

WEEKLY BRIEFINGS

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Sung Worship – Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest

As we reflect on Palm Sunday, may I invite you to join with the crowds of pilgrims walking the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem at Easter and sing in your schools [Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#) this week.

World Changer

As many of you are exploring courageous advocacy in your primary schools, you might like to try this new worship song from Alive Family Worship called 'World Changer', which has some actions to it. Coventry Diocese featured the song prominently in a huge worship celebration for all their schools at NAEC Stoneleigh in the summer term, and I thought our children would enjoy singing it too. Here's the live recording - [\(6\) World Changers @ ALIVE 2023-WITH LYRICS - YouTube](#) and here is a lower key recording, which you might find more useful for teaching children the words and actions in the first instance - [\(35\) World Changer - Family Worship Song - YouTube](#).

DBE

Canon Andrew Read's Arrival

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Canon Andrew Read to the DBE Education Team. Andrew will take over all aspects of Peter's role from 1 May. Andrew was formerly Diocesan Director of Education in Ely Diocese and CEO of the diocesan MAT, and he will have the title of Associate Diocesan Director of Education in Peterborough Diocese. Andrew has been appointed on an interim basis for the next 12 months, and brings a wealth of experience, as a principal, a managing director, a trustee, a chair of governors and an Ofsted lead inspector, in addition to his diocesan educational experience in Ely Diocese, where he also served as Director of Mission and Ministry and was a member of the Bishop's senior staff and a member of the Ely Cathedral Council.

Diocesan Schools Consultants

We are blessed with a great team of Diocesan Schools Consultants; serving headteachers and experienced former headteachers. We are looking to recruit one more DSC for 2023-2024. We would welcome applications by Friday 24th May. Interviews will be held in June. Further details are available on request from alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

Here for You (newsletter)

You are very welcome to get in touch with any member of the Diocesan Education Team at any time; our email addresses are below:

Director - peter.cantley@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Deputy Director - peter.french@peterborough-diocese.org.uk (until 30.4.24)

Interim Associate Director – andrew.read@peterborough-diocese.org.uk (from 1.5.24)

Assistant Director - jane.lewis@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Schools' Effectiveness Adviser - andrew.lakatos@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Schools' Safeguarding Adviser - lesley.pollard@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Executive Administrator - alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Administrator - louise.ross@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Finance Officer - mark.bedford@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

Joining a Multi-academy Trust

61 of our 103 schools belong to one of our 8 multi-academy trusts, and 4 more schools are joining a multi-academy trust this year. As a Diocesan Board of Education, we are involved in

the governance of all these MATs, as Members and Directors, as well as in supporting the governance of 5 standalone academies, and currently 37 voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools, and serve on the education committees and forums of our LAs. We are always happy to provide advice in relation to the kind of thorough due diligence process that governors would need to engage in, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Diocesan Board of Education, before expressing a preference to join a MAT. We usually give a presentation for about half an hour and then open up the matter for discussion with governors and senior leaders for around half an hour. If you would like to book such a presentation simply email me directly.

Prayer for Schools

As a DBE and DBE Education Team, we pray for all our Church of England schools every day. We also remember particular schools in prayer at the beginning of DBE and DBE Committee meetings, and are always happy to receive specific prayer requests at any time. We count it a privilege to be able to pray for you and with you.

ENVIRONMENT

Cop 28 & Eco Schools

The Pope's recent address to Cop 28, as read out by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin, can be found here: [Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP28\) \(2 December 2023\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#). It was reported on by the BBC here: [Pope Francis calls for end to fossil fuels at COP28 in Dubai - BBC News](#) and a full recording can be found here: [2023.02.12 Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin delivers Pope Francis' speech at the COP28 - YouTube](#). It would make for an excellent discussion with pupils and students in religious education, science and collective worship.

Eco Schools

Eco Schools have now launched their 'cut your carbon' campaign for schools. For further information see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgQhaO2wYvw>.

EVENTS

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

The Archbishops' Young Leaders Award offers a programme that develops courageous advocacy, leadership and character. It's a very popular award which has been run in over 1,000 schools nationwide. You can find out more through AYLA's free online sessions this term for both primary and secondary schools via [AYLA Events \(archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk\)](#).

Autumn Cathedral Service for all Diocesan Schools – 3 October

Primary schools are welcome to bring a whole KS2 year group or two year groups if you have two year groups in one class, and secondary schools are welcome to bring the equivalent of one class, whether that be all your student leaders, a cohort of Pupil Premium students or another group of your choosing. Please contact Alex Benoy in the office, via alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk if you would like to reserve places for pupils, staff and governors from your school to attend. Pupils, staff and governors are invited to take their seats by 2.00pm. All Headteachers are also invited to attend a special buffet lunch with our new Bishop, The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, and the whole of the Bishop's Leadership Team at

12.30pm in The Bishop's Palace, prior to the service; again, please confirm your attendance with Alex and let her know of any particular dietary requirements you may have.

