



# Schools newsletter

April 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I hope by now you have received a copy of the new Partnering Agreement. Thank you for the many positive comments that have already been made and apologies that we are unable to offer anymore SIPs due to the demand we have already had. We will, as a team, consider for the future how we can service the demand.

The dates for the Understanding Christianity Scheme of Work will shortly be shared with your RE Coordinators. I have been asked if this will replace the Diocesan Syllabus and the short answer is no. The scheme is there to complement what we have and to help bridge some of the challenges we have had with some of the units of work from the current resource. Margaret and Caroline will continue to support all of our schools with RE and will be running the training for the new resource.

Gill Hedworth is now part of the team and working out of Church House in North Shields. Gill has joined the team with a wealth of experience in PSHCE. She is in particular a specialist for behaviour, welfare and personal development. Sadly I cannot include Gill's time as part of the SLA, however, she is available to schools for a cost of £400 per day or £250 per half day. I highly recommend her work and Gill will be running some training for all Heads on Child Mental Health issues in the Summer term (dates to follow)

The Education Character Conference has attracted a large amount of interest. We look forward to having Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer, in the region not only to talk to us about the National perspective of Character Education, but also to listen to your views about Church Schools in the North East of England. Surrounding Dioceses are asking to attend the Conference - if you have not signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible as I need to release availability to other colleagues.

A number of our schools have undergone Section 8 Inspections. A recurring theme is non-compliance of websites. If you are in any doubt please ensure your site has been checked and checked again - one document missing is enough to fail the check.

SIAMS training is available on the following dates:

- Cuthbert House, Durham on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- Church House, North Shields on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

If the new framework is not delivered by Summer 2018 I will offer further training to colleagues to ensure coverage across both Dioceses.

The team remain in regular contact with the RSC and local authorities. We are currently working on how we can access the £130million Fund for School Improvement. When we have news we will share this with colleagues.

Again - thank you for your ongoing support as DDE - the team and I appreciate the positive feedback and we continue to work to serve you in any way that we can.

Best wishes and Happy Easter,

Paul



The Dioceses of  
Durham and  
Newcastle



## Leavers' Services 2017



We are once again looking forward the annual Leavers' Services in Durham and Newcastle. Here is a quick reminder of the dates:

The services for Durham Diocesan Schools will be held on Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th June.



The service for Newcastle Diocesan Schools will be held on Wednesday 21st June.

As always, the services promise to be real celebrations.

Booking forms have now been issued to all schools via email, so if you haven't already done so, then please ensure that you get your completed form back to us by sending us an email as soon as possible to: [conferencesandevents@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:conferencesandevents@drmnewcanglican.org)

All schools are encouraged to invite their ex-officio to accompany them on the day, so please make sure to ask if they would like to attend. We would love to see them there.

## We want to hear from you!



We like to celebrate the achievements of each and every one of our schools.

If you have recently held a special event in school, if any of your pupils or staff have received an award, or if there are any other events that you think we should mention, please do let us know as we'd love to share your good news.

Please email any of your good news stories or suggestions to: [lisa.padgett@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:lisa.padgett@drmnewcanglican.org) and we will endeavour to include them in our next newsletter.



We also kindly ask all schools to inform us of any changes to your school contact details, such as new telephone numbers or email addresses, or if you notice that any of your contact details on the Joint Education Team website are incorrect or need updated. This will allow us to keep our school contact list up-to-date and ensure that you don't miss out on any important news from the Diocese.

If any of your details have changed, please email Susie Taylor at: [susie.taylor@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:susie.taylor@drmnewcanglican.org)

# Christingle at Newcastle Cathedral



The Children's Society held its brand new Christingle event in partnership with Newcastle Cathedral on Thursday 2 February, The Feast of Candlemas and the last day of the Christmas season. The highlight of the day being a cathedral full of almost 400 children from regional schools and a giant inflatable orange!

Reverend Kate Bottley, a well-known broadcaster from Channel 4's Gogglebox programme and a regular guest on Radio 2 Chris

Evans show and Songs of Praise, was the special guest speaker at the event hosted by the cathedral's Canon Clare McLaren. The day started with eleven schools arriving from across the region and after a welcome from the cathedral and The Children's Society, schools took part in activities like Christingle making, exploring the cathedral through treasure hunts, learning about the work of The Children's Society, and craft workshops.



