



**DIOCESE OF
BATH & WELLS**

Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

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SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Food for Thought

Welcome back! As you return to school after the summer break there is inevitably discussion amongst colleagues about how each has spent the holiday – travels abroad, visits to friends and family, or simply taking time to relax and ‘catch-up’ at home. All of course provide essential ‘space’ and help us regain a sense of proportion amid the pressures of education. We return afresh, and the new academic year, particularly when there is a change in staff or governors, or when you are welcoming new parents, is often a good time for a review of purpose and for communicating the shared aims of the school.

As you may be aware, the stated aim of our diocese is *‘to resource and encourage confident Christian communities which express joyful hope in the Gospel, for the sake of the world which they serve’*, and I’d like to invite you to consider what this might mean in your context. At first reading it may sound as if it is directed towards our parish churches (as in part it is), but we believe it equally encompasses our church schools. These too are Christian communities of hope, in continuing relationship with the church, with distinctive values* rooted in their foundation, and lived out through the creative offering of education. And the growth in confidence as a Christian community arises in our church schools through invitation, not indoctrination, which can then enable genuine dialogue with those of other faiths and of no faith.

The diocesan aim implies an understanding of the Gospel (an on-going journey of exploration), but it is also *outward-looking* - a genuine engage-

ment with and ‘faith-full’ interpretation of the world around us. This month sees the launch of a new, quarterly, glossy diocesan magazine called **‘Manna’**** - which is intended to encourage us to do just that. Don’t miss it! There are lively and inspirational articles and interviews throughout, including features relating to schools and young people. Hard copies are available from parishes, and I would ask you to ensure that a copy is available in your staffroom. (Please just pick one up or ask your clergy or foundation governors to make sure you get a few copies regularly for your school). It is also available on line: simply click on the front cover on this page:

www.bathandwells.org.uk/go/mana

Amid the changes and challenges of educational legislation in the year ahead, your diocesan education department will continue to resource and encourage your school community as it seeks to live out its Christian calling in a 21st century context, and in particular, for the sake of the children and young people we serve.

With every good wish and blessing on your work this year.

Maureen Bollard

*A reminder that the National Society’s website:

www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk is a useful resource for the exploration of Christian values in schools.

** *man · na* [man-uh] **noun** **1.** the food miraculously supplied to the Israelites in the wilderness. Ex. 16:14-36. **2.** Spiritual nourishment of divine origin. **3.** Something of value that a person receives unexpectedly.

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Headteacher Conferences 2010**'Reservoirs of Hope'****Thursday 4th November or****Friday 5th November**

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's conferences which will be held in the Bishop's Palace, Wells. We have a national keynote speaker again this year - Dr Alan Flintham, who will be offering 'Reservoirs of Hope' for school leaders, plus much else! A member of your senior leadership team looking toward headship is also invited. Applications have been rolling in, but please ensure yours is in as soon as possible to guarantee your choice of date.

For further information (or another application form!), please contact Linda Penny on linda.penny@bathwells.anglian.org or tel 01749 685120.

An important date for your diary**17th March 2011****Wells Cathedral**

Yes, St Patrick's Day (!), but also the date of a special service in Wells Cathedral to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the National Society and to celebrate the work of Christian education in this diocese.

Representatives of all our Church of England Schools will be invited.

More details will follow, but it is planned to be an early-evening event.

For now, please put the date in your diary!

Kit for Kids

The Kit for Kids appeal raised a magnificent £16,949.62. Thank you so much to all who took part. Over the next few newsletters, we hope to bring you news of work with children and young people in the five Zambian dioceses which the appeal is supporting. Each of the dioceses will be reporting back on initiatives they are setting up or supporting with help from the children and young people of Bath and Wells. But there may well be some delay: distances in Zambia are huge and communication is difficult. Few schools in rural areas have electricity, much less broadband, though mobile phones are becoming more widespread. World Mission Adviser Jenny Humphreys will be visiting Zambia in October and will be able to bring back first hand reports.

To make the most of your donations, it's important that teachers and children's workers determine what they need in their own situations, which can be very different. We heard the story during our stay in Fiwila of the well-meaning English visitor to the school who thought it would be wonderful if the children could play cricket. He offered to donate some equipment to the school.



The teachers were far too polite to say that this was not a good idea because they could not waste time and resources producing a cricket pitch. In any case, there would be no other teams to play against as cricket is not played in Zambia. So the equipment languishes in a cupboard to this day.

