



Diocesan Board of Education
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NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2017

Dear Colleagues

The year has started at quite a pace with a number of added challenges for us all but we will find our collective way through the obstacles by remembering that our family of schools has depth, expertise and confidence for the future. I am doing my best to spend time in schools and assist where I can with resolving difficulties. I have made some progress with the RSC office and now have a series of monthly meetings arranged so can raise matters on your behalf. Do use me to champion your cause. Our view is that we will always support local decision making based on the best interest of learners.

I am heartened that more schools have bought into the diocesan SLA this year which we have adjusted to align with the academy year starting in September. Please can you make provision for this at a similar level next September when you set your budgets later this term?

I am extremely disappointed to learn about the potential impact of the National Funding Formula on diocesan schools. I know you are making our collective voices heard through professional associations and local politicians. The minimal increases will barely cover the growing pressures on school budgets due to pay, prices and pensions in particular. The whole process has been designed to save £3 billion by the end of this Parliament so I suppose this shouldn't come as any great surprise.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Leadership Briefings. We have held successful meetings in Plymouth and Exeter already this term. Further dates and venues for this academic year are below. The meetings start at 4pm and will finish by about 5.30pm:

Tuesday 7th February St Mary's CofE VC Primary School, Chanters Road, Bideford, North Devon, EX39 2QN

Tuesday 25th April - St Matthew's CofE Primary & Nursery Academy, 1 Peregrine Road, Derriford, Plymouth PL6 5FN

Tuesday 2nd May St Mary's CofE VC Primary School, Chanters Road, Bideford, North Devon, EX39 2QN

Wednesday 17th May - St Peter's CofE VA High School, Quarry Lane, Exeter EX2 5AP

Please feel free to bring along your chair of governors. We will cover the latest intelligence from our meetings with the RSC Officers, the proposed SIAMS changes, the vision for education and governance updates. Do please let Fran know you are coming fran.bradley@exeter.anglican.org

We are keen to support **Thy Kingdom Come 2017** – a Global wave of prayer from 24th May (Ascension Day) to 4th June 2017(Pentecost).

In response to Archbishop Justin's 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer focus we want to encourage a wide variety and expression of prayer activities and gatherings across every mission community / parish in the diocese during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost 2017.



Our hope is that this would include some of the following: Prayer spaces in schools; Prayer spaces in local churches; Prayer boxes in cafés / pubs / local charity shops / gathering places / Parent toddler groups / Messy church gatherings / Youth groups – other places where we are 'present' as church in C.A.P centres and Food banks.

We will be writing to you all separately with some proposals – please contact Ed Pawson or Tatiana Wilson if you have an idea to offer.

2017 A Year for Peace and Reconciliation



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has focused on reconciliation – one of the three priority areas for his ministry – for his New Year's Message. The Archbishop filmed the message in Coventry – where he served as cathedral Canon and developed the cathedral's international reconciliation ministry, which grew out of the response to the bombing of the former cathedral in World War II during the Coventry Blitz in 1940.

Commenting on the differences caused by reactions to the refugee crisis and the post-Brexit political atmosphere in the UK, Archbishop Justin said: "If we look at our roots, our history and our culture in the Christian tradition; if we reach back into what is best in this country, we will find a path towards reconciling the differences that have divided us.

"If we are welcoming to those in need; if we are generous in giving; if we take hold of our new future with determination and courage – then we will flourish. Living well together despite our differences, offering hospitality to the stranger and those in exile, with unshakable hope for the future – these are the gifts, the commands and the promises of Jesus Christ."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b087kfd2/archbishop-of-canterburys-new-year-message-2017>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQt6pBLFpKI#action=share>

If as a school or MAT you would like to focus on developing peace and reconciliation you may like to consider working towards gaining ICON status in partnership with Coventry Cathedral. Schools are awarded the status in recognition of their work on peace and reconciliation. More details can be found in this booklet <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/wp-content/uploads/ICON-Schools-brochure1.pdf> or you can contact Cate Edmonds who leads on this initiative for the Diocese cate.edmonds@exeter.anglican.org



In addition contact Cate if you would like to consider linking with schools in our Diocesan partners in Thika, Melanesia or Cyprus and the Gulf.

South West Regional School Leader's Conference

Exeter Racecourse 10.00am – 3.30pm, Friday 24 March 2017

This year's School Leader's conference is day conference for school leaders exploring the leadership decisions surrounding embedding Character Education, with regional case studies illustrating the impact of *The Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*

With Keynote speakers Dr Tom Harrison Jubilee Centre and Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for the Church of England plus a wide range of inspiring school-led case studies drawn from across the region.

Tickets are priced at just £50 per delegate – to book now, please contact Fran Bradley at Exeter Diocese - educationevents@exeter.anglican.org

This conference is presented in partnership by the Dioceses of Truro, Exeter and Bath & Wells and as part of a national series of Character Education conferences subsidised by The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership

Religious Education

The New RE Newsletter is out. Click here <http://exeter.anglican.org/schools/religious-education-worship/newsletters/> for current and past copies.

CPD Programme Spring/Summer 2017

Click here <http://exeter.anglican.org/schools/resources/> to see the CPD Programme for Spring/Summer 2017

For a booking form contact Fran Bradley educationevents@exeter.anglican.org

With best wishes



John Searson
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