

RE Newsletter Summer Term 2017



Welcome to the Summer Term RE newsletter for schools in the Exeter Diocese.

I trust this new term has started well, and not too frantic! There is lots of news here about current opportunities and resources for teaching better RE. In particular, there is a new (one day plus twilight) **Understanding Christianity** course being offered for primary and secondary teachers. If you have not yet done so, do take advantage of this chance to access what some would say is the best RE resource pack you will ever buy! See details below.

You will also find, below, a weblink to the Exeter Diocese website where you can access the new guidance on **Withdrawal from RE in Church schools**.

We have been working hard to develop new assessment tools for RE in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth schools. There will be detailed advice about this in the next newsletter.

In 2016, the Religious Education Council (REC) set up a **Commission on RE**, to make recommendations designed to improve the quality and rigour of RE. You may want to try to attend the next Evidence Gathering session in Exeter, to give your views on what RE should look like in the 21st Century! The date (sometime in June) is yet to be confirmed, but will be published on <http://www.commissiononre.org.uk/>

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Up-coming RE courses

Course	Date	Time	Cost (no SLA/ SLA)
Plymouth RE conference	Fri 12 th May 2017	Cophorne Hotel, Plymouth	
SIAMS SEF*	Tues 23 rd May 2017	09.30- 13.30	£80/40
Understanding Christianity (Primary)*	Wed 24 th May 2017 (plus twilight in Sept)	09.30- 15.30	£150
Understanding Christianity (Secondary)*	Fri 9 th June 2017 (plus twilight in Sept)	09.30- 15.30	£150
Effective RE*	Wed 14 th Jun 2017	09.30- 15.30	£150/75
SIAMS Introduction*	Tues 4 th July 2017	09.30- 15.30	£150/75

*All courses to be held at the Old Deanery, Exeter. To get more information or to make a booking, please contact Fran Bradley at educationevents@exeter.anglican.org

Learn, Teach, Lead RE conference

Booking is now open for this year's LTLRE conference: **speaking wisely about religion and belief**, to be held at St Mellion Golf Club from 6pm Thurs 19th to 4pm Fri 20th Oct 2017. Keynote speakers are Dave Wells (3D Catholicism) and Ian Jamison (speaking wisely and listening well), plus lots of stimulating workshops. Email educationevents@exeter.anglican.org to apply. For information on your nearest LTLRE local group, go to <http://ltlre.org/>.



Faith and Belief School Visitors directory

A new directory is now available to contact [faith and belief visitors](#) who can come to your school to talk about their beliefs and commitments. The list of visitors can be accessed through the resources page on [the Learn, Teach, Lead RE](#) (LTLRE) website.



Spirited Arts competition

Why not encourage your pupils to create some RE-linked artwork for the NATRE Art in Heaven competition this year? Take a look at some of the amazing artwork which has been submitted over recent years on the NATRE website. This year's themes (which can be found here) are: Big, big questions; Standing up for good; The Word of God?; Where is God?; Belief in Action. Closing date for entries is 31st July 2017.

My Hijab and Me

"I was the UK contestant in the most recent World Muslimah pageant in Indonesia because I wanted to show the world that Muslim women are fun, stylish and normal people." This website explores what the Hijab means to Muslim women across the world. It has been written for girls who wear the hijab and for those who know nothing about it, to show people what the hijab really is, and why Muslim women wear it.



TrueTube

[Truetube](#) is a useful site that provides Videos, Lesson Plans & Assemblies for RE, PSHE & Citizenship. Resources for events coming up soon: Good new material on: [Allah and creation](#) (KS1) and [The Anglican Church](#) (KS2)

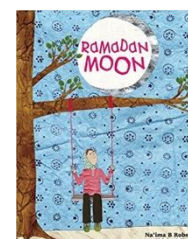
Responding to music

Corrine Guntrip, LTLRE hub leader from Torbay has suggested using both traditional and contemporary music to bring the Psalms to life. With her Year 4 class, she played them a traditional choral version of Psalm 46, and then a modern version called 'Guardian' by Ben Cantelon. The children responded to the music, they then compared the lyrics to draw out differences and similarities. Finally, they produced artwork based on the key messages. Useful resource: <http://worship-songs-resources.worshiptogether.com/>



Ramadan Moon

The Muslim festival of Ramadan will begin on, approximately, the 27th May 2017 depending on the sighting of the new moon! '[Ramadan Moon](#)' by Na'ima B Robert and Shirin Adl is a beautifully illustrated and written book from a child's point of view about the experience of the holy month. Suitable for both KS1 and KS2, the book draws out some of the central messages of Ramadan.