In the meantime, news of the difference a small grant made to the Anglican Children's Project in Eastern Zambia. Children orphaned by HIV/Aids were identified as needing psychosocial support. Trained counsellors were available but there was no transport to bring the two together. A few bicycles have solved the problem and now the counsellors can visit the children who are getting the help they need.

Sue Bloomfield

Would you like a Bishop to visit your School in 2012?

Although it seems a long way off at the moment, the bishops are beginning to plan their diaries for 2012 and would like to hear from you by **1st May 2011** if you would like a visit to your school during 2012. Some possible reasons for requesting a Bishop's visit might be:

- To enable him to visit a particular initiative or community event in which the school has a significant role
- As a special pastoral visit to the school, usually beyond that undertaken locally
- To invite him to join or lead a discussion group eg with senior students as part of an ethics or faith debate
- So that he can join a celebration of a particular event eg a significant anniversary, opening/dedication of new building etc

To request a visit you should contact Caroline Turner, the Bishops' Diary Secretary, either by post at The Palace, Wells, BA5 2PD or by e-mail on: TurnerC@bathwells.anglican.org When making your request, it would be helpful if you could indicate the reason you would like a bishop to visit, the date range you have in mind and any other details that you think are relevant at this stage. The bishops will then consider all the invitations they receive, alongside their other diary commitments.

The bishops do take this part of their ministry very seriously and enjoy their visits to schools. They will do their best to help but cannot guarantee that they will always be able to fit in with your plans.

CELEBRATINGRE

...exploring values and beliefs for tomorrow's world

A month long celebration of religious education in March 2011

Visit www.celebratingre.org to:

- ◆ Register your interest and receive free updates on events and developments
- ◆ Share information about your events
- ◆ Find out how to enter competitions with an amazing array of RE prizes
- ◆ Be inspired by other ideas, projects and events
- ◆ Discover resources for use in your own school
- ◆ Promote good RE teaching in your area

The St Gabriel's RE Teacher Weekend 2010 16 – 17 October

Wokefield Park Conference Centre, Reading

RE for the Twenty Tens
A New Curriculum Context

Professional Development on key current issues.

Join over 200 RE teachers and leading professionals to network and socialise in outstanding residential conference facilities.

FREE to all first time attendees.

For further information and to download an application form visit:

www.culham.ac.uk/sg/weekend

Disability Awareness comes to You, for All

John McCorkell, BSc; MA, worked for over five years as a Disability Adviser in South London and Kent where his role was to promote, create and teach inclusion of disabled people within church, community and schools.

He now works independently and offers Disability Awareness Days to a full range of schools, primary and secondary, sharing the meaning of 'inclusion'.

If you would like further information, or to book a day for your school, please contact John direct on: j_mccorkell@hotmail.com or by telephone on 020 8874 3823 or 07956 578164.



What's so special about the Bible?

2011 is the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible and provides a unique opportunity for teachers and children to revisit the wide-spread impact of the Bible on life in the UK.

In the light of this, BRF has developed a focused INSET session for teachers on 'What's so special about the Bible?' as well as a special creative arts-based RE Day for Primary School children on the same theme making the Bible and its cultural legacy a specific learning focus from within the RE syllabus for the whole curriculum.

The Inset offer runs from Sept 2010 to Dec 2011 and the RE Days throughout the 2011 calendar year.

For further information visit the website:

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/2011> or contact Lynda Ward, Barnabas in Schools Administrator, on lynda.ward@brf.org.uk or telephone 01865 319704.

Bibles for Children



The 'Bibles for Children' Charity provides free Bibles for children in primary schools and the Charity has asked for our help in publicising their work. Many schools in the north and east of the Diocese have already benefitted from 'Bibles for Children' but take-up in other parts of the Diocese has been a little sparse.

Further details, including application forms for schools, can be found on the Charity's website: www.biblesforchildren.org.uk

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BE A CATHEDRAL CHORISTER FOR A DAY SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER 2010



Wells Cathedral invites boys and girls between the ages of seven and nine to come and meet the choristers and have some fun. Find out more about chorister life and sing at Cathedral Evensong.

For more details please contact the Cathedral Office on 01749 674483



This picture was taken at the commissioning service earlier this year of Lesley McDonald, head-teacher at St Margaret's C of E Primary School, Tintinhull.

Local church, local school

Alongside Dan Brown and Joanna Trollope, this book recently published by Barnabas, and written by Margaret Withers was among my holiday reads.