The event culminated after lunch with the Christingle service and Reverend Kate Bottley making herself into a human Christingle to illustrate how we can all be the light of Christingle in our own communities. Surrounded by children representing the sweets, the candle and the red ribbon, she inflated a giant orange suit that was hidden under her robes!

Helen Whiteley of The Children's Society said, 'We were delighted with the response from schools

across the region to our first big event at the Cathedral and thrilled to see the building filled with children and the lights of Christingle. We hope everyone had a fun and interesting day and that schools will join us again hopefully next year'.



The Children's Society has two large projects based in Newcastle with a wide reach across the north east. The SCARPA project works with young people who go missing from home and those that may be at risk of sexual exploitation. And the SMART project supports refugee and migrant families through weekly advice drop in sessions and longer term individual targeted family support. They also offer a programme of social activities for families and run training for partner agencies.

The Church has always played an integral part in being at the forefront of social action. It has, for many years, championed young people and fought to ensure that every child flourishes. Whilst The Children's Society's work has changed over the last 135 years, the vision remains the same: a country where children are free from disadvantage. Together, united by a common vision, we can make a difference.



If you would like to book a speaker for your school assembly to talk about the work of The Children's Society, or find out more about our work please contact Helen Whiteley on 07539 214 403 or [helen.whiteley@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:helen.whiteley@childrenssociety.org.uk)



# Barnabas in Schools RE Days

## Creating Character

One of the most important things a school can do for a child is to help them shape their character, developing strong personal values such as courage, wisdom, thankfulness, humility, endurance, service and compassion. But how can we best achieve that?



'Creating Character' is our new creative arts-based Barnabas RE Day helping primary schools to take this further with pupils. We are offering two distinct Barnabas RE Day packages: 'Friendship, Forgiveness and Peace' or 'Compassion, Service, and Community.' Both use a range of classic Bible stories and interactive activities to get children thinking and talking about personal values, backed up by free online support material and an INSET programme for staff.

**Discounted cost for schools in Durham and Newcastle Dioceses are £195 for the whole day.**

Interested? For more information contact Chris Hudson on 07739 348386 or email [chris.hudson@brf.org.uk](mailto:chris.hudson@brf.org.uk). Further information can be found online at: <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/creating-character/>



# TheSchoolBus Free Resources

As of the 6th April, the government's apprenticeship levy and public sector apprenticeship targets are in effect. Some schools will have to pay into the levy, while others could inadvertently feel the cost, and some will be required to compose a percentage of their workforce with apprentices.



Do you know how this affects your school? Find out with TheSchoolBus resources below.

## Public sector apprenticeship targets

Learn whether you're required to meet the apprenticeship targets and, if so, how you can effectively recruit and support apprentices, while ensuring robust safeguarding practices, with our [Employing an Apprentice](#) and [Employing Apprentices to Work in Schools](#) guidance.

## Apprenticeship levy

Be clear on how the apprenticeship levy could affect you, and how to manage this impact, with our [Apprenticeship Levy: how will it work?](#) guidance and [Managing the Impact of the Apprenticeship Levy on Maintained Schools](#) guidance, explaining who must pay and how, and outlining the extra support available.

# Congratulations to St Michael's C of E Primary School in Bishop Middleham



**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

Mrs Lindsey Vollans  
Headteacher  
St Michael's C of E Primary School  
Front Street  
Bishop Middleham  
Ferryhill  
DL17 9AL

7 February 2017

Dear Mrs Vollans,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils for the very high standard that pupils in your school have achieved in writing and in mathematics for the 2016 key stage 2 assessments.

Your school's results, as published on 15 December, show that 100 per cent of your pupils attained the expected standard in writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2. This means that your school is in the top 1% of primary schools in England for attainment in writing and mathematics.

We want to ensure that every child has the necessary fluency in writing and in mathematics to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, and your school has provided this to all your pupils.

Thank you for your hard work and professionalism in producing such high standards and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gibb'.

Nick Gibb MP

# St Aidan's CofE Memorial Primary School in Hartlepool celebrate win

Staff and pupils are extremely proud of their girl's football team as they won a tournament at the end of 2016. They are very excited to be competing in the North of England regional finals this March.

Tuesday, December 20, 2016 [www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk](http://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk)

HARTLEPOOL MAIL

## TEAM WINS LEAGUE IN JUST THREE YEARS

# Girls net title in competition

A girls' football team swept all opposition aside to be crowned Durham and Cleveland champions.

