painting a whole school mural; making friendship bracelets with a different class; sharing books across the key stages; parachute games; nature art; 'prayer pods' with our vicar; and finishing the week with fun on an inflatable!

Andrea Burrows



Archbishop Cranmer Academy

Foundation pupils at Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy have been working on the theme of Thanks with Cheeky Pandas.

On day three they made biscuits to give to the special people in their lives—mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters.



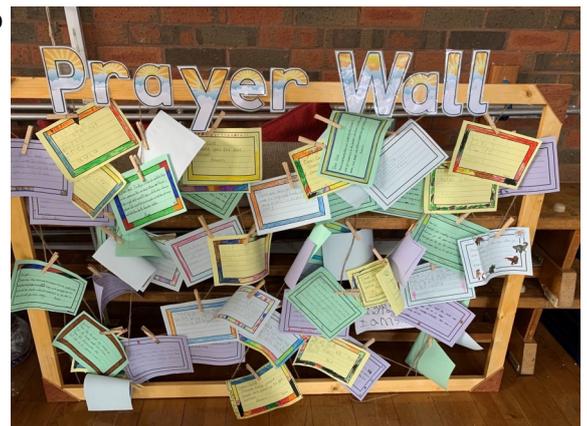
Woods Foundation School

A parent of one of the pupils at Woods Foundation C of E Primary came to talk about Vaisakhi—the Sikh New Year Festival.



Gunthorpe's Lent prayer wall

During Lent we decided to focus on prayer, giving children a greater opportunity to lead prayer and to choose the focus of it. All the children from our very youngest three year olds up to Year six wrote their own prayers and had the chance to read them in acts of collective worship. We used this to create a wall of prayer which became a focus in our hall. What they came up with was both inspiring and moving and covered a wide range of themes. We were all so impressed with their efforts and hope to form a school prayer group next term.



Paula Findlay

Bulwell St Mary's visit to church



Year one and two children from Bulwell St Mary's C of E Primary School visited their church to take part in activities and a service. The session was also attended by Bishop Andy and the children loved working with him as well as the church team.

Sharon O'Connor

Lowes Wong Juniors Experience Islam Day

On Friday 13th May the Year 3 and Year 5 at Lowes Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School were visited by Reverend Ken Johnson to experience Islam through a workshop session. They learnt all about the beliefs and practices of Muslims including a virtual visit to a mosque for prayer.



A few weeks ago, our children in Year 4 were excited to welcome Tom and Esther, the children's workers at Riverside Church in Southwell, to lead a workshop in which they explored the parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders.

Lucie Harvey

Prayer Spaces in Norwell



To mark the beginning of Lent, the Potting Shed Team (who host a weekly online collective worship for Norwell and other schools), set up the school hall in Norwell with a number of prayer spaces for the children. Over 2 days everyone had opportunities to visit the spaces where they were guided through different creative and reflective sessions led by volunteers from the Potting Shed Church as well as volunteers from St. Laurence Church in Norwell. The children all found it a very positive experience, and we are extremely grateful to all the volunteers from both churches who gave their time to make this event possible.

Visit to Lincoln Central Mosque

Key stage 2 children from both Norwell and St. Matthews C of E Primary Schools were delighted to have the opportunity to visit Lincoln Central Mosque to help broaden their understanding of different faiths. We looked at the key features of the mosque and learned about its importance in shaping the culture and behaviour of the local Muslim community.

David Lloyd



Secondary focus

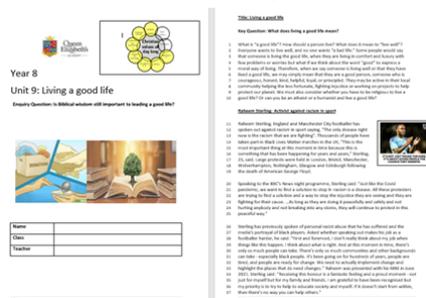
What does it mean to live a good life?

Year 8 Students at the Queen Elizabeth's Academy have been considering the question what does it mean to live a good life? This has been achieved through looking at the passions and lives of modern inspirational people ranging from Marcus Rashford to Eboo Patel.

Each area of study has allowed us to reflect on the codes for living a good life but also the impact it has on the wider community. We have explored how their lives, their passions and codes for life are reflected in our own belief patterns and attitudes to living a good life.