Cathedral Education Team

Alex Carton from the Cathedral Education Team, has been in touch to say, 'We are delighted to share with you our updated **School Visit Brochure** – a range of exciting and engaging activities using the Cathedral as an inspirational resource! Highlights for church schools include:

- Our 'Exploring' and 'Understanding' sessions, aimed at supporting the Understanding Christianity framework. Themes currently offered are Salvation, Creation, Incarnation and God
- Bespoke days – created with whole school visits in mind. These can be delivered on a variety of themes including 'Our Mother Church' - getting to know your Cathedral and its part in the wider diocesan family!

In addition, our fabulous History activities will support the teaching of Saxons, Tudors and Local History

[SchoolVisitBrochure24_A4_12pp\[53\].pdf \(peterborough-cathedral.org.uk\)](#).

Also, commenting on the **3 October Service for All Diocesan Schools at Peterborough Cathedral**, Alex has added, 'Although this special service takes place in the mid-afternoon, we are mindful that many schools are involved and will be spending the whole day at the Cathedral. With that in mind we will be delivering a range of short, fun activities aimed at helping children to better understand their Mother Church! Activities will focus on the Cathedral's history, its importance as a place of Christian worship and will explore the links with your school. All are welcome to take part in these activities which will be on offer around the building between 10am and 2pm. However, we need schools to book as soon as possible so we can confirm the numbers and logistics. If schools can make a small contribution towards the costs of the resources we will be using, we would be very grateful (suggested donation £2per child), but we understand that with coach travel this might not be possible. We encourage you to get in touch with us directly to find out more and make a reservation.' To contact Alex, Toni and the team at Peterborough Cathedral, email schoolvisits@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk.

Experted

ExpertEd, based at Oundle School, offers pupils the chance to learn through live interaction with experts in a variety of curriculum areas, providing enrichment and curriculum coverage. All events are pitched for KS2/KS3 and schools from across the country connect directly from their classroom via Zoom. An overview and some introductory videos may be found on the website www.expertedlive.org. ExpertEd can also work with you to provide free tailor-made sessions with live speakers for MATs and local partnerships. If you are interested in this, please contact Kirsty Burns at kburns@oundleschool.org.uk.

Give An X – KS5 National Voter Registration Event

Dr Krish Kandiah and the Sanctuary Foundation are putting on a special, live, 15-minute, online event for Key Stage 5, college and sixth-form students at multiple times during National Voter Registration Day, on 16th April, to inspire and register your young people to vote in this year's General Election. Further details are [attached](#).

Launch of Diocesan RE Syllabus for The Diocese of Peterborough (2024 - 2029) - Tuesday 30 April

We are looking forward to launching our revised RE Syllabus for Church schools in the Diocese of Peterborough on Tuesday April 30th 2024 at Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering Parkway, NN15 6XT from 9.30am - 3.30pm. Stephen Pett & Fiona Moss (RE Today staff team) will lead workshops to support the teaching and development of the syllabus units in schools.

National Secondary Leaders' Network

The Church of England National Secondary Leaders' Network is holding a whole day event on 25th April, entitled 'What is the unique mission of my school?'. Further details are [attached](#).

No Place Like Home Art & Poetry Competition

Krish Kandiah from the Sanctuary Foundation, who will be speaking at our Headteachers' Conference in June 2025, has been in touch to say: **'This is a unique opportunity to hear students' voices as they reflect on the global challenge of displacement through poetry and art.** We are delighted to be partnering with the British Library and the Church of England Education Office, with the final entries being displayed at the British Library during World Refugee Week (17-23 June 2024). An amazing range of judges will be voting on the entries and they include presenter Melanie Giedroyc, actor Sir Jonathan Pryce, Dr Siobhan Jolley from the National Gallery, Alex Whitfield from the British Library and Alysia Lara Ayonrinde from the CofE Education Office. You can find more information on our website: www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/art.' Further details are also [attached](#).

Peterborough Cathedral

There is an amazing programme of services, concerts, exhibitions and special festivals coming up at Peterborough Cathedral, our 'Mother Church' in the Diocese. It is always such an awe-inspiring experience for our children and young people to experience the worship at Peterborough Cathedral, and there really is no better time than Christmas. I write as the father of two former cathedral choristers and cannot begin to describe what a wonderful experience it is to celebrate Christmas in a cathedral. Cathedrals really seem to come into their own at this time of year, and may I encourage you to share, with all the families that you're in touch with, the highlights of what is on offer at Peterborough Cathedral over this festive season and beyond, into the New Year. Further details are [attached](#).