The under-11s team from St Aidan's C of E Memorial Primary School, in Hartlepool, proved to be on strike during a recent competition.

The team won on points and goals scored in a round robin tournament against teams from East Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Stockton to clinch the title.

They are now set to go on to compete in the North of England regional finals taking place in Liverpool or Manchester.

Bosses at the school say it comes after a 'richly deserved' win in the competition, while a senior councillor described it as 'an outstanding achievement and builds on the long-standing tradition of high sporting achievement' in the town's schools.

The competition is set to be held in March 2017.



St Aidan's C of E Memorial Primary School's under-11s team

It comes after the Durham and Cleveland finals were held in Saltburn.

Jonathon Murray, teacher and the under-11s coach at the school, said: "It is an incredible achievement and the girls are absolutely delighted. We only started three years ago and at first we only had 12 players turning up for training.

"Now we get well over 30 every Friday night. Everyone is so enthusiastic and

regional finals."

Mr Murray added: "I'd also like to say a big thank you to Paul Stabler and Amiee Stabler, from Hartlepool Pools Youth, for all their great work with the girls each week."

Councillor Alan Clark, chairman of the council's Children's Services Committee, said: "This is an outstanding achievement and builds on the long-standing tradition of high sporting achievement in many of our primary and secondary schools in Hartlepool.

"I wish the team well at the next stage of the tournament when they will be flying the flag for Hartlepool."



The team is now set for the regional finals

**"Look forward with confidence to the regional finals"**  
JONATHON MURRAY

dedicated. This is richly deserved and we would look forward with confidence to the

 [facebook.com/hartlepoolmailnews](https://facebook.com/hartlepoolmailnews)  
 @HPoolMail

# Evenwood CofE Primary School win School of the Year Award



Evenwood C of E Primary is a school of 98 pupils in the heart of County Durham where, as the nomination points out, social deprivation is a major issue.

Therefore, much of the nomination was about how all the staff, starting with the Headteacher Helen Sutherland, the deputy head, teachers, TAs, cleaner, caretaker, all set high standards which permeate throughout the school, and all go above and beyond the call of duty, and all welcome children and families no matter their needs and requirements.

It is a true community school, with a highly inclusive and nurturing approach, taking in children who have had difficulties elsewhere and turning them around so from outsiders and non-attenders they become fully integrated into school life and, above all, happy.

The nomination says: "The school environment places value upon the balance between discipline and a fun learning environment, where each pupil is important and where they are encouraged to develop personally and academically. It is an extremely caring school."

The judges were impressed by all of this, but they were also impressed by how it was translating into results. Key Stage 2 attainment for example showed the school performing well above the national average in all subjects, and the children's progress showed the school was in the top 5% of all schools nationally for reading, top 10% for writing and top 20% for maths.

Any village would be proud of such a school, but for such a school to be found in Evenwood is indeed outstanding, and for that reason Evenwood is our school of the year.

Original article published by The Northern Echo

# Divine Poetry Competition



## Do you love chocolate and poetry?



Every year, Christian Aid collaborates with Divine Chocolate to run a poetry competition. It's an opportunity for your class to learn more about the benefits of Fairtrade and to get creative by crafting poetry all about Fairtrade and cocoa farming. This year they proudly present their 15th Annual Poetry Competition.

This year's competition theme is, **'Sharing Tastes Divine'**, encouraging applicants to think about sharing - does it make you feel good? Does it make chocolate taste better? Leading the judging panel in 2017 is Laura Dockrill, poet, illustrator and author of the Darcy Burdock books.



For inspiration, take a look at last year's winners and runners up by clicking **HERE**.

The closing date for entries is 30th April 2017. Get more information and download an entry form by visiting: <http://www.divinechocolate.com/uk/poetry>

## Christian Aid Week 2017



For the past few years, news headlines have been dominated by stories of conflict and the people who are fleeing from fighting and seeking refuge. Christian Aid believes that all people, including refugees, should be safe and looked-after.

This Christian Aid Week (14-20 May), Christian Aid have produced resources to help your pupils understand more about choices and challenges facing people making difficult journeys in search of a safe place and to empathise with the situation facing many refugees.

