

# Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter



June 2025



For RE support, please contact Ed Pawson at [efpawson@gmail.com](mailto:efpawson@gmail.com).  
Church schools contact: Jo Hunter  
[jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org)

## Pilgrimage re-discovered

Over recent years there has been a renewal of interest in pilgrimage. In medieval Europe pilgrim journeys were seen as deeply significant practices, driven by faith and the desire for spiritual benefit. However, many modern-day pilgrims are non-religious, where individuals may be seeking personal solace or searching for a deeper understanding and connection with the world around.

Today we expect to witness large numbers of pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago (in Spain) or taking part in the Hajj (in Mecca), but the mass popularity of these pilgrimages is a relatively recent phenomena.

In 1984 fewer than 500 pilgrims were registered as completing the the Camino to Santiago de Compostela. By 2019 this number had grown to a third of a million.

Similarly, in the 1950s about 100,000 people are reported to have completed the Hajj. It is estimated that up to 2 million will arrive in Mecca for the [Hajj in 2025](#) (4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June).

A key element of the Hajj includes the festival of [Eid-ul-Adha](#) being celebrated this year on Friday 6 June.

## BBC Pilgrimage

One way in which pilgrimage has captured the public imagination in the UK is through the [BBC's Pilgrimage series](#). The latest set of programmes sees celebrities with diverse religious and non-religious backgrounds walking through the Austrian and Swiss Alps. **The films capture some moving conversations about personal faith and beliefs, which are very useable in the classroom to illustrate 'lived worldviews'.**

There has also been a significant increase of interest in [local pilgrimages](#) across the country.

## Primary RE survey

**Primary teachers:** please complete this [short survey](#) to tell us about RE in your school.

## Learn Teach Lead RE



LTLRE hub (twilight) meetings are free and open to all teachers of RE, primary and secondary. See [LTLRE website](#) for full details.

**Cornwall hub:** Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Jun (online)

**North Devon hub:** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Jun (in person)

**SWIFT professional community:** Wed 9<sup>th</sup> July (online)

**South Devon and Torbay hub:** Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July (online)

**Exeter hub:** Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July (in person)

## LTLRE conference 2025

**Embracing Diversity and Inclusion through a Religion and Worldviews approach to RE**

**Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam: Understanding the Rich Diversity of the Global Christian Community**

A wide array of workshops and including a special feature on diverse experiences of Pilgrimage St Mellion, nr Plymouth

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Oct

Cost: £80

Book [here](#). See flyer on P3

## RE advisers' conference 2025

Teachers are invited to attend the **AREIAC (RE advisers)** and **AULRE (RE lecturers)** conference at Exeter University on 26/27 June. Booking information [here](#).

All teachers are welcome to attend the **free** Robin Shepherd lecture on Thursday 26 Jun (5-7pm), given by [Anna Strhan](#) (for full details, see P7).

## RE Hubs

Visit the [RE Hubs](#) website for all your RE needs: accredited [School Speakers](#), [Places of Worship](#), [Advertise RE Jobs](#), [Resources](#), [Calendar of CPD Events](#), [Local Groups](#).

Access [local Religion and Worldviews visitors](#) for RE

## Primary RE Curriculum

Take a look behind the pay-wall login of the RE Today [Primary RE Curriculum](#) – a resource trusted by over a thousand teachers to save hours of planning time. Join us for a FREE webinar 4–5pm on Monday 10th June and hear directly from curriculum experts and classroom teachers who use it every day.

## Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam

This is an extensive [new RE Today resource](#) exploring lived Islam, using the voices of contemporary Muslims to open up what it means to be Muslim today. The religion and worldviews approach applies different disciplinary tools, drawing on authentic sources from Islamic traditions.

## Mini-Guides to Religions and Worldviews

These [mini-guides from RE Today](#) give teachers of RE much needed subject knowledge to teach RE well.

## New book for teaching Primary RE

This new book, [Teaching Primary RE](#), offers a really helpful approach to planning and delivering effective primary lessons in a fun and refreshing way, with engaging lesson plan ideas in each chapter.

