

# Diocesan Leaders Conference: Flourishing for all

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at St Mellion Resort



## Speakers

### **Andy Wolfe - Deputy Chief Education Officer (Leadership Development) for the Church of England**

Andy Wolfe is the Deputy Chief Education Officer (Leadership Development) for the Church of England, and having been a secondary senior leader in Nottingham for many years, joined the national education team in 2016. Andy was part of the group that wrote the Church of England Vision for Education, *Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good*, and now oversees the Programmes, Networks and Research of the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.



In his keynote session, Andy will be looking at 'Sustaining Vision' – a key element of all of our leadership journeys, brought into focus by the new Ofsted framework and SIAMS schedules, both looking at the impact of our vision on practice. While it is important to create and communicate vision, it is far more challenging to sustain this over a longer period of time, across our whole teams. Andy will provide rich insight as a leading educational thinker and deep inspiration from a Christian theological point of view to help us consider how we build teams and sustain our vision, both for the long term, and through major challenges that we face.

Andy will also be running a practical workshop for leaders, looking at the Foundation's new 'Leadership Practices Matrix', which provides a rich framework for leaders to think about building teams, leadership behaviours, motivations and values, and also a dynamic 360 appraisal tool that helps leaders open up questions of vision, values, attitudes and relationships alongside performance measures. Andy has written many of the Foundation's well-used materials, and this practical session will be a great way for leaders to go deeper into these excellent resources together.

### **Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope - Professor of Education at Plymouth Marjon University**

Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope is Professor of Education at Plymouth Marjon University and leads Marjon University Cornwall, a centre for Continuing Professional Development and Learning for educators. Tanya has been a teacher, teacher educator and senior leader in education, as well as an active educational researcher for thirty years. Tanya has published many books, journal papers and reports, her latest work with Dr Rowena Passy is *Exploring Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Regional Disparities and Key Challenges* (Routledge, 2020). She has also developed educational interventions, such as the Education Endowment Foundation funded RETAIN: Early Career Teacher Retention Programme and is currently working in partnership with CUREE for the Ipswich Opportunity Area developing and delivering high quality mentoring and coaching CPDL in schools.



In her keynote session, Tanya will be exploring the issue of early career teacher retention, which is a challenge nationally, but has been particularly challenging for schools in the region with high levels of persistently disadvantaged pupils. The new Department for Education [Early Career Framework](#) will be implemented in England in September 2021 and will focus the professional development and support of early career teachers through a specific curriculum of CPD and enhanced mentoring and coaching. Tanya will share research informed and evidence-based insights on the 'Three C's' that have been seen to improve early career teacher retention in schools with high levels of disadvantaged pupils – Coaching, Classroom and Collaboration.

Tanya will also be running a practical workshop with **Dr Rowena Passy (Senior Research Fellow, University of Plymouth)** that will develop an understanding of 'educational isolation' and what this means for school leaders in limiting access to educational resources, such as a high-quality workforce, externally funded grants and CPD. Tanya and Rowena have spent ten years researching and working with schools to develop the concept of 'educational isolation', which is recognised as impacting more greatly on coastal and rural schools and is more complex than geographical remoteness, but include socioeconomic disadvantage and cultural isolation.

#### **Dr Lee Elliot Major - Professor of Social Mobility at University of Exeter**

Professor Lee Elliot Major is a leading expert on how to tackle Britain's low social mobility. He was formerly Chief Executive of the Sutton Trust and was a founding trustee of the Education Endowment Foundation, which has carried out hundreds of major research trials in England's schools. Now at the University of Exeter he has served on several Government advisory bodies and presented several times to the House of Commons Education Select Committee.



Lee focuses on understanding the main drivers of social mobility in society and developing evidence-informed ways of improving the prospects of disadvantaged young people. He argues that improving social mobility means much more than catapulting a few talented individuals to the top of society – it is about ensuring that we are all free to make informed life choices, whatever those choices may be, irrespective of who we are born to or where we are born.

He is interested in how we improve opportunities for those who stay in local communities, and for young people who leave education without the basic skills to get on in life - as well as ensuring universities are accessible to students from all backgrounds. He has given talks about the issue of social mobility around the world.

Lee has championed the use of evidence to empower education professionals, enabling teachers to improve classroom teaching and university practitioners and employers to widen access into their institutions. His Penguin book *Social Mobility and Its Enemies*, co-authored with Stephen Machin, has attracted attention across the world. His Bloomsbury book 'What Works?', co-authored with Steve Higgins, summarises hundreds of meta-analyses in education and offers best bets to teachers for improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

## **Katie Harrison – Teacher, RE Specialist and founder of Picture News**

Katie worked as an RE specialist, classroom teacher and senior leader prior to her work as an education consultant, a role that involved training and supporting other practitioners. During this period, Katie completed a Master's degree in Education. As a consultant, Katie spent time with teachers from a wide variety of schools she realised many were spending a lot of time producing current resources to support and engage children with global issues and current affairs. Following this observation, Picture News was launched. Katie wanted to produce a ready to use, resource to inspire and engage children for teachers to access each week.