Resources include:

- Safe Place Assembly and Safe Place Assembly PowerPoint
- Safe Place Ludo Board, Cards and Game Instructions
- Teaching and Fundraising Ideas (including case study)

Order a print copy of this resource by emailing [orders@christian-aid.org](mailto:orders@christian-aid.org) and quoting order ref: F8036E

You can also download all of the items listed above by clicking **HERE**

Age: 7-11 / 11-14

Subject Areas: Citizenship, Geography, R.E.

Website: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>



## New Stock at the RRC: Dressing Up!



These *Women in the Bible* resources have been designed especially to support the joint Diocesan syllabus.

We have costumes available for: Esther, Deborah, Miriam, Naomi, Mary, Martha and the ten foolish bridesmaids (who can also be used for angels)

These items are **FREE** to borrow by RRC members and are bookable in advance.

To make a booking, please contact the RRC on 0191 3750586 or via [enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk)



## Puddles and Freddie - Understanding Christianity Accreditation Award



Books at Press is proud to announce that their 'Puddles and Freddie' series is the first to receive the Understanding Christianity Accreditation Award.

This means the set of resources has been fully verified as effectively supporting the teaching and learning approach promoted by Understanding Christianity. Themes covered within the Puddles series of books also fully match the core theological concepts identified by the project and with which children will engage.

Books at Press are delighted to be able to support schools as they adopt the Understanding Christianity project to raise standards in teaching and learning about Christianity.

Freddie Fisher and Puddles are available to borrow from the RRC, as well as the Puddles books, including 'Puddles and the Christening Splash', 'Puddles and the Happy Easter Day' and 'A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles.' The Books

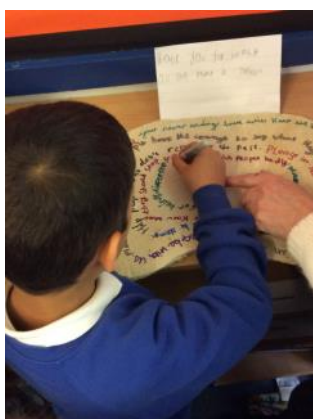
at Press supporting resources are available to download **FREE** for RRC members from the RRC online catalogue.



# Commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day with St Andrew's CofE First School

Andrew Wheatley, Headteacher at St Andrew's Heddon-on-the-Wall CofE First School, gives an account of what the children in Key Stage 2 have done for Holocaust Memorial Day:

In Key Stage 2 we have been learning about the Holocaust. We used the materials provided by the Holocaust Memorial Trust and watched a video from BBC Newsround. The children listened to stories from Holocaust survivors from both World War 2 and from the conflict in Rwanda.



The children then wrote poems / prayers and selected the most powerful line which spoke specifically to them. They then wrote this line onto a special flat stone using permanent markers.

We are going to varnish the stones to seal in the words and place them in our Holocaust Memorial Garden.



We were also inspired by a display that we saw on Newsround which is at the Imperial War Museum North and is based around the Star of David.



Each child coloured two stars and we mounted them on a display board with the words of Zigi Shipper in the centre about how we cannot change the past but can make a big difference to the present and the future.



# Archbishop Sentamu visits Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, visited The Venerable Bede Church of England Academy on Friday 3rd March as part of 'Talking Jesus', a four day mission to the Diocese of Durham.



Archbishop Sentamu talks with year 7 students.  
Picture by Keith Blundy

The Archbishop met with students and teachers at the Tunstall Bank, Sunderland Academy, part of the Dayspring Multi Academy Trust along with Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy in Stockton. During the visit, the Archbishop was shown a number of prayer stations, set up and run by students, which were designed to focus on exploring personal well being, taking time to reflect on their own thoughts and feelings, and as a place to explore prayer.

The Archbishop was visiting the Academy as part of a weekend of events called "Talking Jesus" which

is taking place across the Diocese of Durham from 2 to 5 March 2017. Churches all over the Diocese are holding events during the weekend which are being supported and attended by Bishops from across the North of England. The events are taking place in a variety of locations with the central theme of talking about Jesus and engaging with the wider community.



Archbishop Sentamu talks with student Katelyn Shaw. Picture by Keith Blundy



Archbishop Sentamu gets to experience some of the Prayer Spaces with Students at the Venerable Bede Academy.  
All pictures by Keith Blundy



Gill Booth, Executive Headteacher for the Dayspring Trust, said: "As a school community, we wanted to explore how our students can access prayer in an interactive way and also to see how prayer spaces can impact positively on well-being. We were delighted to welcome the Archbishop to meet with our young people and to be able to talk about the impact of our Prayer Space project with a wider community audience. The outcomes have been incredible with many young people saying that they feel more confident in themselves as a result."