## Bible Chat Mats

Bible [Chat Mats](#) are a useful aid to explore a range of New Testament stories.

## The Bible in a Nutshell

The Bible in a Nutshell - High Bickington, North Devon EX37 9PN on Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July. This **free** [course](#) will take you from Genesis through the Old Testament. **See page 4 for full details.**

## Headscarf ban in France sidelining Muslim athletes

A new [law banning headscarves](#) in France could keep female athletes on the sidelines. Thousands of young Muslim women are being prevented from taking part in competitive sport because of rules in several disciplines that ban clothing carrying a religious or political significance. Critics say they disproportionately target hijab-wearing Muslim athletes.

## Secondary RE CPD

**RE Today:** Lat Blaylock is leading a [training day for secondary RE teachers](#) at Exeter School on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

## Holocaust Education Dimensions in Testimony Education Session

This unique educational experience offers KS3 and KS4 students (Years 9–11) the opportunity to engage in a live, interactive conversation with digital representations of Holocaust survivors. Using cutting-edge technology, *Dimensions in Testimony* (DiT) has recorded nearly 100 Holocaust survivors from around the world, creating interactive biographies that respond to students' questions in real time.

Here is the link the

platform: <https://iwitness.usc.edu/dit/pinchas>

To arrange a possible visit to your school, or to enquire about a session at Exeter University, please contact Leah Lawford at [ll570@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ll570@exeter.ac.uk) See P 8 for more information.

## Name your Gluesticks!

Apologies for this trivial, non-RE story, but I couldn't resist sharing a post from Miss B on Facebook: Giving my classroom gluesticks human names has been revolutionary. Does anyone care if a gluestick goes missing? Of course not. But, do they care if DEREK the gluestick has not been returned? ABSOLUTELY! It's like a full-scale person-hunt until Derek has been returned to their rightful spot.

Teachers of RE in all phases of education are invited to attend the 2025  
South West Peninsula LTLRE 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**LTLRE Area 1 Conference 2025**  
**Embracing Diversity and Inclusion**  
**through a Religion and Worldviews**  
**approach to RE**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
**9.30-3.30pm**

St Mellion Conference Centre, Nr Plymouth  
Cost: £80

**Keynote speaker:**

**Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam:** Understanding  
the Rich Diversity of the Global Christian Community

**Workshops will include:**

- Religion and Worldviews: engaging with diversity
- Unpacking the new RE syllabus
- Ways of Knowing in RE: using disciplinary characters
- Consolidating knowledge for new RE leaders
- Unpacking Muslim worldviews
- Exploring global, diverse Christian worldviews
- Assessment in RE: a practical guide
- Oak Academy: introducing exciting new resources
- Teaching Core RE at KS4

Booking [here](#)

INTERACTIVE - MEMORABLE - FUN - ENGAGING

# Old Testament

in a...



## VENUE

High Bickington  
Community Centre  
Little Bickington Lane  
High Bickington  
Umberleigh  
EX37 9PN

## Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**9.30am - 3.30pm**

Please bring a packed lunch

For more information or to  
book your **FREE** place,  
contact Gillian or Michelle

## PROMOTER

Gillian Ashcroft  
gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.  
devon.sch.uk

Michelle Sampson  
msampson@piltonbluecoat.  
devon.sch.uk

## Old Testament CPD Day for Primary Schools

The Old Testament is massive, it takes on average 56 hours to read.

It can be difficult to know how and where everything fits together.

We are here to help!

Learn the whole storyline in a few hours in our engaging and memorable sessions.  
**Increase your subject knowledge and discover resources to support your RE lessons.**

Join us as we go from Genesis through to Moses and the Promised Land,  
the Kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon, and onwards to the Exile Period  
and the coming of the Prophets.



Walk Through the Bible is accredited by Understanding Christianity.

