

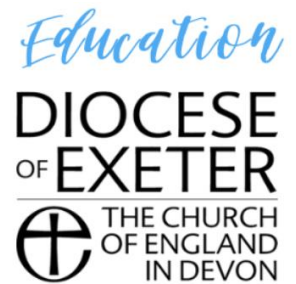
CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM

AT THE DIOCESE OF EXETER

To enable all, through the love of God in Jesus Christ, to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10b)

Nurture vision-inspired education; **Nourish** personal and spiritual growth; **Enable** connected communities that flourish



13th December 2023

Dear Chaplaincy Colleagues,

Many thanks for all you have given to your education settings this term. Whether you are working in schools, colleges or universities, your support, dedication and service towards our children, young people, families and staff is much appreciated. Thank you.

Whilst giving so much to others, have you made time to consider what brings you joy? In amongst the busyness and pressures of school life it is important to stop and take stock of the things that sustain us, give us purpose, and bring us joy. It can be only too easy to get swept along with massive workloads or be overwhelmed by world events.

I am at my happiest when immersed in nature – in God's creation. I said this to a friend last week and she pointed out that the area we were in (the Lower Otter Valley) had only just been created through man's intervention! It's true that the area has been sculpted and returned to what it may have been like 200 years ago before we 'reclaimed' it for farming and leisure! Nevertheless, it is a wonderful environment and the nature that is moving in is stunning. There is already a wide variety of bird life, some rare and some less so.

It is the geese which fascinate me most. I love seeing their 'v' formation as they fly – their collaboration making it easier to 'go the distance' as their formation creates lift for the birds behind, reduces the resistance of flying solo, and helps them reach their destination faster. They appear to have a real sense of community and responsibility - when the front bird tires, another moves forward to take the lead. When one comes down, others inevitably follow - geese appear to take great care of each other. I personally love the sound of geese as they 'honk' in flight, imagining them communicating well and encouraging and spurring each other on in love.

For me, the life of geese encapsulates a sense of connection, belonging and community, something we all desire. It can bring us deep rooted satisfaction, happiness, and enable us to experience the joy of being known and loved.

Christmas is a time of celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the moment of God's incarnation as he took the flesh and lived amongst us. Jesus was sent so that people might have life in relationship with God. We are known and loved by God.

This Christmas time I hope you will find time and space for you and your family, and feel a sense of connection and belonging: may your load be lightened, may you find encouragement and companionship, may you experience and spread joy, and may you know love in abundance.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas.

Sue Lockwood, Diocesan Director of Education





Newsletters: We encourage you to sign up to [Flourish](#), the Education Team's newsletter, and to [Roots and Shoots](#), the Diocesan newsletter. As a team we really value educational chaplaincy and believe by including reference to chaplaincy related events and information in our regular mailings we will raise the profile of this important aspect of mission across our schools and education settings. For the time being, we will not be writing a separate chaplaincy newsletter. We do however value our relationship and will keep in contact. We encourage you to reach out to our team for support and encouragement, and to join us at our training, networks and events.

Training Opportunities: As an Education Chaplain you can access training through both the [Education Team](#) and [Mission and Ministry Team](#).

The Education Team is holding a **School Leaders Gathering - *Flourishing*** - on the 20th to 21st March 2024 which we hope will be of interest to you. We have a range of high-quality speakers to inspire us all in our important work as together we seek to live out our schools' Christian visions and to serve our communities well. These include David Wells and the Reverend Mike Haslam. We invite you to register for one of two options. The first is to attend as a day delegate and the second to attend as a residential delegate. For both options the aim is to provide the opportunity for fellowship across our diocesan family, for personal and spiritual nourishment, and for shared learning as we enable all, through the love of God in Jesus Christ, to live life in all its fullness. We do hope you will consider joining us for this gathering and encourage other leaders from your networks to do so too. [Click here to see the full programme and booking details](#).

I am sure you are aware of **TLG Trauma Informed Training for Chaplains**. TGL are using their significant expertise in this area to support chaplains in education settings. More information and the opportunity to register can be found [here](#).

Faith in a Conflicted World: In a divided and fractured world, it can be hard to know where to begin with the issues that surround us. Difference is a five-session course - available for free - that equips you to see transformation through everyday encounters. Find out more [here](#).