Picture News' key aim is to produce resources to help teachers to inspire and challenge children, the emphasis is placed as much learning from the news and the wider world as it is about it, believing that the wider world provides an excellent context for values based learning.

At Picture News, Katie's roles now include selecting and co-writing the weekly resources, planning and launching marketing campaigns and visiting schools for meetings, presentations and training.

## **Danni Cooke - Ilsham English Hub Lead**

### **Evie Semmens - Head of Academy, Ellacombe C of E Academy**

Danni Cooke is the Hub lead for Ilsham English Hub, one of the 34 designated National English Hubs by the DfE. Evie Semmens is the Head at Ellacombe Church of England Academy in Torquay, a Specialist Leader of Education and the Pupil Premium Champion for The Learning Academy Partnership.



Danni's work, through the English Hub programme, focuses on:

- Age appropriate phonics provision to ensure all children make speedy progress in phonics and reading
- A love of reading - to promote and develop a love of reading and reading for pleasure for all children
- Early language development to develop children's understanding and use of spoken language.

Evie is recognised as an 'exceptionally skilled Head' who has 'created a vibrant, dynamic Christian learning community which lives out its vision enabling every member to flourish.' (SIAMs July 2019). Her research into the impact of deprivation has led the Academy to develop a curriculum around language and oracy, with a key lens on the development of reading and writing.

**Workshop** – This session will explore how language is at the heart of education. Through exploring research on the vocabulary gap, the session will provide insight on how to help build this essential foundation of talk and language. This session will share ways to ensure that all children, particularly the lowest attaining 20%, achieve and succeed and how this interlinks into their reading journey and phonic outcomes.

Evie will share how national and international research on the impact of deprivation has been integral to developing the compelling vision at Ellacombe and how this vision interweaves with Evie's strategic leadership to ensure barriers with language and oracy are broken down, enabling pupils to develop the skills to flourish in life.

**Chris Whittington – Retreat leader, teacher of meditation in the Christian tradition, Partner and Head of Education Law at Anthony Collins Solicitors**

Chris Whittington was introduced to meditation in the Christian tradition at 19 when living at the Benedictine monastery of Prinknash Abbey in the Cotswolds and also spent a period studying at the Dalai Lama’s monastery in India. Chris has been COO of WCCM (the World Community for Christian Meditation) and regularly gives talks and leads retreats across the UK. Chris is also a Partner and Head of Education Law at the social purpose law firm Anthony Collins Solicitors.



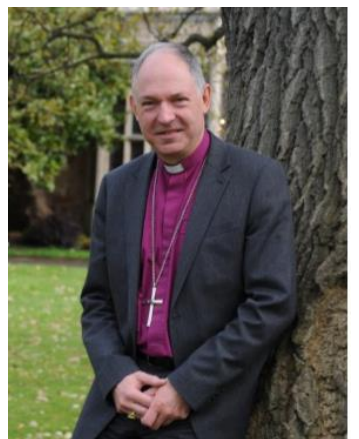
In this practical session, Chris will be introducing the simple, radical practice he has spent many years introducing to individuals as a way of enhancing wellbeing, building resilience and cultivating a new relationship with life and God, and into leadership teams and organisations as a way of developing greater synergy, alignment and stability.

Chris’ has introduced contemplative practice into a wide variety of settings, including schools and academies, theological college, firms of lawyers, accountants and a top secret United States Air Force base (where he never discovered what people did, but helped them work through the stress and trauma they suffered).

“Meditation is not the preserve of specialists. I know children of five, teachers, leaders of international businesses and Members of the House of Lords who use the same simple practice. The wisdom and healing processes of meditation are available to everyone because the fundamental workings of the human mind are the same for all of us. It’s profoundly egalitarian, builds community, and can be deeply transformative for individuals and organisations.”

**The Bishop of Exeter, the Right Reverend Robert Atwell**

The Right Revd Robert Atwell was installed as the 71st Bishop of Exeter on 5 July 2014. Bishop Robert was previously Bishop of Stockport, in the Diocese of Chester. He was born and brought up in Ilford, Essex. He read theology at St John’s College, Durham, and trained for the ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge. During training he was sent to study at the Venerable English College and Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. After a curacy in north London he was appointed Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge where he taught patristics. From there he took the unusual step of becoming a Benedictine monk at Burford Priory in the Cotswolds. His ten years in monastic life gave him an abiding love of contemplative prayer. These days he maintains his Benedictine vocation as an oblate of the Abbey of Le Bec in Normandy where he makes an annual retreat. He was Vicar of St Mary’s, Primrose Hill, in the Diocese of London for nine years before being consecrated Bishop of Stockport in 2008.



