

Summer Mailing 2009

Diocesan Matters.

1. Education Conference 2010
2. Leavers Service 2010
3. Training Courses - Church House
4. Prayer Day 7th November 2009
5. SIAS Toolkit
6. Race for Life 2009
7. New Heads Day – Thursday 12th November 2009
8. Fair Trade - recipe for success!
9. Diocesan Website
10. Celebrating Children – workshop 26th September 2009
11. Together Again - A collection of songs & backing tracks for primary schools.

National Matters.

1. Stand Up against Poverty and Inequality 16th – 18th October 2009
2. Remembering - Child Bereavement Charity, new book launch.
3. Education, not discrimination – newspaper article Guardian Newspaper Ltd 2009
4. Chance Your Arm – Conference ‘The Well-Being of Children and Young People’ October 8th 2009
5. Master level course for non specialist RE Teachers

Diocesan Matters.

1. Education Conference 2010

Our conference next year takes place at Dissington Hall on **Thursday 11th March 2010**. If you have any suggestions about the theme or would like to help lead the worship or get involved with planning the day, please contact Margaret or Brian

2. Leavers Service 2010

Another date for your diary! Our Leavers Service takes place at Newcastle Cathedral on **Wednesday 16th June 2010**

3. 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 the Other; issues in contemporary spirituality
Tuesday 15th September, 10am – 3:30pm at Church House.

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

4. **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.

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! Their old versions will remain in the webpage until January 2011. 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'.

6. **Race for Life**

Caroline Dickinson is planning to walk the 5 miles (with the help of family and friends) to raise money for Cancer Research. If you would like to sponsor Caroline then go to www.raceforlifesporsome.org/carolinedickinson2

7. **New Heads Day**

An induction day for heads new to Church of England schools will take place at Church House on **Thursday 12th November**, personal invitations and further details to follow.

8. **Fair Trade - recipe for success!**

[30/06/2009 St Michael's CE First School, Alnwick](#)

Getting involved with Traidcraft is well worth it. It enhances the global perspective, promotes community cohesion and helps schools fulfill the criteria for a range of other schemes and awards: Community Cohesion; ECM; National Curriculum; Fairtrade; Eco; International Schools. Please come along!

For a copy of the flyer click [here](#) or log on to www.traidcraft.co.uk/schoolworkshop

To book your free place please contact Becky on 0191 4973988 or email:

becky@traidcraft.co.uk

9. **Diocesan Website**

The 'Schools' section of the website is updated by Brian Hedley on a weekly basis, please do take time out to check this very valuable resource. www.newcastleanglican.org/

10. 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 0191 2381812

11. Together Again - A collection of songs & backing tracks for primary schools

If you don't have any particularly musical staff but love to hear the children sing this is the resource for you. One of I had been using 'A Teachers Dozen' [Twelve baskets] which is a SEAL resource as the basis for our acts of worship for some time and have also ordered the CD 'Together Again' which is produced by the same company. All the songs/hymns are easy to learn with simple rhythms and the children love them. They are easy to get hold of just visit their website www.teachersdozen.co.uk Thanks to Barbara Pratt for this information.

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. Remembering - Child Bereavement Charity, new book launch.

The Child Bereavement Charity has recently launched an illustrated keepsake book to help children to grieve for a loved one which is aimed at primary school age children.

The book called *Remembering*, by Dianne Leutner, allows the child to write about the personal memories they have about the person who has died. The questions in the book, tenderly, yet in a straightforward style, help the child to realise that the person will not suddenly reappear, and encourages them to express their feelings. It also promotes communication between child and grown up while they work on the book together.

There are questions like: "What I will never forget about you", "If I could whisper something to you now it would be..." and "What made us laugh together". There is also space for drawing or sticking pictures. The book is like a special place for a child to return to, helping them remember and talk about their loved one, whenever they wish.

The book was reviewed by Richard and Judy even before it found a publisher, quoting "It's a wonderful idea and should be in the bookshops at the earliest opportunity".