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said, "It has been wonderful to spend time with



engage in a fresh way in talking and listening to God. There is no better thing we can do than to find a space to spend time with God, and I encourage all to do so."

students from Venerable Bede Church of England Academy and to find out more of how they have used the Prayer Spaces they have created to



Archbishop Sentamu shares a joke with student Katelyn Shaw. Picture by Keith Blundy

**Article written by Keith Blundy**

# Whitley Memorial CofE First School: Awe and Wonder at Newcastle Cathedral

Claire Bruce, Year 4 Teacher at Whitley Memorial C of E First School in Bedlington, writes:

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the Year 4 children from The Whitley visited Newcastle Cathedral. The main aim of the visit was to enrich the RE curriculum, especially the topics of Prayer and Places of Worship.

On arrival, the children and staff were warmly welcomed by Canon Steven who talked about the structure of the day and gave background information about the cathedral. The children sat calmly, silenced by the awe and wonder of their new environment.



Following the introductory session, the children were split into groups to partake in a carousel of three different workshops/experiences. Canon Steven led one of the workshops, which was about prayer and key pieces of cathedral furniture. The children listened very carefully and successfully answered the questions. They really enjoyed the practical demonstration of baptism, performed by the Canon. Everyone was fascinated by the explanation of why the tower has moved over the years; it was caused by digging work to lay pipes for the first gas lights in the world on Mosley Street.

Another experience was led by Mrs Gibb. The focus of this activity was to learn about icons through the medium of craft work. The children created their own icons by choosing and drawing a Biblical figure. They successfully used their imagination to decorate and embellish their designs. The icons will be displayed in the school and on their website.



The third session was Godly Play and was led by Mrs Robertson and Mrs Scarlett. This was the first experience of Godly Play for both the children and staff and everyone was extremely impressed. It was a very spiritual experience for all and gave everyone a time to question, wonder and reflect in a calm and peaceful environment. After the story, the 'feast' was a great success and a lovely sharing time for both the children and adults.

Overall, everyone had a fantastic religious experience which not only fulfilled both AT1 and AT2 of the curriculum but also delivered so much more. It was an outstanding visit which the school would highly recommend to others.

The Whitley would like to express praise and thanks to the welcoming and professional staff who led the visit and also to the children whose behaviour and positive attitude to the experiences made the school very proud. A conversation overhead from one of the children on the way home summed up the whole day: "I don't want this visit to end as I have had such an awesome day."



# It's back to school for Ian Ramsey CofE Academy parents

More than 40 parents of students in years 10 and 11 at Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy in Stockton, have been amongst the first learning how to support their children's exam preparation and revision by going back to school to learn the latest techniques themselves.

Ian Ramsey, a Church of England Secondary Academy School in the Diocese of Durham and part of the Dayspring Trust, has set out to find new ways to support their students achieve the very best results in their year 11 GCSE's by briefing parents on exam revision techniques and understanding how people learn.



Picture by Keith Blundy

The initiative is probably a first in the area and maybe the region. James Walters, Assistant Head Teacher for Assessment and Curriculum at Ian Ramsey, said: "Through this academic year, we have been organising curriculum evenings for parents and carers to come in and learn more about the curriculum in the school. This is so they can help to support their children and also so they can gain a better understanding of what we do in school.

"As part of that, we are responding to a parental demand to find out more about revision techniques and how to support students in Key Stage 4 who are needing to remember more than they have ever had to before. This, with the changes in curriculum, have become evermore difficult."

One set of parents, Mr & Mrs Alwis who have a child in year 10 and another in year 8, said: "The GCSEs are all changing and getting tougher, so we think that this kind of session can really help us support our children. As parents, we don't know what is going on with the education system and how we can best support learning - so this is a great help for us. We are greatly appreciative of the school for organising this session."

The session undertaken by parents included two workshops on revision techniques and revision timetables, one on general learning techniques and another on memory techniques - getting the best out of our brains. Finally, one workshop also focussed on stress and anxiety management.