School Chaplains' Day – Wednesday 12 June

Our School Chaplains Day will be led by Bishop James Newcome at Uppingham School. Bishop James was formerly Bishop of Penrith, Bishop of Carlisle, a Lord Spiritual, Clerk of the Closet, Head of the College of Chaplains of the Ecclesiastical Household, Chaplain to the Royal British Legion. In November 2023, King Charles III appointed Bishop James as a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. We are greatly honoured to have Bishop James with us for the day, leading the training for our School Chaplains. Further details are [attached](#).

St Philip's Centre

Helping our students' understand the complexities of a multi-faith world and preparing them to be effective citizens in a very diverse UK society is undoubtedly one of our greatest challenges. The St Philip's Centre in Leicester has a great deal to offer in this respect, helping to enhance the quality of education in schools. Ramila Chauhan from the St Philip's Centre has been in touch with details of programmes and support packages they are offering, which are worthy of consideration.

'The Religion and Belief Roadshow presents a comprehensive school day event that enables pupils to explore a variety of faiths under one roof. We are fortunate to offer exposure to Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, and Sikh faiths. Our aim is to have a presence of at least 6 faiths, with the goal of accommodating all nine whenever possible.

The event is designed with a marketplace ambience, giving students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and fragrant aspects of diverse cultures. Each faith is represented by a stall/table showcasing artefacts, manned by a practitioner available for student inquiries. Additionally, a clothing tent showcases clothes worn by various faiths, accompanied by musical elements, making it a truly multi-sensory experience.

The standard cost for this event is £2500, for a maximum of 300 children. This cost covers all expenses associated with the event day. This includes the presence of a DBS-checked and safeguarding-trained faith practitioner, faith-related artefacts for student exploration, any materials used in activities, our supervision throughout the visit, and all pre-event organizational tasks. However, we kindly request the school to provide refreshments and lunch for the delivery team.

For a preview of the Roadshow program in action, please follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FDB2eqd3xE>

You can appreciate that the cost has gone up considerably since the last time we did the Roadshow for the Diocese, I have spoken to my manager and he has agreed to a price of £1500.

I have attached our brochure which contains other programmes which may be of interest to your schools, particularly the Multi-Faith Carousel.

Multi-Faith Carousel is a programme of up to 4 different faith practitioners delivering workshops simultaneously and rotating around different classrooms. This gives the children an opportunity to meet a faith practitioner, ask questions and more importantly see the similarities and differences between the different faiths. This works well with a year group. £80 per faith, per class + Travel (35 Max class size, duration 55 mins per class).

Our charges cover all of our side of costs for the day – DBS checked, safeguarding trained faith practitioner, faith-related artefacts for the students to investigate, any materials we use in activities, our supervision of the visit on the day and all organisation beforehand. We offer these on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.'

Further details of these programmes and more are [attached](#).

Summer Term Headteachers' Conference – Inspirational, Invitational & Inclusive Leadership – 20 June, Kettering Park Hotel, with Andy Buck

Andy Buck is an inspirational national leadership coach and speaker; his biography is [attached](#). All conference delegates will receive a free copy of Andy's book 'Leadership Matters 3.0: How Leaders At All Levels Can Create Great Schools', which normally retails at around £14. Amazon describes Andy's book in this way: 'Fully revised and updated! This book is just one element of a suite of resources designed to help improve the educational outcomes for all children by empowering educational leaders in national, regional and local contexts to examine, refine and develop their leadership skills.

In this new edition, the author takes an in-depth and diagnostic approach, encouraging leaders at all levels in schools to think about their own personal qualities; their specific situation; their own leadership actions; and their own overall leadership approach.

Developed alongside the book, the Leadership Matters website gives school leaders affordable access to high quality online diagnostic tools, videos and other leadership resources. Everything on the website, including the 40 exclusive videos, is designed around the same 40 topics from the book (known as the LM40), making it really easy for busy school leaders to find what they need.'

The conference programme is as follows.

9.15am Opening worship – Reflections On ‘Inspirational, Invitational & Inclusive Leadership’

Peter Cantley, Diocesan Director of Education, will lead us in worship with Archdeacon Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, Jane Lewis, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education, Andy Lakatos, School Effectiveness Adviser, and pupils from St Peter’s Church of England Academy.

10.00am – Leadership Overview; Ethos, Logos, Pathos; Leadership Predispositions (part 1)

Leadership overview

If leadership is about our micro-behaviours, how can we define the range of aspects required for effective school leadership and how happy are you with your overall leadership balance?