'Local church, Local School' is intended for church leaders and communities, teaching and non-teaching staff, governors, Christian parents, PTAs, and anyone else seeking to support and serve their local primary school.

The aim of the book is to encourage churches to see engagement with their local schools as part of their service in the community. This can be as much through presence and practical support as through teaching and leading worship.

The book provides practical ideas and examples of how churches can enliven the life of a school, its worship, Religious Education, outside learning and extended school day. It also explores the roles of chaplaincies and the school Eucharist.

Above all, it is easy to read and concise. At £8.99 it is a good investment for both church and school. Why not borrow it from Sue Bloomfield in our resource centre, or have a look at a new Barnabas website on the same subject: www.localchurchlocalschool.org.uk

Pauline Dodds

Website for Christian Governors

There is a new website for Christians who are or could become school governors, helping them to be more effective in support of their schools.

There is a section on Vision and Values and another on Church Schools.

The website is still under construction and claims to be developing on a daily basis.

However it could be of interest to your governors, perhaps particularly the Foundation governors, so here is the link:

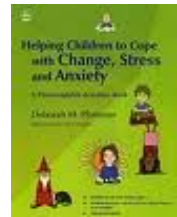
<http://www.transforminggoverning.org.uk>

Pauline Dodds

Resource Centre

Helping Children to cope with Change, Stress and Anxiety (KS2)

To use with individuals and groups, the book combines theory with a wealth of games and activities to help children build emotional awareness and resilience.

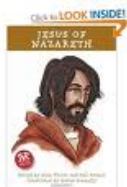


Count Me In!

Ideas for actively engaging children in the inclusive classroom.

Christian Special Places (KS1)

A pack of 6 little books which describe, through the eyes of two children, a Harvest service, a baptism, a wedding, a crib service, an Easter service and a chapel.



Real Reads: New Testament

A series of 6 gospel-based first person narratives: Jesus, Mary, Simon Peter, Judas Iscariot, Mary Magdalene, Paul. The stories are well-told and engaging. Each book has a 'Find out more' section, pointing to books, websites, TV & film; and a 'Food for Thought' section with ideas for group activities. See in-depth review: <http://realreads.co.uk/newtestament/about/>

Faith

A celebration of faith around the world for children with beautiful photographs.



Spaghetti Justice: a guide for teachers

This is an introduction to the use of Restorative Justice in schools. It is also a teaching pack designed to be used after groups have watched the dance presentation by the Mean Feet Dance Group and contains lesson plans, ideas for discussion and creative activities.

Wooden replica Places of Worship

Enhance RE lessons with these wooden models of church, mosque and mandir. Available for termly loan at £5 each.

To borrow any of the above or for more information, contact Sue in the Resource Centre on 01749 685129 or email: resourcecentre@bathwells.anglican.org

Video conferences

Many teachers ask us about visiting places of worship or inviting a person from another faith into the classroom to talk about their faith and practice. Both visits and visitors can prove effective tools but there can also be problems in setting up these learning experiences. Video conferences can be a useful alternative if you have the equipment and suitable broadband connection at school.

Global Leap is a not-for-profit organisation which can offer video conferences on different faiths, as well as other curriculum areas. You have to sign up for annual membership but then have the opportunity to access a range of subject areas. For more information: <http://www.global-leap.org.uk/>

Coming soon..... from time to time we are asked to recommend resources for Sex and Relationships Education.

Love & Sex Matters is a set of activity-based Key Stage 2 & 3 resources for relationships and sex education in a context of Christian values. The materials have been produced by advisers in Bristol and Salisbury Dioceses in partnership with Hopes Place, a charitable organisation in Bristol. The seven lessons in each book (and DVD) are linked to SEAL themes and the PHSE curriculum. There are additional optional materials, a reflective session and appendices. These include links to 'Values for Life' materials, a sample SRE policy, guidance for staff and governors, and a sample letter and session for parents.

The materials should be available after Christmas to purchase from the Resource Centre at approximately £40. **It would be helpful if you could let me know that you might be interested so that we know how many sets to order.** Sample pages can be viewed by following this link www.saled.org (then resources – publications).

Resources for KS1 and KS4 will be published in 2011.