Marcus Rashford and Raheem Sterling were firm favourites as modern young adults who offer so much of their love and commitment to improving the lives of others. Students clearly identified with the lives of

Rashford and Sterling. It is the very fact that young people see those in the public eye come from humble beginnings, and that they can make a difference to society. The inspirational people studied are from a range of belief systems whether Christian, Muslim, Humanist or Atheist... the realisation is that we can all aspire to living a good life. Our Academy is very proud of our



core values. They are the driving force behind every action, decision or reflection our pastoral and academic curriculum offers to students. We urge all students to

aspire to “being the best versions of themselves.” Alongside our studies of inspirational people we were able to discern that a “good life” means something different to different people. It is based on our moral choices, knowing right from wrong but having others at the heart of our decision making. Showing compassion, love and a passion to help and nurture others is at the core of leading a good life.

One student has stated “They all have a story to tell. A story that shows such passion for others. The people we have studied have made me realise that I too can be a social activist; a voice for those who may be ignored. They have put their goodness into practice. I want to do the same.”

Stephanie Smart

Head of RE

Magnus Student to study at an American University



A year 13 student (Noah Potter) from Magnus Church of England Academy has been awarded a fully funded place at Colgate University in New York state.

Noah found out about the opportunity through a Teams

chat and signed up with The Sutton Trust US Programme. After that there were several steps with Magnus in partnership with the Sutton Trust helping students to explore university options, subjects outside the school curriculum and to develop skills to help students in their ongoing education and workplace. The final stage was to submit an application to attend an American University. Noah wrote a 600 word essay on a subject of his choice and he chose Confidence.

The Sutton Trust has supported him every step of the way. Their knowledge of the complex US college system has been crucial to his acceptance. They helped him prepare for the entry test, assisted him with his interviews and proof read all of his written submission and statement. This was alongside his lengthy recommendation written by his form tutor. The whole academy wish him well on this exciting venture.

Louise Brimble

Samworth Church Academy students awards Taekwondo Scholarships



Five students at The Samworth Church Academy have been awarded a scholarship to train with international instructor and 4th Dan blackbelt , Simon Scales, of Inspire Taekwondo.

Inspire Taekwondo run evening classes twice weekly at The Samworth Church Academy, where instructor Simon also volunteers each week to run a period 6 class

introducing Year 7 and 8 students to taekwondo. During his 9 years of using the Samworth Church Academy facilities, Simon says he has seen many of his students go on to success and felt he wanted to give something back. He said "Not everyone in the community has access to what we do and that is why I decided to create the scholarship in partnership with The Samworth Church Academy, to make a real difference to 5 young people, giving them my coaching for free."

To be considered for the scholarship, students were invited to submit a written

essay saying how they would make the best of the opportunity on offer, and no previous experience of Taekwondo was necessary. Simon said "The scholarship students impressed me with their entries. Over the next five years they will be exposed to all aspects of taekwondo, encompassing patterns, sparring and competitive martial arts, whilst learning about courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and developing an indomitable spirit in all they do.

Louise Brimble

RE Subject Leader Cluster Groups

There is still room in the RE subject leader cluster groups if you want to join. There are 5 groups split into geographical locations.

The groups discuss RE and the planning of the curriculum, assessment etc and also share good practice and resources. We also ask the groups to share with us ideas on what they would like included at the RE Subject Leaders Network Meetings.

To join a group, please contact one of the following:

Mansfield	Niki Hird-Shaw , nhird-shaw@st-edmunds.notts.sch.uk
Newark	Sally Nicholson, snicholson@elstonallsaints.notts.sch.uk
North	Christine Cushing, christinebrown@st-lukes.notts.sch.uk
Central	Sarah Smith, s.smith@bleasbyprimary.org.uk
South	Karen Turner, kturner1@langar.notts.sch.uk

RE Subject Leaders Network Meetings

The RE Subject Leaders Network Meetings dates have been set for the next academic year. They will be on Thursday 6th October and Thursday 22nd June 2023. They will both be on Zoom and will run from 4.15 - 6.00pm.

Religious Education Conference



Thursday 2nd February
9.00-3.30pm, Jubilee House
£120

A new opportunity for RE Subject Leaders to develop skills in being an effective Middle Leader.

There will be sessions on:

Morning Effective RE Subject Leadership, RE Assessment, Training staff on the use of Understanding Christianity.

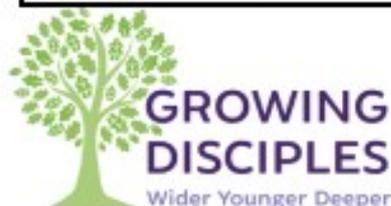
Afternoon Opportunities to explore resources and approaches to teaching RE

RE providers to be confirmed

Contact Details:

Ally Horne

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www.southwell.anglican.org



Anne is on Twitter. It is a great forum for sharing what is going on and for CPD. She uses Twitter to tweet about INSET, events in schools & retweet other RE related issues that may be of interest to colleagues in schools. Please follow her on @readvisers.