Bishop Robert chairs both the Church of England’s Liturgical Commission, a position he took up in January 2015, and from January 2020 the Church of England’s Rural Affairs Group. His interests include gardening, film, theatre and walking.



### **John Searson – Diocesan Direction of Education**

John has worked in education for over 30 years. He has taught in First, Primary, Junior and Middle schools. His school based leadership experience includes head of site in a federated Church of England (CE) Aided village primary, deputy headship in a CE Aided Primary school and Headship in a County Primary. He joined Torbay Council as Primary Adviser in 1998. In 2004 he joined Plymouth City Council and over time became Head of Education and Learning responsible for school and setting improvement. His remit covered all Early Years settings and maintained Primary, Special and Secondary Schools as well as a number of school facing services including school improvement, Governor Services, the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team, Plymouth Advisory Learner Support service and the Plymouth Youth Music Service. In 2016 he took up the post of Director of Education for the Diocese of Exeter. John is currently a governor at Plymouth Marjon University and at the Exeter Cathedral School and also a trustee of St Luke's Foundation, St Wilfrid's and the Episcopal Trust.



### **Sue Lockwood – Diocesan Deputy Direction of Education**

Sue joined the diocesan team in April 2018 having previously worked as a teacher and a Headteacher in both church and community schools for over 20 years. During this time she was involved in local, national and international projects with a number of different partners including the British Council, the Rwandan Education Board, Edge Hill and Oxford Universities. Sue now works with schools from across the diocese, focusing particularly on school improvement and partnership working. Sue is currently undertaking the Diocesan Education Leaders Programme alongside colleagues from across the country.



### **Christina Mabin – Diocesan Education Adviser**

Christina is an Education Adviser for the Diocese of Exeter with responsibility for governance, schools admissions and school organisation which includes federations and academy conversions. Christina is a member of South West Co-ordinators of Governance (SWCOGS), South West Admissions and Appeals Group (SWAAG), National Diocesan Governance Group, National Diocesan Admissions Group and Devon Association of Governance. Christina represents the Exeter Diocese on Devon County Council Children's Scrutiny Committee. Christina is a director of a free school.



### **Ed Pawson – Diocesan Education Adviser**

Ed Pawson is an Educational Adviser for the Diocese of Exeter and is a practising SIAMS inspector. He is also the adviser to Devon and Torbay SACREs. He spent 23 years as a secondary RE teacher, 16 of these years as subject leader in a highly successful RE department. He is a member of the Board of the Religious Education Council (REC), the Programme Director for Learn, Teach, Lead RE (West of England) and the former Chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE).



### **Tatiana Wilson – Diocesan Education Adviser**

Tatiana is an Education Adviser for the Diocese of Exeter and the Chair of the Steering Group for Learn Teach Lead RE in this region. She was part of the team who drafted the Church of England's Vision for Education. Her work focusses on 'Projects and Vulnerable Pupils'. Most recently she has worked with partners on developing national guidance for schools - Mental Health and Wellbeing: Towards a Whole School Approach which can be found on the Church of England's website. Other partnership projects include a focus on ending exclusion in Devon and reducing holiday hunger. In addition to her education role she is in the process of training towards ordination within the Church of England.



### **Reverend Nathan Kiyaga - Chaplain at St Cuthbert Mayne School**

Reverend Nathan was born in the Pearl of Africa and is from a family of 4 who all are passionate about God and Education in different ways. He currently lives in Torbay with his family serving the people of Devon with Joy. He was ordained deacon in Kenya and made priest in Torbay. He has served on three continents and currently serves as the School Chaplain at St Cuthbert Mayne School, a Joint Roman Catholic and Anglican Secondary School in Torbay. He also represents the Faith Community in Torbay on the Torbay Strategic partnership group.



Reverend Nathan understands working with children, young people and families, including those who are disadvantaged. He has rich experience in service from the streets of Oxford through St Andrews to the beaches in Wales Pembrokeshire. He has served in Gloucester a place where he earned himself two degrees with one in Theology and the other in Justice, Advocacy and Reconciliation. He is growing to love Devon having served at Lee Abbey in the North, Brunel Manor in the South, Upton Parish, and Plymouth Marjon University.

Reverend Nathan leads a vibrant Chaplaincy Team that is available to over 900 students and over 100 staff members and reaches out to 13 Primary Schools within Torbay, South Hams and Newton Abbot. He enjoys reading a good book, music and sports.

Reverend Nathan will be here for you, to listen and walk alongside you throughout this conference.