

## RE Newsletter January 2017



Welcome to 2017. In a 'post-truth' world it is not always clear which information sources can be trusted, but I can vouch for this newsletter as containing 0% 'fake-news'. It will give you up-to-date information on RE-related matters including a list of courses available this year.

A national commission has been set up to review the place of RE in the curriculum. Take part in the [survey](#) to have your say.

Please let me know if you would like information about faith and belief visits and visitors.

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### Newsletter contents

	page		page
Up-coming courses	1	Understanding Humanism	3
World Religion Day 2017	1	Understanding Christianity	3
HMD2017: How can life go on	2	Sikhism	3
Strictly RE NATRE conference	2	Teach:RE course	3
NATRE membership	2	Commission for RE: survey	3
Learn, Teach, Lead RE	2	The World's Largest Lesson	4
RE Quality Mark	2	Teaching British values	4
RE subject knowledge (REonline)	2	Funding for use of outdoor spaces	4
Guidance for assessment (REonline)	2	Send a cow to a family in Africa	4

### Up-coming RE courses

Course	Date	Venue	Time	Cost (no SLA/ SLA)
Understanding Christianity (cohort D)	Day 1: Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 Day 2: Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	The Old Deanery	09.30-15.30	£250 (cost includes both days + £50 resource pack)
Teaching Judaism and Islam in the primary school	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	The Old Deanery	09.30-15.30	£150/75
Preparation for RE Quality Mark	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2017	The Old Deanery	09.30-13.30	£80/40
Philosophy for Children (P4C)	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2017	The Old Deanery	09.30-15.30	£150/75

To get more information about these courses or to make a booking, please contact Fran Bradley at [educationevents@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:educationevents@exeter.anglican.org)

### World Religion Day 2017

The third Sunday in January is annually celebrated as World Religion Day. It was established by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States in 1950 as a way to encourage interfaith understanding. Take a look at the [True Tube](#) site to access details of an assembly (script and video material) that looks at The Golden Rule and how religions should be a unifying force, not a cause of division.

#### World Religion Day



## How Can Life Go On? Holocaust Memorial Day 2017

Wall of Life: share your image and be part of the story

[Reflections on loss and living is](#) a nation-wide project for Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, calling for your participation. Building on the theme for HMD 2017: How can life go on? this project explores living with absence and the roots of life through artistic responses sent in by schools and groups.



## Strictly RE 2017



NATRE's 2017 national conference, [Strictly RE](#), will be taking place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in central London. Come along to hear inspiring speakers, choose from a packed programme of seminars, browse the extensive exhibition of resources and support networks and chat with fellow RE practitioners.

## NATRE membership



[Join the National Association of Teachers of RE \(NATRE\)](#) and receive: RE resources, RE Today magazine, Curriculum books, reductions on courses and conferences, advice from RE Today advisers, access to NATRE local groups plus added benefits.

## Learn, Teach, Lead RE

Are you accessing support and training through *Learn, Teach, Lead RE* (LTLRE)? This project aims to build RE communities across Devon and Cornwall, with the aim of improving the quality of Religious Education in all schools. For information on your nearest local group, go to <http://ltlre.org/>. If you want to know more about local RE hubs, please contact [Ed Pawson](#).



## RE Quality Mark

[The RE Quality Mark](#) has been developed to celebrate high quality religious education. It provides all types of schools and academies with a framework to capture good practice and it encourages the development and celebration of school wide commitment to excellent teaching and learning in religious education. An REQM assessment of a school looks at five strands: Learners and Learning, Teachers and Teaching, Curriculum, Subject Leadership and CPD, awarding at three levels: bronze, silver and gold. Schools applying for the REQM highlight where they think they meet the criteria.



## RE subject knowledge: RE-online



**RE:ONLINE**  
THE PLACE FOR EXCELLENCE

The [Re-online website](#) provides a subject knowledge resource covering core areas relating to the ten belief traditions listed in the non-statutory National Framework for RE as well as Post 16 ethics, philosophy and religion. The belief traditions have been sorted by the Six strands for RE, with all sections being written by experts in each area.

## Guidance for assessment beyond levels from REonline

Based on a series of expert summits, hosted by Culham St Gabriel's, REonline has produced some helpful guidance on [assessment without levels](#). These outline the developing thinking around assessment in the new educational landscape and offer a possible framework that teachers can use when thinking about assessment and pupil progression in RE.