Ethos, logos, pathos

At the heart of leadership is creating buy-in and discretionary effort – what can Aristotle and Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* teach us about how to really engage others?

Leadership predispositions (part 1)

Using a Jungian analysis of personality, this part of the day will enable you to appreciate strengths you may not have realised you have, as well as potential blind spots that you want to focus on.

11.00am MORNING BREAK

11.25am – Leadership Predispositions (part 2); Leadership Style and Asking First

Leadership predispositions (part 2)

Having had some time to reflect, what might you want to communicate to colleagues back at school about you as a leader and what leadership habit might you wish to change?

Leadership style and asking first

Based around Goleman’s six leadership styles, this part of the day will culminate in you taking away a practical habit that will ensure you are using the right leadership style for practically any given situation without even thinking about it.

12.25pm LUNCH

1.20pm – Delegation; Planning and Time-Management

Delegation

A review of the why, the how and the what of effective delegation, giving an opportunity for you to reflect on how effective you are at genuinely empowering others to lead.

Planning and time-management

There is never enough time. In this part of the session, we will review some of the latest thinking from Rory Vaden around how to multiply time as well as recap some of the tried-and-tested theories of time management.

2.20pm AFTERNOON BREAK

2.30pm – Holding To Account; Difficult Conversations

Holding to account

An opportunity to reflect on some of the principles of effective accountability, drawing on a range of sources including Steven Covey, Rob Connors and Kim Scott.

Difficult conversations

None of us enjoy having challenging conversations, but how can you make yours even more effective, impactful and less stressful. Using a particular technique for the first 60 seconds of conversations based around the work of Susan Scott has the potential to transform your leadership in this area.

The Life of Christ Performed by the Wintershall Players 18 – 22 June Once again, the Wintershall players will be performing the whole Life of Christ in the vast grounds of the Wintershall Estate this summer. 'There are performances every day from 18-22 June, with 18 & 19 June designated as school days only. The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious. Watch as a hundred actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside. Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10.00am to 3.30pm. The retelling of this evocative story against the peaceful backdrop of the Wintershall grounds has a profound effect on visitors. Perfect for schools, families, faith groups or theatre lovers, The Life of Christ is highly entertaining and unforgettable. Please email admin@wintershall.org.uk to book.'

The Role of the Monarchy

James Saunders Watson, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, would be delighted to visit any of our schools in Northamptonshire, and to engage in a Q&A discussion with pupils regarding the role of the Monarchy. Also, if your school has a significant anniversary or event, the Lord-Lieutenant would be happy to visit and possibly to arrange for a representative of the Royal Family to also attend. If this would be of interest, please contact me directly.

Zellar – Sustainability Solution for School

Zellar have launched a competition with support from key partners to raise awareness and celebrate sustainable projects in schools. Over £1,000 worth of green prizes are being offered. Further details are [attached](#).

EXTERNAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Centre for Chaplaincy in Education National Education Chaplaincy Conference

Gill Harrison from the National Institute for Christian Education Research has been in touch to say that: 'The CCE National Education Chaplaincy Conference, Faith in Wide Places is taking place in London at St Mellitus College, 24 Collingham Road, SW5 0LX on Thursday 13 June. Book your place now!

For a full programme and a link to the conference booking page please follow this [link](#). Our keynote speaker will be Dr Paula Gooder, speaking on Faith in wide spaces, faith in the public square in the bible. There will also be times for prayer, worship, fellowship, networking and fun. Access the full programme [here](#)'

Difference – Part of the Reconciling Leaders Network

Please find [attached](#) the latest Difference newsletter about the new Church of England schools' course on Difference, which is related to The Reconciling Leaders Network.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice

Last Wednesday evening, Elizabeth Olulari, National Education Lead for Racial Justice at the Church of England Education Office, explained the importance of these key EDIJ themes, which

are foundational to Church school education. She also highlighted some courses being run by the national team that may be of interest to school leaders particularly: the Inclusive Curriculum Leadership course - [Courses - Foundation For Educational Leadership \(cefel.org.uk\)](https://www.cefel.org.uk) and the Leaders Like Us programme - [Leaders Like Us - Foundation For Educational Leadership \(cefel.org.uk\)](https://www.cefel.org.uk).

GOVERNORS

Charting The Course To Good Governance

The NGA's latest publication on good governance, entitled 'Charting the course to good governance; common challenges', is now available - [erg-report-publication-final.pdf \(nga.org.uk\)](https://www.nga.org.uk). It is full of insightful advice and observations; a must read for any school governor.