ENCOURAGING - INSPIRING - HELPFUL



Contact:

Gillian Ashcroft: [gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk](mailto:gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk)

Michelle Sampson: [msampson@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk](mailto:msampson@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk)



Learn Teach Lead **RE**  
improving quality: building community

**AN INVITATION TO THE**  
**South Devon and Torbay LTLRE: Primary and Secondary**  
**Hub Meeting**

Twilight RE Network Group

**4:00-5.15pm on Thursday \*10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - virtual**

*Please do let us know if you can attend by adding your details to this link:*

<https://forms.gle/fRUNuCHur1WnH91x9>

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89773947621>

Meeting ID: 897 7394 7621

- **Visits & Visitors -Making the Most of Places of Worship and People**  
Join us as we share what is needed to maximise opportunities for pupils to learn from the lived experiences of places and peoples.
- **Local and National RE Updates**
- **Q&A – come and ask your burning questions about RE**

**Free and open to all teachers and HLTA teaching RE/RS.**

**Everyone is very welcome!**

**For more details, please contact us**

Belinda Twiggs [belinda.twiggs@stmichaels.education](mailto:belinda.twiggs@stmichaels.education)

Laura Twamley [ltwamley@kingskerswell.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ltwamley@kingskerswell.devon.sch.uk)

Shelley Moss [shelley.moss@churston.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:shelley.moss@churston.torbay.sch.uk)

**\*Please note: This hub date has been changed from 26<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July.**



Hubs are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE [www.natre.org.uk/](http://www.natre.org.uk/)  
For further details of our programme and its partners, please visit our website [www.ltlre.org](http://www.ltlre.org)

LTLRE hubs are funded through an award from The St Luke's College  
Foundation. [www.stlukesfoundation.org.uk/](http://www.stlukesfoundation.org.uk/)

Please do let us know if you can attend by adding your details to this link:  
<https://forms.gle/fRUNuCHur1WnH91x9>  
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89773947621>  
Meeting ID: 897 7394 7621



Learn Teach Lead **RE**  
improving quality: building community



**AN INVITATION TO**

**LTLRE**

**Devon Hub Meeting for Exeter  
Primary and Secondary Hub Meeting**

Twilight RE Network Group

**4:00-5.15pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

In person at: St Peter's CofE School, Quarry Lane, Exeter EX2 5AP

[View directions on Google Maps](#)

(Please call 07584 244568 on arrival if there is no-one to meet you)

**An opportunity for RE teachers and leaders to share and discuss  
RE in Years 6 and 7**

The session will focus on sharing and discussing RE learning in Years 6 and 7, the units covered and learning experiences of the pupils. The aim is to aid transitions between primary and secondary as well as providing chance for RE teachers to share ideas and expertise and support each other. Please bring some student work with you, if you can, so we can discuss whether students make the most of their potential through transition and how we can improve this. We will share books, and the units covered in Years 6 and 7.

**Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE.**

Everyone is very welcome!

<https://ltlre.org/events/exeter-ltlre-hub-meeting-2/>

Kelly Keatley (Exeter hub) [kkeatley@spexe.org](mailto:kkeatley@spexe.org)

Frankie Rowsell (Exeter hub) [Frankie.Rowsell@stcmat.org](mailto:Frankie.Rowsell@stcmat.org)

**FREE!**

**Anna Strhan**

**Robin Shepherd Endowment Lecture –Making  
Good Citizens: Religion, Values and Belonging in  
Everyday School Worlds**



**Date and time:** 5 - 6:45pm Thursday, June 26

**Location:** Xfi - Henderson Lecture Theatre, University of Exeter, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4ST