## Understanding Humanism



UNDERSTANDING HUMANISM  
Resources for Education

[Understanding Humanism](#) is a new web-based resource for teachers. On this site you can find materials arranged into a variety of themes, including

Celebrations and Ceremonies, Ethics, Knowledge and Belief, Life and Death, Meaning and Happiness. Each theme contains lesson plans, classroom activities, humanist perspectives, films and presentations.

## Understanding Christianity

[Understanding Christianity](#) is an exciting and powerful new RE resource for EYFS, KS1, 2

and 3. It has been developed by the Church of England and RE Today, with the aim of helping pupils to become knowledgeable about the Bible, Christian belief and practice. It works through well-planned, distinct steps, encouraging pupils to 'make connections' whilst 'making sense of the text'. Future SIAMS inspections are expected to demand a greater level of theological literacy and this is an excellent way for schools to meet this need.

Schools can only receive a copy of the pack if a member of staff attends 12-15 hours CPD in order to fully grasp its potential, so we are offering a 2 day training package for £250 (this price includes the extensive teachers' resource pack). See upcoming courses (above) for details of the forthcoming training.



## 350th birthday of Guru Gobind Singh

On 5 January 2017 many Sikhs from across the world will have been celebrating the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh. Check out this animated film from BBC Bitesize called ['Origins of Khalsa'](#) which comes with classroom ideas. It shows how Sikhism arose in the context of cruel persecution from the Mughal rulers of India, telling a story of sacrifice and brotherhood and of the emergence of the 'pure ones' (Khalsa). Guru Gobind Singh is shown, but not named and the Five Beloved Ones (panj piare) emerge from their test of faith as the first Sikhs. Their baptism (amrit ceremony) is shown, and that of a modern female disciple. The terms Kaur (princess) and Singh (lion) are introduced, and the unity of believers is stressed.



## Teach:RE course



TEACH:RE  
TO ENTHUSE. TO EDUCATE. TO INSPIRE.

The Culham St Gabriel's Teach RE course is a distance learning course designed to support teachers' subject knowledge. The course is appropriate for all teachers of RE or those planning to teach the subject. We currently

have teachers from primary, special and secondary schools taking the course as well as those who are entering Initial Teacher Training. The course costs £150. Every trainee has a tutor allocated to them, so 1:1 support is provided throughout the course. More information from [kathryn@cstg.org.uk](mailto:kathryn@cstg.org.uk) or [www.teachre.co.uk](http://www.teachre.co.uk)

## The Commission for RE: call for evidence



The Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) is an independent body that has been established to review the legal, educational and policy frameworks for RE and to make evidence-based recommendations for policy-makers and educationalists to consider. [Complete the survey to have your say.](#)

## The World's Largest Lesson: end poverty, create equality, sort climate change!

In September 2015 World Leaders committed to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. 17 goals to achieve 3 extraordinary things in the next 15 years: end extreme poverty; fight inequality and injustice; fix climate change. To realise these Goals everyone, however young they are, needs to get involved. Here is an opportunity to take part in the [World's Largest Lesson](#), teaching young people about the Goals and encouraging them to become the generation that changed the world.



### Teaching of British Values

Westminster Abbey Education Department has launched a new tour for KS2 and KS3 to support the [promotion of British Values](#) in primary and secondary schools.



### Funding for use of outdoor spaces



The Grounwork Trust is keen for schools to hear about how to apply for a grant from Tesco's 'Bags of help' fund. Grants of up to £5000 are available for schemes that promote community participation in the development and use of outdoor spaces. Schools could consider applying if they are planning to develop a spiritual garden or nature trail, or if they are thinking about setting up forest school

sessions. Funds are administered by the [Groundwork Trust](#). Contact [Ed Pawson](#) for more details about local schemes.

### Send a Cow to a family in Africa

Celebrate God's faithfulness with [Send a Cow](#)'s exciting new Harvest resources and give families in Africa the tools and training they need to grow a *Harvest for Life*. Every family each school supports with our *Gifts that Grow* will pass on the seeds, knowledge and training to at least another five families! Students can learn about how their fundraising will provide families in rural Africa with Gifts that Grow- the basic essentials that families need to manage their land, market their produce, share their knowledge with neighbours and start educating their children.