Talking about the sessions, Michelle McCarthy, Assistant Head Teacher for Teaching and Learning, said: "Parents and Carers have been able to take part in sessions looking at different aspects of teaching and learning around the following topics: how to revise; what it's like to be a student in a GCSE classroom; what topics they might be learning about, and the sheer volume of information students are required to reduce down, remember, recall and then use in an exam situation. As well as showing parents the techniques for learning and revising, one of the most important sessions is on stress and anxiety management which is about supporting young people throughout Key Stage 4 which can be a very difficult time for them."

She added: "All of the staff involved in the sessions are delighted to be able to show parents some of the techniques as they will directly support the students and that is what we are here for."

The sessions are focused mainly on parents of students in Year 11, but they are also open to parents with children in year 10 who have expressly asked to be involved at an early stage. This may have been the first set of sessions, but it is unlikely to be the last. The enthusiastic response of parents learning how best to support their children was very positive.

**Article written by Keith Blundy**

## Prayer Spaces in Schools

Gill Booth, Executive Head at Venerable Bede CofE Academy in Sunderland, writes:

"How can we alleviate stress and improve the well-being of our young people in an age where evidence proves that young people are far more stressed than they were even 10 years ago? This was the key question discussed by the headteachers of the 5 CE secondary schools in the Durham Diocese. The result was a joint project, funded by the Hild and Bede Trust, which focused on how prayer spaces can support mental health and develop resilience.



"We chose Year 7 initially as they also have to contend with the transition from primary to secondary school. However, many other pupils were involved as the spaces were left open during break and lunch. The feedback was extraordinary with pupils reporting that they felt peaceful and enjoyed exploring their feelings in a place where no-one would judge them: "It's a place where I can be truthful" said one pupil. Another commented, "I was able to get rid of my feelings of anger and I now feel much calmer."

"The project was very much pupil-led. Older pupils volunteered to lead the activities with the project culminating in an exhibition: presentations and videos showed how each school's prayer space had improved well-being, whether pupils believed in God or not. Activities varied from school to school and all pupils were able to visit each other's stands at the exhibition and try out new things.



"No project that we have used in school has had a bigger impact on pupil well-being than this one and it is something that many of our pupils would like to see as an annual event."

## Send My Friend to School



Imagine the power of a world in which every child is in school – learning and aspiring.

World leaders have promised every child in the world a quality education but a key piece of the puzzle is not in place - the money to pay for this education - leaving the global picture with 263 million children missing out on school, and many of those in school are not learning.

Education is powerful and transformative. For individual children and their families, but also for whole communities, countries and the world. **The benefits are endless** - education can provide stability to children who are displaced, open up paths out of poverty, reduce the likelihood of war and conflict, contribute to a healthy planet, is vital for long-term growth and critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



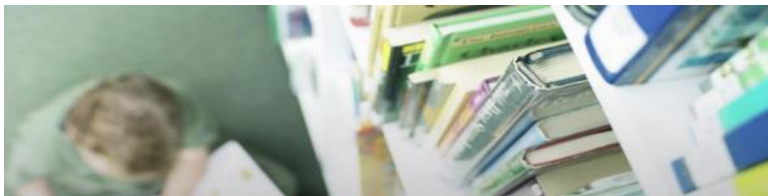
The Send My Friend to School campaign put together a **FREE** teaching resource pack containing everything you need to bring the campaign to life in your classroom, including films, real life stories and activities.

Join the Send My Friend to School campaign and turn the tide of the education crisis. To find out more and get your free teaching pack, please visit the Send My Friend to School website at:  
[www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org)

# Exploring Judaism with the RRC

**An encountering faiths day for teachers of RE: Primary and non-specialist.**

**Facilitated by the Religious Resources Centre.**



A chance to meet faith members in their own community setting, boost your subject knowledge and equip yourself to teach any aspect of Judaism with confidence and enthusiasm and explore resources, teaching and learning strategies to ensure your classroom delivery is professional and stimulating.

There will be no charge for the training but contributions to the United Hebrew Congregation may be made via the RRC at any time before, after or during the event.