OFSTED AND SIAMS

Ofsted and SIAMS surveys

Ofsted and SIAMS are both in listening mode at the moment and inviting responses to their national surveys - [Ofsted Big Listen - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) and [SIAMS School Survey 2024 \(tfaforms.net\)](https://www.tfaforms.net)

SIAMS Inspections 2023-24 & 2024-2025

The list of schools which had been due to be inspected this year, but which are now being taken forward into the next academic year, and the full list of schools to be inspected under SIAMS next year have been published. Both lists are attached.

[Schools Carried Forward to 2024/25](#)

[Schools to be Inspected 2024/25](#)

Dr Margaret James has written to say: *'Since the resumption of SIAMS inspections in September 2021, after the period of suspension related to Covid-19, it became impossible for Church schools to accurately predict the academic year in which they would be inspected, as they had formerly been able to. Consequently, I decided to publish a list of schools that were likely to be inspected in any coming year, with the aim of easing the inspection pressure on school leaders. This has only ever been an estimate, however, and a school's presence on the list does not guarantee that it will be inspected within that timeframe.*

With my team, I keep the list under review on a regular basis throughout the school year. We carried out a significant review in February and, as a result, we have removed a number of schools, carrying them forward to next year...

In order to ensure legal compliance, schools across the country are generally being inspected chronologically according to the date of their last inspection, although there are some exceptions to this. The exceptions are related to specific school circumstances and/or inspector capacity and availability.'

POLICIES AND REPORTS

Anti-Bullying Policy

Please find [attached](#) a model anti-bullying policy from Tony Stephens, which could be adapted to create a policy which would suit the vision and values of your school. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one model policy, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

Consultation on Draft Government Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Gender Questioning Children

The Church of England Education Office has welcomed the publication of this draft guidance and responded to the Government consultation. The CEEO response identifies a number of areas where the Government can add clarity, including around a robust requirement for pastoral support for individuals and families, and to ensure that the guidance is aligned to the findings of the Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People led by Dr Hilary Cass. Additionally, CEEO has advised the Government that the legal assertions included need unpacking to give school leaders more confidence that their actions won't be contested if they follow the guidance.

Disability Equality Scheme

Please find [attached](#) a model document from Tony Stephens, regarding key principles for devising a disability equality scheme. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

How to Become Attachment and Trauma Friendly

Please find [attached](#) a model plan from Tony Stephens about how schools can become attachment and trauma friendly. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

Leadership of Teaching and Learning

Please find [attached](#) a model document from Tony Stephens, regarding the leadership of teaching and learning. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; these is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

Race Equality Policy

Ensuring that everyone in our schools is treated with respect and dignity, and committed to the same throughout their lifetime, is vital and represents an ongoing challenge to the depth, quality and influence of the education we provide. To support you in you in this, please find [attached](#) sample race equality policy from educational consultant Tony Stephens. I trust you find this helpful for reviewing and improving your own policy.

School Leadership for Change

Please find [attached](#) a paper from Tony Stephens about school leadership approaches to bringing about change. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Please find [attached](#) a model policy, from Tony Stephens, regarding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; these is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

Student Welfare and Inclusion

Please find [attached](#) a model policy from Tony Stephens about student welfare and inclusion. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; this is one such paper, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

RESOURCES

A Million Children Living in Destitution in the Twelfth Most Prosperous Nation

Last month the Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported ([UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](#)) that around 3.8 million people in the UK, including 1 million children, experienced destitution in 2022, more than twice the proportion recorded in 2017. Destitution is defined in the report as the deepest and most damaging form of poverty, where people cannot afford to meet their most basic physical needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed. Such widespread levels of destitution, I'm sure we would all agree, are a national scandal.

As we approach a General Election, we all need to be courageous and vocal advocates for the children in our care, and to play our part in helping to ensure that the political manifestos of all political parties address this national scandal. In continually endeavouring to do everything possible to make a broken system work, as we have to, and then also often providing extra free school meals and running food banks etc., we run the risk of legitimising and giving credence to a deeply flawed system, if we don't call out this injustice. To govern is to choose and, quite simply, we need governments to make better choices.

More than ever, we need to ensure we provide a transformational education and step up to the plate as principled leaders in our profession, without necessarily being party political. We often associate Lent with a time of personal soul searching and this year especially it ought to be a time of national soul searching for us all. If you would like to make your voice heard on this national injustice, may I encourage you to consider the advice offered by the Joint Public Issues Team [What do you want to see in a General Election manifesto? – Joint Public Issues Team \(jpit.uk\)](#).

Academy & Schools News Update and Safeguarding Briefing

Please also find attached the most recent [academy and school news summary](#) from educational consultant Tony Stephens, and a [safeguarding briefing](#) from specialist safeguarding consultant Andrew Hall.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a template policy on Assessment, Recording and Reporting, particularly with secondary schools in mind, as [attached](#), but which primary colleagues may also find helpful.