Remembering is suitable for any child who may have lost a brother, sister, parent, grandparent, friend or any person that they may have known in their lives.

When the author's father died a few years ago she wanted to turn this sad experience into something positive. The illustrations by Daniel Postgate, who also recently lost his father Oliver Postgate, have much spiritual meaning but also much needed humour to empower the reader to deal with the tragedy of the loss. The book is available through the Child Bereavement Charity's website www.childbereavement.org.uk at £5 plus p&p

3. Education, not discrimination – newspaper article Guardian Newspaper Ltd 2009

To see this story with its related links on the guardian.co.uk site, go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2009/may/09/faith-schools-discrimination>

Education, not discrimination

The reason the Church of England is knee-deep in education is because it is committed to helping human beings live full and flourishing lives Jan Ainsworth Saturday May 9 2009 guardian.co.uk

The Church of England's new resource designed to support schools in developing a distinctively Christian learning environment is all about improving children's educational experience, and certainly not about conversion or discrimination.

We identified 15 core values including service, wisdom, reverence and forgiveness ? as being among those themes found at the heart of church schools that have already invested in exploring how the "CofE" name on the sign outside the school translates into a difference in the classroom and playground.

Parents and students often remark that church schools tend to place great value on the uniqueness of each and every person in the school community. This is a good starting point, but one also shared by a great number of schools without a religious character. We wanted to look at how distinctively Christian values help underpin successful schools, so that we could share those lessons across the 5,000 or so church schools and any others who want to listen. So they are distinctively, but not exclusively, Christian values: people from other faiths and indeed of no faith also subscribe to these values. They are, however, deeply embedded in the Christian story and have a particular context and colour when seen in that light.

There will be some who see the potential for such an exercise to be hypocritical. Their argument might be that "justice" is not being done if taxpayers' money is used to fund schools in partnership with faith groups that, when they become so popular that they have to apply some form of criteria to distinguish between applications, are able to select students on the basis of their family's faith commitment.

Logically, their point of departure seems to be related to the idea of parents exercising any choice in the school to which they send their child. Critics of schools with religious character seem to suggest that doing anything other than sending your child to the closest school ? no matter how good or bad it is, or how much its ethos clashes with your values ? is tantamount to collusion with forces that operate against a fair society and the fostering of community cohesion.

These critics fail to grasp (or conveniently ignore) the fact that a system based purely on geographical catchment areas can end up actively discriminating against the poor, as parents who can afford to move home in order to get into a "good" school's catchment do so.

Critics of church schools have also failed to present any evidence that the current government emphasis on "choice" results in large numbers of parents dragging themselves and their children to church. Much as it pains me to highlight the fact, the number of children in church in the average week fell by 4% between 2006 and 2007, following a steady drift downwards in numbers over preceding years. Hardly evidence that churches are packed with screaming kids only there because their parents are trying to get them into a church school.

Suggesting that church schools defend the right to allocate some places on the basis of faith in order that our church attendance is boosted, and hence political or social influence is maintained is, frankly, a fantasy. The reason the Church of England is knee-deep in

education is because it is committed to helping human beings live full and flourishing lives. Church schools, at their best, present a particular vision of what we believe we are created for, what a full and flourishing life looks like. The values celebrated are profoundly part of that vision, with the capacity to change the way communities think and behave.

Yes, church schools exist partly to nurture Christian children in the faith (one of the reasons that some church schools do give priority to children from churchgoing families), and they exist to present an example of a Christian institution that can help people make an informed choice about that faith. But they are equally places where the beliefs and practices of other faiths are deeply respected. This week's website launch gives schools an opportunity to reflect on the kind of values that are at the heart of everything they do and are. I hope and pray that the new resource will help schools transform their communities, enabling their children and staff to grow and flourish. I also hope and pray it will help, in a small way, towards achieving our vision of giving every child the opportunity to attend an excellent school (church or otherwise) in which they can flourish academically, socially and spiritually ? hat would be real educational "justice".

Copyright Guardian Newspapers Limited 2009

4. **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

5. **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 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