

## SCHOOLS MAILING – JULY 2009

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### Diocesan Matters.

#### 1. Farewell

The end of the Academic year is the time for many goodbyes, and this year is no exception. We are saying farewell to six headteachers this month: **Andy Oglethorpe**, who has been at Seaton Hirst CE Middle for the last two years is moving to Kenton Comprehensive in Newcastle to take up a Deputy Headship in September; **Sheila Edwards** is retiring after fifteen years at Wark CE First; **Sue Ellis** is retiring after six years at Heddon-on-the-Wall CE First; **Barbara Pratt** is retiring after seventeen years at Felton CE first, six as Head; **Heather Westcott** is retiring after nine years at Belford CE Middle; and **David Johnson** retires after nineteen years at Dr Thomlinson CE Middle in Rothbury. Our best wishes go to Andy for his new post and to those retiring for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

We thank God for all that you have given to your respective schools over the years and to the Diocesan family of schools. May the Lord bless you richly in the next chapter of your lives. "It is the Lord who goes before you, He will be with you; He will not fail you nor forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deut 31:8)

#### 2. Leavers Service Collection for Tearfund

In total £763.31 was collected during our Leavers Service. In a letter from Allison Liu, Donor Care Manager at Tearfund, we were advised that this donation will go towards supporting poor communities.

*"Countless lives are being transformed through the work of our partners across the world. But this can only happen through generosity such as yours".*

If you would like a copy of this letter which details the help given to a young person in Nepal please email me [e.bell@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:e.bell@newcastle.anglican.org) and I'll send one out to you.

### **3. Longhoughton Banner**

I know that you have been asked already but could those of you who attended our Leavers Service in June please check again just in case Longhoughtons banner has been wrapped up with your school banner.

### **4. Training Course – Church House**

#### **Setting Challenging Activities for RE – Chris Hudson**

29 September, 9.30am-3.30pm at Church House, North Shields

Costs: £10 – lunch included

How can we raise our game in Primary RE? This workshop will explore a range of activities to encourage the use of individual thinking skills, co-operation and creativity to help staff and children meet their RE objectives. Expect an active day of storytelling, drama, artefacts and artwork to sharpen up your expectations, and provide you with a selection of new ideas to take back and use in your own school.

Resources will be for sale on the day and there will be an additional display of other relevant publications

Please contact Eileen Bell at Church House to book your places on the courses. Tel 0191 2704141; email [e.bell@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:e.bell@newcastle.anglican.org)

#### **Engaging with the Others; issues in contemporary spirituality**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 10am – 3:30pm at Church House.

Please contact [j.pinnegar@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:j.pinnegar@newcastle.anglican.org) or tel: 0191 2704100 for further details.

### **5. SIAS Toolkit**

The revised Framework, Toolkit and Grade descriptors for SIAS Inspections come into effect from 1st September 2009. The purpose of the new Toolkit is to sharpen up the evaluative process, give more rigorous attention to outcomes and evidence, and much less attention to provision. Please access each of the documents via the Diocesan website. You will find them in the Schools section under the sub-heading of Inspections. Make sure you download the right ones! There old versions will remain in the webpage until January 2001. Please be aware that although the new Framework becomes operational from September 2009, schools who may be inspected between September 2009 and January 2010 may use the old version of the Toolkit. Thereafter all schools should transfer over to the new version.

Training and support will be offered in the new school year once the National Society declares the documents 'live'.

### **National Matters.**

#### **1. Stand Up against Poverty and Inequality 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

This campaign is a follow-up to 'Make Poverty History'  
During Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, schools and churches are invited to arrange a 'stand up' occasion during which participants stand and declare their intention to play their part in working towards the eradication of world poverty and inequality. More details and a wide range of materials for schools and church's can be found at <http://www.just1.org.uk/> (and click on the link on the right). Activities are also suggested, as way's of living out promises.

**2. Master level course for non specialist RE Teachers**

Proposed Block MA course for Teachers of RE  
Course arranger – Urban Theology Unit (UTU) – Sheffield

The UTU in Sheffield is proposing to arrange their MA course to provide access for non specialist RE teachers – secondary. Possibly – 4 x 5 day blocks over 2 years plus distance learning programme e.g. in holiday periods – post Easter, late August or 3 or 4 Saturdays in each of 2 terms over 2 years, for those within travelling distance

Technology/library support for tutorials approx cost £450

Those on the current course have said how valuable it is for them, given there is a shortage of qualified RE teachers Please contact Heather Morris on 01709309123

**3. Chance Your Arm – Conference 'The Well-Being of Children and Young People'**

October 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

Promoting the Well-Being of Children and Young People, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Hinsley Hall, Leeds. Sue Palmer (specialist in literacy) and Ian Morris (Head of Philosophy and Wellbeing at Wellington College) are two of the expert speakers and practitioners who are taking part.

For booking forms or further information please email [cycconf@aol.com](mailto:cycconf@aol.com) or ring 0113 2177313

**Margaret, Brian and Eileen would like to wish  
you all a peaceful and refreshing holiday.**