Bible Stories Portrayed In Cartoon Style Artwork

Revd Henry Martin works in the Diocese of Manchester and in free moments he enjoys sketching and painting. He has kindly donated his artwork to help you tell Bible stories and share the good news of Jesus. You can download them from here: [FreeBibleimages :: Contributors :: Rev. Henry Martin](#). You might like to try inviting your pupils to add speech bubbles and animation to the PowerPoint images, and then to present them during collective worship. One such example, for last week's Headteachers' Conference, telling the story of The Prodigal Son, is [attached](#).

Big Help Out

Olivia Williams (olivia@together.org.uk) from Together (www.together.org.uk) has been in touch to say: 'I'm pleased to share that we have now created a series of specialised assets for teachers to get involved with the Big Help Out 2024.'

We are making sure that The Big Help Out gives teachers the chance to lend a hand and shape a new generation of volunteers, and give their students a chance to create a meaningful impact on their school/local area:

- A newsletter & social post - [example here](#)
- [Link to the Big Help Out website for all BHO resources](#)
- [Link to Vote for Schools for all education based resources](#)

Remember we're asking that teachers:

Educate with our Vote For School resources: March 11th - 22nd

Plan for the day using our suggested activities: April - May

Get involved with their students on the Day: June 7th

Finally, we're still looking for a school and celebrity to launch schools X the Big Help Out and showcase how students are an integral part of making an impact. If your organisation would like to get involved let us know!

Bishop Stopford School Growing Faith Podcast

Hannah Persaud, the national Growing Faith Networks Lead, has put together a podcast with pupils from Bishop Stopford School, commenting: 'The whole team wanted to say thank you and were blown away at the pupils' thoughtful and thought-provoking responses to some really big questions.' Here is the link for the podcast which is now live on the [Growing Faith website](#) and the Growing Faith Spotify playlist: [Growing Faith Foundation | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Braunston CE Primary School MP Visit

What better time than to invite an MP into your school than when a General Election is looming. Well, Lianna Willis, Headteacher of Braunston Church of England Primary School, did just that. You can read more about it in Lianna's letter to her parents and carers, as [attached](#).

Climate Coalition

The Climate Coalition have been in touch share their latest film and set of resources for engaging children and young people in climate activism. Further details are [attached](#).

CPD School Visits

We hope the [attached](#) map, which highlights schools with well above average pupil progress data and / or with excellent / outstanding inspection outcomes in the various components of Ofsted and SIAMS inspections serves a purpose in helping you identify possible schools to visit for CPD purposes.

Cross-Curricular Literacy and Oracy Guides and Policies

Please find [attached](#) two [guides and policies](#), from Tony Stephens, regarding the development of literacy and oracy across the curriculum. After 20 years as a Head, Tony has spent 15 years advising schools, while at the same time carrying out research into the features of schools that make them successful; these are two such papers, arising from Tony's extensive experience and research.

Educating our Students about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

May I recommend the following educational resources which colleagues in many Church of England schools have found helpful:

<http://www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk>

<https://blog.eis.org.uk/piuc/level-3-4-teachers-guide/>

https://neu.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/NEU3179%20Israel%20%20Palestine%20%20Issues%20for%20Schools_0_1.pdf

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/teaching-resources-2#heading-1>

[Israel and Hamas: What's happening? | Newsround - YouTube](#)

[What is life like for children in Israel and Gaza? | Newsround - YouTube.](#)

In addition, Jane Lewis has recommended some AREIAC resources for secondary colleagues, RE teachers and those leading PHSE type sessions or perhaps work with 6th forms, following an email from Alastair Ross, Chair of AREIAC. Alistair has written to say: 'The South London Inter Faith Group recently held an online meeting about the Israel/Palestine crisis with two speakers: Dr Chris Hewer, who spoke on the historical background and differing narratives and Julie Siddiqi, who shared how the crisis in Israel/Palestine is affecting us here in our own communities in the UK. The Group has kindly agreed to share the link to the You Tube recording which you may find useful for your own understanding as well as helping to inform any teaching or educational work you are doing. The edited version of the recording can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/100079737889190/videos/1738257716668704> and lasts around 45 minutes.

You may also like to look at www.togetherforhumanity.co.uk which aims to build a movement united against hate, with a focus on fostering a sense of collective unity amongst groups with a shared commitment for peace and coexistence between Israel and Palestine. Of course, other groups and individuals are committed to this work but this is a new initiative you may not have come across.'