Flourishing

School Leader's Gathering

20-21 March 2024
St Mellion Estate, Saltash,
Plymouth, PL20 6SD



Programme

20-21 MARCH • ST MELLION ESTATE, SALTASH, PLYMOUTH

20 March

- 3:00pm: Arrival from 3pm with check-in, refreshments and networking
- 5:00pm: Spiritual refreshment and reflection, supported by the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend James Grier
- 7:00pm: Evening meal
- 9:00pm: Compline (Evening Prayers)

21 March

- 8:50am: Registration and refreshments
- 9:20am: Welcome and opening worship - Sue Lockwood and the Bishop James
- 9:45am: *Called to Authentic Leadership* - David Wells
- 11:00am: Coffee Break
- 11:20am: *What does it mean to belong?* - The Reverend Mike Haslam
- 12:15pm: Comfort Break
- 12:20pm: *The Good Childhood Report and how can schools make a difference so all can flourish?* - The Children's Society, Jess Meale
- 1:15pm: Lunch
- 2:00pm: *Embracing Equity in Education* - Professor Lee Elliot Major
- 3:15pm: Closing reflection and prayers
- 3:20pm: End of conference

Bridge Books will be at the conference with books, music, pictures and resources which will be available to purchase. The Children's Society will have a stall with resources available.



Chaplaincy Chat and Prayers: Chaplaincy Chat and Prayers is an open space where anyone is welcome, and where we can simply catch up, chat and pray. It does what it says on the tin!

Tuesday 9 January, 15.30 -16.30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398645617?pwd=YUJDNIFJTWZSUlAzL095SUorNEtmQT09>

Monday 11 March, 15.30 -16.30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292642878?pwd=OXpjRHhGK3FBbHM5bDVTs01RNXZhUT09>

Wednesday 22 May, 15.30-16.30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87856458549?pwd=NCtCcUVDWVZtZjVjVjZpUmgyMw05UT09>

Tuesday 30 July, 15.30-16.30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83536231037?pwd=K0hVd1FTNTJrc25aMWFhZWVdDamdVUT09>

Prayer Angel at the Come and Pray Day at Exeter Cathedral

Our thanks go to the pupils at Trinity CofE Primary School for sharing their prayers for the Come and Pray event earlier this month. Prayers were used to create the wings of the angel (pictured). You can find out more about the event [here](#).



Pause for thought – can you help? The Education Team are hoping to create a webpage for staff and governors to access with a collection of short reflections they can draw on for themselves privately or to be used in their teams. We are looking for a range of content to support the different situations people find themselves in. If you feel you could offer something, please contact Grace grace.stanhope@exeter.anglican.org.

Considerations for Schools in Supporting Pupils and Staff at times of International Conflict

Church of England Schools

October 2023



Supporting Pupils and Staff at times of International Conflict

Supporting pupils and staff through devastating international news regarding current events can be a challenging and sensitive task. As part of the Church of England's core principles that underpin our commitment to education, find [here](#) some considerations to help you provide support in your schools.

Holocaust Memorial Day - Friday 26th January 2024: The theme for HMD 2024 is the 'Fragility of Freedom'. Resources can be found [here](#). The programme for Exeter's events for schools and the general public can be found [here](#).



Save the dates:

- The National Education Chaplaincy Conference is on the 20th June 2024 in London
- A Chaplaincy Gathering - Faith in the public square in New Testament times - with Paula Gooder is on the 17th September 2024 in Taunton.



Education Adviser for School Effectiveness - Christian

Distinctiveness: Are you committed to church school education? Would you like the opportunity to work widely with schools and school groupings as together we seek to nurture vision-inspired education; nourish personal and spiritual growth; and enable connected communities that flourish? We are looking for a motivated and positive individual to contribute to the Education Team's work in all matters relating to the provision of education that is

consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England in church schools/academies, both generally and in relation to religious education and daily acts of worship, and to contribute to the effectiveness of diocesan services and operations. For an informal conversation about this role please contact Sue Lockwood (Diocesan Director of Education) at sue.lockwood@exeter.anglican.org or Jo Hunter, the Senior Education Adviser for School Effectiveness: Church Schools Flourishing at jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org.

The role is 29 hours per week - Part-time (0.8 FTE). The closing date for applications is Wednesday 10 January 2024, midnight. For more information and details on how to apply, please visit [Pathways](#).

The Exeter Diocese Education Team Contact Details



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From left to right.

Pictures produced by The Beacon CofE Primary School