**Agenda**

17:00 - 17:30: Refreshments

17:30 - 18:15: Robin Shepherd Endowed Lecture: Anna Strhan

18:15 - 18:45: Questions and Answers

**Abstract:**

The question of how schools should prepare children to be citizens of diverse, multifaith societies is an ongoing feature of contemporary liberal democracies. However, we know little about how religion and ideas of being a citizen connect in everyday school life, and what this is like for the children themselves as they navigate social landscapes of growing religious and non-religious diversity. This lecture presents findings from the ‘Becoming Citizens of “Post-secular” Britain’ research project to address these questions. Using child-centred and participatory research methods, the research team spoke to children, their parents, and teachers in different parts of England, Wales, and Scotland to explore the different roles religion is playing in how schools teach about citizenship and national identity. As the religious landscape of Britain is changing, this lecture explores the different ways in which schools were responding to these changes in how they positioned religion in everyday school life, as well exploring the new sacred values which were emerging across all the schools. Comparing teachers’ and students’ perspectives on these aspects of school life, the lecture reflects on the implications of this research for developing bold and inclusive RE.

Booking here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/robin-shepherd-endowment-lecture-anna-strhan-tickets-1317170786279?aff=oddttdcreator>

<https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/people/dr-anna-strhan/>

## **Holocaust Education**

### **Dimensions in Testimony Education Session**

This unique educational experience offers KS3 and KS4 students (Years 9–11) the opportunity to engage in a live, interactive conversation with digital representations of Holocaust survivors. Using cutting-edge technology, *Dimensions in Testimony* (DiT) has recorded nearly 100 Holocaust survivors from around the world, creating interactive biographies that respond to students' questions in real time. These digital testimonies are featured in museums and educational programmes globally.

During the session, students will have the chance to speak directly with one of these digital survivors, displayed on a screen at the front of the classroom. I will begin by providing background and context before opening the floor for students to ask questions. This can include inquiries about the survivor's life before, during, and after the Holocaust; their reflections on faith and identity; the historical context of their experiences; and the messages they hope to pass on to future generations.

Sessions are highly interactive and can take place in a classroom setting, at external venues such as the University of Exeter, or online. This is a powerful opportunity for students to engage with Holocaust history in a deeply personal and meaningful way."

Here is the link to the platform: <https://iwitness.usc.edu/dit/pinchas>

Let me know if you need anymore info! This can be pitched in so many ways but in terms of religious studies: The digital testimonies often include reflections on how survivors' faith and religious identity were challenged, transformed, or sustained during and after the Holocaust which I think can be a tricky concept to understand in this context. It's a good way to really humanise the Holocaust as and help students understand people's beliefs on why evil happens, how people maintain hope/purpose/belief, and what can be learnt from survivors' experiences.

To arrange a possible visit to your school, or to enquire about a session at Exeter University, please contact Leah Lawford at

[ll570@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ll570@exeter.ac.uk)



Devon Faith and Belief Forum Annual Public Meeting 2025

# Building Communities Together, a Bahá'í Perspective

Central to the Bahá'í Faith is the belief that the world's major religions draw their original inspiration from one common source and can find ways of working together to create a more harmonious society

**Guest speaker**

## Wendi Momen

- 6.30 - 7.45 pm
- Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- The Guildhall, 203 High Street, Exeter
- Free admission and refreshments from 6.00pm
- Book your tickets [here](#) or through the DFBF website <https://devonfaiths.org.uk>



Wendi is a prominent member of the UK Bahá'í community. She is a social activist, advocate and an ambassador for the National Alliance of Women's Organisations. She was a magistrate in the family court for 38 years and is the author of 13 books. She was awarded an MBE for 'services to the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women'.



# Education For This Life

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 2025



Coram Conference Centre, London

Louisa Jane Smith

Prof Michael Reiss

Prof Beth Singler

Prof Rupert Wegerif



'Cultivating  
Curiosity: the value  
of RE'

'Big Ideas for  
Religion & Science  
Education'

'Identities, Artificial  
Intelligence, Religion  
and Hope'

'Artificial Intelligence,  
Worldviews and  
Dialogue'

Cost for both days, including supper on Thursday and buffet lunch on Friday: £50. Thursday (4-8pm) only: £30. Friday (10am-5pm) only: £40.

Full details and book online: <https://www.sofn.uk/conferences>