Jane has suggested that the video itself might be suitable for 6th form students, but otherwise it would be for staff to watch, to support their teaching and engagement with students on the on-going issues in Israel and Palestine. Jane has come across both the speakers involved in this conversation and they speak with sound sense and realism.

This is a time for galvanising everyone in our school communities, in partnership with parish church communities, to provide help for all those people suffering terribly in Israel and Gaza, through absolutely no fault of their own in the overwhelming majority of cases. In pursuing courageous advocacy projects, you may wish to provide support for:

Christian Aid - [Middle East Crisis Appeal | Christian Aid](#)

Tearfund - [Middle East Emergency Appeal - Tearfund](#)

World Vision - [Middle East Emergency Appeal | World Vision UK](#)

Save The Children - [Donate to the Gaza Emergency Appeal | Save the Children UK](#).

Educational Papers Worth Discussing in Staff Meetings - Outstanding Schools, Post 16 Leadership, Poverty, Disadvantaged Students & Improving Literacy

Tony Stephens has published a couple of analytical papers on outstanding schools, a similar paper on post 16 leadership and management, and two further helpful papers on student poverty and supporting Pupil Premium and disadvantaged students. Tony has also shared two guidance reports from the Education Endowment Foundation for improving literacy in KS1 and KS2. Copies are attached.

[Outstanding Primary Schools](#)

[Outstanding Secondary Schools](#)

[Post 16 Leadership and Management](#)

[Student Poverty](#)

[Supporting Pupil Premium and disadvantaged students](#)

[Improving Literacy in KS1](#)

[Improving Literacy in KS2](#)

Enterprise Education & Work Related Learning

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a helpful paper on Enterprise Education & Work Related Learning, as [attached](#), which secondary colleagues may find particularly helpful.

Free Bibles for Schools

If you would like to present a free copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to each of your school leavers this year, or to pupils in any other year groups, GOOD NEWS For Everyone would be delighted to provide free copies for you. You can order them here: [Bibles for Education | GOOD NEWS for Everyone! \(goodnewsuk.com\)](#).

Health Education

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a template policy on Health Education, particularly with secondary schools in mind, as [attached](#), but which primary colleagues may also find helpful.

Health & Safety

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a model Health & Safety Policy, as [attached](#).

How to Lead a Successful Secondary School

Tony Stephens, who writes our weekly academy and school news updates, once led a very successful secondary school and has [shared](#) his reflections on how he went about this, whilst recognising there are many different ways in which to do this.

Information Advice & Guidance re. Careers Education

Putting in place a comprehensive information, advice and guidance programme that benefits students across all key stages in secondary schools is a significant piece of work which, of course, requires ongoing updating. To support you in this endeavour, educational consultant Tony Stephens has together a useful template document which is [attached](#).

Key Stage 3

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a useful guidance document about monitoring and enhancing performance across Key Stage 3. A copy is [attached](#).

Leading Schools in Times of International Conflict

May I draw your attention to the [attached](#) document about 'Considerations for Schools in Supporting Pupils and Staff at Times of International Conflict' from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.

May I also suggest that this is a time to galvanise everyone in our school communities to provide help for all those people suffering in Israel and Gaza through no fault of their own. In pursuing courageous advocacy projects, you may wish to partner with:

Christian Aid - [Middle East Crisis Appeal | Christian Aid](#)

Tearfund - [Middle East Emergency Appeal - Tearfund](#)

World Vision - [Middle East Emergency Appeal | World Vision UK](#)

Save The Children - [Donate to the Gaza Emergency Appeal | Save the Children UK](#).

Of course, schools need to remain as politically impartial as they can be, whilst educating children and young people about the complexities of international conflicts. Useful guidance, in relation to remaining politically impartial, can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61f137688fa8f5058a4b2f44/6.7731_DfE_Political_Impartiality_Guidance_Pamphlet_WEB_004_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools/political-impartiality-in-schools>.

LifeSavers Financial Education

May I commend to you the [LifeSavers](#) programme; it is a free financial education initiative available for state-funded primary schools. Delivered by the Just Finance Foundation, LifeSavers has been created to help children manage money wisely now and in the future. LifeSavers provide a wide range of classroom resources and practical activities to help children engage with learning about money from the beginnings of EYFS through to the end of KS2. All their resources, time and expertise are completely free for schools. Their promotional video can be seen here: [LifeSavers - The Just Finance Foundation's primary school financial education programme - YouTube](#). Further details are [attached](#).

Periodic Subject Area Reviews

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has shared a document secondary schools about '[Periodic Subject Area Reviews](#)'.