Pauline Dodds

Staffing News

The following staff retired or moved on from our family of church schools at the end of the Summer Term:

Jan Hossent from *Cannington C of E Primary School*;
Rose Osborne from *Worlebury St Paul's C of E First School* in Worle;
Christine Bryant from *Tickenham C of E Primary School*;
Graham Lloyd, Angela Wardell and *Pat Sparks* from *Trull C of E Primary School*;
Nick Gilding and *Tracey Khodabandehloo* from *Bishop Henderson C of E Primary School*, Taunton;
Wendy Welch from *St Andrew's C of E Primary School*, Taunton;
John Simmons from *Marksbury C of E Primary School*;
Gillian Briggs from *Axbridge C of E First School*;
David Clayton and *Wendy Dart* from *Mells C of E First School*;
Maggie Yandle from *Martock C of E Primary School*;
Beverley Hatcher from *St Andrew's C of E Primary School* in Congresbury;
Susan Reynolds and *Angela Bridgeland* from *Nynehead C of E Primary School*;
Steve Miller from *St Martin's C of E Junior School* in Worle;
Joy Eady and *Judi Tregilles* from *Langford Budville C of E Primary School*;
Anita Thompson from *Oakhill C of E Primary School*;
Richard Brown from *Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary School* in Taunton;
Rosemary Freeman from *St Andrew's C of E Primary School* in Bath;
Judith Staunton from *St Mark's C of E Secondary School* in Bath.

Our thanks and best wishes go to all of the above as well as to the following headteachers who take up post at the beginning of the Autumn Term:

Simon Marriott at *St Martin's C of E Junior School* in Worle; *Claire Nurse* at *Cannington C of E Primary School*;
Frances Burns at *Knights Templar C of E/Methodist Community First School*, Watchet; *Wendy Nelder* at the new *Churchfield C of E Primary* in Highbridge; *Carol Wills & Gillian Harcombe* who become collaborative heads at *St Bartholomew's C of E First School* in Crewkerne; *Eddie Gregory* at *Bishop Henderson C of E Primary School* in Taunton; *Mark Solomon* at *Upton Noble C of E Primary School*; *Richard Adams* at *Nether Stowey C of E Primary School*; *Jerry Weedon* at *Exford C of E First School*; *Nick Gilding* at the new *Oake, Bradford & Nynehead C of E Primary School* and *Mary-Jane Collington* who becomes co-head with *Helen Rooks* at *St Mary's C of E Primary School* in Bridgwater.

When Your Headteacher Resigns.....

Please remember to notify us as soon as your headteacher resigns so that we can ensure governors are provided with the full support of a diocesan schools' adviser throughout the recruitment process. Contact Jayne Brown on 01749 670777 or e-mail: jayne.brown@bathwells.anglican.org

Continuing Professional Development Autumn Term Programme



NEW ACADEMY FORUM: explores what is involved in gaining academy status:-

All categories of school: Mon 27 Sept (0900 - 1230) & Tues 23 Nov (0900 - 1230).

'Outstanding' schools: Mon 4 Oct (1615 - 1930).

PREPARING FOR SIAS: for those new to the process
Wed 29 Sept (1300 - 1530).

CLERKS TO GOVERNORS ANNUAL FORUM 2010:

Wed 6 Oct (0945 - 1400).

ADMISSIONS: for VA/Foundation School Heads, Chairs of Governors & Chairs of Admissions.
Fri 8 Oct (0900 - 1530).

COMPELLING RE: JUDAISM: ideas and activities for use in the classroom. Wed 13 Oct (0900 - 1530).

LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH SCHOOLS: for newly appointed and Acting Headteachers.
Fri 15 Oct (0900 - 1530).

NQTs & TEACHERS NEW TO CHURCH SCHOOLS:

Tues 19 Oct (0900 - 1530).

HEADTEACHER CONFERENCES:

Thurs 4 Nov or Fri 5 Nov at The Bishops Palace, Wells.

VISION, VALUES AND ETHOS: Visioning Day for heads, governors & senior staff. Fri 12 Nov (0900 - 1530).

SIAS & SELF EVALUATION: for staff & governors to work on their Self Evaluation Toolkit prior to inspection. Mon 15 Nov (0900 - 1230).

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO INSPIRE: ideas and inspiration for those who lead collective worship.
Tues 16 Nov (0900 - 1530).

NEW GOVERNORS IN CHURCH SCHOOLS: a forum for church school governors to explore their roles and responsibilities. Wed 24 Nov (0945 - 1430).

VA HEADS FORUM: for VA school Heads to meet & discuss current issues. Tues 30 Nov (0900 - 1530).

NEW RE SUBJECT LEADERS: for new or recently appointed RE Subject Leaders.

Wed 1 Dec (0900 - 1530).

For further information on any of the above courses please contact Jayne Brown or David Williams or enrol via:

www.bathandwells.org.uk.