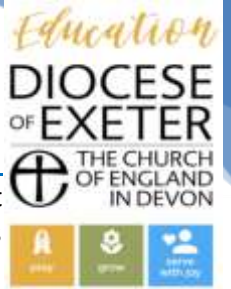


EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM AT THE DIOCESE OF EXETER

'To support, champion and challenge school communities to flourish together as an expression of God's love.'



Dear Colleagues,

As ever, thank you all for your sterling work in providing so well for our school communities during this difficult period. Having spoken with many of you following the Government's announcement for a return in the week of the 8th March, I know that the overwhelming mood is positive about being able to welcome back the majority of our young people. There will of course be pressures and anxiety and whilst I don't wish to dismiss these, I do wish to recognise your tremendous endeavours (often with personal sacrifice) to do what is right for your children and young people – THANK YOU. Please remember we are here for you too.

We know that the pace at which many of us have been working is significant and unsustainable. Please take note of the words below shared by Andrew Beane, the Archdeacon of Exeter, and apply this to yourselves as we move forward into a new period.

A vicar stood before his congregation, picked up a large empty jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks. He asked the congregation if the jar was full. They confirmed that it was.



The vicar then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the

Online Children's Mental Health Training (free): Place2be are offering a five week [free mental health training](#) that aims to foster positive wellbeing in schools and communities. 92% attending feel it has increased their capacity to lead a positive approach to mental health and wellbeing. The course is free to qualified teachers and school-based staff in the UK.



St Boniface Awards 2021 - A Chance to Honour Unsung Heroes: The Bishop of Exeter has launched this year's St Boniface Awards to honour people who have made a substantial contribution to the life of their church, their community or church school. Please consider nominating any 'unsung heroes' you know by the 6th April 2021. It could be for children and families outreach work, social action, online worship, being a school governor – anything you think is making a difference where they are. There is no upper or lower age limit. To find out more and make a nomination, please read [here](#).

Recorded Holy Week & Easter Story: A delightful sharing of the Easter Narrative (from Palm Sunday to Easter Day), produced by Simon Shutt of FACT - Faith Awareness in Children Trust. We have permission for you to use it for free. Simon would appreciate your feedback (or donations to the work of [FACT](#)). Access it through YouTube by clicking [here](#).



National Youth Agency (NYA) Webinars: There are a wide range of recorded webinars on a variety of topics freely available from the NYA. The library of resource is added to on a weekly basis and can be accessed by [following this link](#). Topics include 'Young People & the Environment', 'Grief & Loss' and 'Exploitation & Relationships'.

Discover Your Calling Webinar, for 14 -18 year olds on 21st March, 7pm: Have you young people who are not sure what to do next; are wondering what to do with their life; are wondering if Covid has affected their future? Perhaps they just want to know how they can live out their faith through their career. If so, please highlight this free webinar with Christian leaders from over ten different spheres of society. Optional 'Spheres' are: Business, Family, Media & Creatives, Christian Ministry, Medicine, Education, Trades & Farming, Forces & Police, Politics & Law and Justice & Charity. [Book your free tickets](#).



Fairtrade Fortnight: We are now half way through Fairtrade fortnight. Visit the [Fairtrade Schools website](#) for resources or for information about school awards to recognise the work you are doing. Do you know if your local church is a Fairtrade Church? Have you considered joining up with your local church to work towards Fairtrade status together? Find out more about [Fairtrade churches](#) here.



open areas between the rocks. He asked the congregation again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

Next the vicar picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now," said the vicar, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things - your faith, your hopes, your dreams, your family, health, education, and the things that bring joy - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life.

If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter."

As we journey through Lent it is a time to reconsider our own 'jar', and how we 'fill' it. There will always be more we can do, always more that we believe is expected, and never an end to the list of jobs. We must learn to accept this and work to ensure that we have balance in our lives so that our families, friends and loved ones are given the importance and time they deserve.

Best wishes,

Sue Lockwood

Acting Diocesan Director of Education



"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)

The School of Contemplative Life: Many of you will remember Chris Whittington and the sessions he led for us on meditating in the Christian tradition. Chris now brings this aspect of his work Together in a new [website](#) where you can access resources, blogs, podcasts and some simple practice guides.



Lifesavers – Milo's Money free pilot: 'Milo's Money' is a basic introduction to simple concepts around money and coins aimed at children aged 4 to 7. It follows the story of a child dinosaur who learns what money is and seeks advice from friends and family about spending, saving, giving, sharing, and investing. Schools to be involved in a pilot will receive free resources and can register [here](#).

SAM Learning – online catch-up / summer school support with instant gap analysis: With content for primary and secondary students, SAM Learning is an evidenced based approach for supporting students through targeted support to fill gaps and accelerate progress. SAM Learning is recognised by FFT / EEF as having proven impact, is a Bett Awards 2021 finalist and received a Teach Secondary Award 2020. SAM Learning contains thousands of activities, covering a wide range of subjects from KS1 – KS5 which allow teachers to easily identify learning gaps with the automated Question Level Analysis. To find out more join a session hosted by the diocese on Thursday 18th March, 16:00 – 17:00. Please book online [here](#).



Collective Worship Resources: Some helpful Collective Worship video resources (Primary / Secondary) are available from the Church of England and can be accessed [here](#). They cover subjects such as hope, racial injustice and fear, and continue to be added to. Find also resources for Lent and Easter here for [primary](#) and here for [secondary](#) schools.

Our **Programme of Networks and Training opportunities** is published on our [website](#) for the remainder of spring term and for the summer term. **Please book on-line [here](#).** If you require more information, please email educationevents@exeter.anglican.org.

March Networks / Forums

- Secondary School Leadership Forum: Tuesday 2nd March, 10:00 - 11:00
- Your own wellbeing and spiritual refreshment: Fridays (term-time), 13:30 – 14:00
- Covid support group (for school leaders) session: Tuesday 9th March and 23rd March, 13:10 - 14:30
- Leadership Forum for school staff: 16th March, 10:00 – 11:00
- Diocesan Governance Forum: Tuesday 23rd March, 16:00 – 17:00

March Training

- Governor / Director Induction (2 part course): Tuesday 2nd & 9th March, 17:00 – 18:30
- Introduction to SIAMS (£50 per school): Wednesday 3rd March, 09:00 – 13:00
- RE subject leaders (£30 per delegate): Tuesday 16th March, 13:00 – 15:30
- Equality and Unconscious Bias- How to decolonise your curriculum (£30 per sch): Weds 24th March, 16:00 – 17:00
- Ethos Enhancing Outcomes for Governors: Tuesday 30th March, 10:00 – 12:00