PopUK

PopUK has updated its free singing resources, with more songs that are inclusive, distinctive and relevant. Further details can be found here: [Free song resources to start the new academic year \(popuk.org\)](#)

Research into School Attendance

Ensuring pupil attendance returns to pre-pandemic levels is proving to be challenging in many schools. Please find [attached](#) a plethora of research reports on this issue, as you chart your way forward this year, which I trust you find helpful.

Schemes of Learning

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has also put together a guidance document about schemes of learning, particularly with secondary school KS3 and KS4 curriculum in mind, as [attached](#).

School Photography

Brian Irvine, the former Headteacher of Staverton Church of England Primary School, now provides a school photography service. Brian offers website and prospectus update photography for schools at budget friendly prices. He also offer portrait photography for schools, but only small schools, as he is a one man band and processes it all personally. This portrait photography service is priced to be affordable for all parents / carers. Further details are [attached](#).

Supporting Personal, Social and Emotional Development In The Early Years

The Education Endowment Foundation have set out their advice on supporting personal, social and emotional development in the early years, in a very helpful and concise summary. A copy is [attached](#).

Teenage Instructional Videos

In the best interests of broadening our secondary school extracurricular offer and supporting all who are bringing up teenagers, may I commend the following series of teenage instructional videos:

[Toilet Roll Changing - Teenage Instructional Video #1 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Dishwasher Loading - Teenage Instructional Video #2 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Hanging Up Wet Towels - Teenage Instructional Video #3 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Turning off lights - Teenage Instructional Video #4 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Vacuuming - Teenage Instructional Video #5 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[How to get your teenager out of bed - Teenage Instructional Video #6 \(youtube.com\)](#)

The *Difference* Course

The Church of England has just launched the ***Difference*** course for secondary schools, following a successful pilot. Across five sessions, ***Difference*** teaches three habits that have the potential to transform everyday relationships: be curious, be present and reimagine. You can read more about it here: [The Difference Course | The Archbishop of Canterbury](#). To sign up and access all the resources, please follow this link: [Home - Difference: Make your faith count in a complex and divided world \(rln.global\)](#). A primary school version will be developed next year.

This Week's Picture News

Picture News has shared a free resource, as [attached](#), re. 45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain who has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome. It explores the question 'What makes someone inspirational?' and an accompanying film can be found here: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss. If you choose to build this into your collective worship, you might like to combine this with an exploration of the importance of using the talents and abilities God has given us, through considering the parable of the talents / bags of gold (Matthew 25:v14-30).

Ways To Improve Your School

Tony Stephens, the educational consultant who puts together our weekly academy and schools news summaries, has shared a document from St John the Baptist School entitled '[500 Ways to Improve Your School](#)'.

Wellbeing Best Practice

The Ethos Committee and the Church Council at Stanion Church of England Primary School have worked together to plan a well-being project that has culminated in the publication of 'Stanion's Book of Well-being.' It's inspirational! I hope you enjoy reading it and find it helpful for promoting wellbeing in your school community. A copy is [attached](#)

SPIRITUAL INPUT

Daily Hope

If you are in need of some personal daily devotional input, may I recommend: [Daily Hope with Rick Warren - Devotional - Pastor Rick's Daily Hope](#).

Sports Focus

'One of England's most in-form rugby union internationals has shared on the team's official behind-the-scenes video how he came to faith in God.

Ben Earl, who plays his club rugby for the London-based side Saracens as a backrow forward, told England rugby fans that his religious faith "clicked" just as he was about to leave school.

"We've been going to chapel every Sunday since I don't know how young, and I guess it kind of clicked for me at one moment, probably during the stress of exams and other bits around school life."

"Growing up in that time and something I took a lot of comfort out of having another support board... something that you can lean on. And it's something that I'm really passionate about, not necessarily to show too much about myself and my religion, but something that I care deeply about."

The 26-year-old said he chooses not to "shove [his faith] in people's faces" but is "very happy" to talk about it when asked.

He also mentioned that his recent spell on the sidelines, courtesy of meniscus damage sustained in a pre-match warm-up in November, was a time in which he learned a lot about his faith.

"It kind of gave me another chance to reflect on where I am as a player and as a person, but also the idea that everything happens for a reason. I actually thought that time out injured was one of the most enjoyable that I had in terms of growing myself both professionally and as a bloke."

"Everything is up to God's plan, and I truly believe in that, and all you can do is try your best. I think that's a bit of a liberator for me is something that I can lean back on and say, 'Look, whatever happens happens, I know that this isn't up to me. I can just try my best. Whatever I'm throwing my hand out and trust that everything's gonna be alright."

Earl, who stood out for England during last autumn's Rugby World Cup playing at No.8, is currently playing a leading role in the side's Six Nations campaign...' (Article by Will Hobbs)
