

September Mailing 2009

We do hope you have all had a great summer break with lots of rest and relaxation and we send our very best wishes for the new school year.

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DIOCESAN MATTERS

1. Welcome

A warm welcome to the following Head Teachers: Lynne Brookes, who succeeds Heather Westcott at Belford St Mary’s Middle; Diane Lakey who replaces Christine Thirwell at Ellingham 1st school; Heather Cape who succeeds David Johnson at Dr Thomlinson Middle, Rothbury; Andrew Wheatley who is moving to Heddon following the retirement of Sue Ellis; Paul Rickeard who has taken over from Helen Clegg at Wallsend St Peter’s; Janice Craven who has taken over at Cragside Primary. Lesley Craig becomes Principal at All Saints College in January 2010. Susan Hall takes on the role of Acting Head at Longhorsley and Whalton, as Melaine Hinson has moved over the new Academy. Tim Jones will continue in his role as Acting Head at Morpeth All Saints. Nicola Brannen and Suzanne Connelly are moving from Acklington to Felton in January 2010.

The Northumberland Church of England Academy opens in Ashington this term. Although it will operate over five sites it will be one, all-through school under the leadership and management of a single Executive Director (Mr Phil Hearn) assisted by his Leadership Team.

Caroline Dickinson (All Saints, Morpeth) is very poorly. She resigned from her post as Head Teacher in July. Please hold Caroline, her family, friends and colleagues in your prayers at this extremely difficult time.

2. New Heads Day

This will take place on Thursday 12th November from 9:30am at Church House. Personal invitations will send directly to new heads in October.

3. Diocesan Education Conference 2010

Conference is taking place at Dissington Hall on Thursday 11th March 2010 and the theme this year is 'Excellence through Distinctiveness'. A booking form will be sent out to heads, chairs of governors and ex-officio governors in December.

4. Admission Policy

Please remember that Admissions Policies for 2010/11 need to be agreed and sent to the Diocese and LA **by the end of September**. For the majority of schools, this will only require an amendment of dates (and admission numbers if necessary). Please note that your admissions policies must now be on your school website. **This is a statutory requirement**. Brian Hedley will be writing to schools about this separately.

5. Leavers Service 2010

This service will take place at St Nicholas Cathedral 11am on Wednesday 16th June.

6. School Prospectus

It is now a statutory requirement for each school to have a prospectus. Could you please forward a copy of this to Brian Hedley at Church House before 30th September 2009.

7. Governor Training Days

The provisional date for 'new governor training' is Thursday 15th October at Church House. More precise details will follow nearer the time.

8. Advent Services

Following preliminary health advice regarding the appropriateness of holding these services whilst the Swine Flu situation continues, it is unlikely that we will be inviting schools to gather together for Advent preparations. We will keep this under review. Please email Brian Hedley about this if you have any views you would like to share.

9. SIAS – update

Please continue to look at the Schools web pages about changes in SIAS inspection arrangements between now and January. www.newcastleanglican.org Enquiries should be addressed to Brian Hedley, Assistant Director, and Church House.

10. DFC and Governor Contribution Statements

By now you should have all received copies of bank statements detailing your income and expenditure on both your DFC and Governor accounts. These only include invoices and contributions received here at Church before 31st August 2009. If you have any queries regarding these statements please contact Eileen Bell on 0191 2704141 or e.bell@newcastle.anglican.org. If you have invoices which are to be paid from your DFC please forward these as soon as possible to Church House.

11. 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

Engaging with Others: issues in contemporary spirituality
Tuesday 15th September, 10am – 3:30pm at Church House.

Please contact j.pinnegar@newcastle.anglican.org or tel: 0191 2704100

12. Prayer Day 7th November 2009

A day for prayer for families using different media and stimuli will be held at Newcastle Cathedral on Saturday 7th November.

13. Celebrating Children – workshop 26th September 2009 £15 per person

This workshop is for anyone who works with children. For further information please contact s.doore@newcastle.anglican.org or contact Alison Dare one of the organisers on 0191 2381812

14. Governors

We are in the process of updating our records and in September you will receive a copy of the details we hold on your governing body. Please check these and return with any amendments to Eileen Bell at Church House or via email to e.bell@newcastle.anglican.org.

National Matters.

1. Stand Up against Poverty and Inequality 16th – 18th October 2009

This campaign is a follow-up to ‘Make Poverty History’ During Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th 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 ways of living out the promises.

**2. Chance Your Arm – Conference ‘The Well-Being of Children and Young People’
October 8th 2009**

Promoting the Well-Being of Children and Young People, Thursday 8th 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 or ring 0113 2177313

3. 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 eg 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 available for tutorials, cost approx £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

4. MA in Theology and Religious Studies

This course is being offered by York St John University. Modules are charged individually on a ‘pay as you learn’ basis. Further details are available via the university’s website www.yorks.ac.uk/theology or by ringing 01904 876462