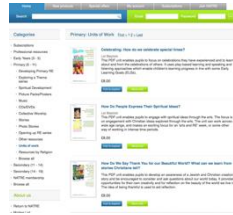
NATRE membership



[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.

Units of work from NATRE

If you are looking for units of work for RE, to buy, you can find a useful selection of well-crafted and thoughtfully structured lesson outlines on the [NATRE website shop](#). These cover topics like: Celebrating: how do we celebrate special times; How do people express their spiritual ideas?; How do we say thank-you for our beautiful world?



Advice to schools on the Right to Withdraw from RE

The Diocese of Exeter has published new advice for Church schools on the right to withdraw pupils from RE and Collective worship. You can access this document on the [Diocesan website](#).

Children's books about life in Africa today

If you are looking for some new children's books about children living in Africa today, here is a charming selection: The boy who harnessed the wind, by William Kamkwamba; Monkey madness, by Anna Wilson; Goggle-eyed goats, by Stephen Davies; One plastic bag, by Miranda Paul, No1 car spotter, by Atinuke

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.



Teach:RE course

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



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

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 or www.teachre.co.uk

Religious festivals

10th May: **Vesak or Buddha Day**, celebrating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha (Buddhism)

25th May: **Ascension Day**, celebrated on the 40th day after Easter, when Jesus is said to have ascended into heaven (Christianity)

27th May-25th June: **Ramadan** is a month of spiritual renewal, when Muslims fast during daylight hours (Islam)

30th May-1st June: **Shavuot** is a harvest festival, when Jews give thanks for the first fruits of the year. It also marks the time that Moses received the Torah on Mt Sinai (Judaism)

4th June: **Pentecost** is celebrated by Christians to mark the day when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus's apostles (Christianity)

16th June: **Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev**, the fifth of the ten Sikh Gurus (Sikhism)

11th June: **Trinity Sunday** celebrates the Christian belief in God as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Christianity)

21st June: **Summer Solstice** when pagans celebrate Midsummer (or Litha, which means 'standing still of the sun') Paganism

25th June: **Ratha Yatra** is a festival where statues of Hindu gods are pulled by chariots through the streets (Hinduism)

25th June: **Eid-ul-Fitr** is the festival of fast-breaking, where Muslims mark the end of Ramadan (Islam)

9th July: **Dharma Day** is when Buddhists celebrate the teachings of the Buddha (Buddhism)

10th July: Martyrdom of the Bab, when Baha'is remember the execution of the Bab in 1850 (Baha'i)

Find more details at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/zpkc4wx>

Upcoming Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) Hub meetings

Torbay hub: 9th May, 4th July

East Devon hub: 15th May, 15th June

Exeter hub: 11th May

North Devon hub: 22nd June

See the [Learn, Teach, Lead RE website](#) for further details

The Kingdom of heaven: a metaphor for spiritual awareness

The Kingdom of heaven is within you!

The phrase 'the Kingdom of Heaven' (or the parallel, 'Kingdom of God') appears almost 100 times throughout the New Testament. It seems to be an idea that authentically originated from the mouth of Jesus and it is central to his ministry. In the Lord's Prayer believers say: 'your Kingdom come'. **But what did Jesus mean by the 'Kingdom of heaven'?**

'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matt 10:7) (NKJ)

'The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast' (Matt 13:33) (NIV)

'The Kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:21) (KJV)

This phrase has been debated long and hard over many centuries. Some evangelical believers might say that the Kingdom of heaven must refer to a place you go when you die. However, this doesn't seem to make sense of the idea, central to Jesus's teaching, that it is here **NOW!** It's within you, between us, part of our communities. It is not future tense but present experience. You don't have to die to access it; you need to wake up to realise it.

Jim Marion, who writes about Christian spirituality, says the Kingdom of heaven is really a metaphor for a state of consciousness, or a form of spiritual awareness. It's not a place that you go, but a place you come from. It's a whole new way of looking at the world, where there is no separation between God and humans,

or between humans and other beings. When we start to 'love God' and 'love our neighbours as ourselves' the world seems to turn into a different place: a place of promise and hope, rather than of doom and despair. <https://cac.org/the-kingdom-of-heaven-2017-04-11/>