**Available dates: 26th April, 27th April, 23rd May or 24th May 2017**

## **Presenters:**

Rabbi Aaron Lipsey, United Hebrew Congregation of Newcastle upon Tyne  
Deanna van der Velde and members of the United Hebrew Congregation  
Karenza Passmore, Director of the Religious Resources Centre

## **Programme:**

**13:00 - 13:20** -- Welcome and outline of the afternoon.

**13:20 - 16:20** -- Three sessions on a Carousel basis  
(Colleagues into 3 groups):

- Jewish Worship in the Shul – Led by Deanna van der Velde
- Jewish life, Kosher food and worship in the home – Led by Rabbi Aaron Lipsey
- Resources, teaching and learning strategies – Led by Karenza Passmore

**16:20 - 17:00** -- Question time and Plenary

Please note that there are only 30 places available and will be allocated on a first come, first served, basis.

If you would like to make a booking, please do so via 0191 3750586 or email the RRC at [enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk)

Parking is available on the streets around the synagogue.



# Children's and Youth Leaders' Bulletin

## March 2017

- **Open the Book** – at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill, Wallsend NE28 9DD on Thursday March 16 1.30-4.30pm. This session on a very popular 'tool' for supporting schools is led by Geoff Brown from Scripture Union. Plenty of parking & a good bus service. **Contact Sue McCormack** at [suemccormack@gmail.com](mailto:suemccormack@gmail.com).
- **Growth and Fruitfulness Regional Tour** - at Church House, North Shields on Tuesday April 25; St John Lee (near Hexham) Church Hall on Wednesday April 26; Alnwick URC on Thursday April 27 2017. Time: 7-9:00pm (with Refreshments from 6:30pm). Join the Children's and Youth team in discovering some new resources and hearing some inspiring stories.  
**Contact Judith Sadler** on 0191 2704100 or at [j.sadler@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:j.sadler@newcastle.anglican.org)
- **Prayer Spaces in Schools – an introductory training event** - at St Nicholas' Cathedral, St. Nicholas Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1PF on Thursday May 4 from 5:30-7:30pm.  
For teachers, children's/youth workers, clergy, volunteers. For more information see the flier attached.
- **Messy Church Goes Large – for all ages!** - at St Nicholas' Cathedral NE1 1PF on Saturday June 17 2:30-5:00pm. More info soon. **Contact Rachel Scheffer** at [r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org)
- **Godly Play Introductory Day** - The third and final diocesan 'all-day' introduction, this time to be held at St John Lee Church Hall NE46 4PE on Saturday June 24 9:30am-4:00pm. The day will be led by Rachel Bainton, nationally accredited Godly Play trainer. Places are limited but free!  
**Register with Judith Sadler** on 0191 2704100 or [j.sadler@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:j.sadler@newcastle.anglican.org)
- **Staying Alive** - at Seahouses Hostel from August 10-13 2017. A 4 day residential event for young people (Year 7+) that combines fun, workshops, evening celebrations, blessing communities, silly games, prayer and small group time. Young People love it! This year our theme is around fear - something so relevant to young people's lives and we will explore where God fits into our fears. It promises to be an exciting year with creative worship, 'extreme' workshops, visiting different communities and beach games. It is perfect for both young people within the church and those who have never been but are open to exploring God. It costs £50 before May or £60 thereafter - a bargain by anyone's standards! More details and a promotional video can be found at [www.newcastle.anglican.org/stayingalive](http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/stayingalive). Staying Alive has been so important in many young people's stories - if you know of any young people, spread the word!  
**Further details from James Harvey** - 01670 787263 [james.harvey@live.com](mailto:james.harvey@live.com).
- **Like our Facebook pages:** [www.facebook.com/newcastledioceseyoungpeople](https://www.facebook.com/newcastledioceseyoungpeople) (Ask to join the 'closed group' by searching for 'Newcastle Diocese Young People - leaders sharing space').



## **Prayer Spaces in Schools Training Workshop**

**The Lantern Cafe at St Nicholas' Cathedral NE1 1PF**

**Thursday May 4 5:30 -7:30pm**

Do you want to know how to get started with a Prayer Space in your school?

This Training Workshop is for anyone interested in prayer spaces, including children's and youth workers, clergy, parents, school staff and volunteers.

More than 2000 temporary prayer spaces have been hosted in primary and secondary schools around the UK so far. These prayer spaces usually take place in classroom-sized areas that have been transformed for a few days or for a week, and are hosted by a small team of suitably trained, local Christians.

Prayer spaces provide a safe, creative, engaging environment for students, of faith and of no faith, to explore their sense of identity, to reflect on their relationships and on ways to resolve difficulties and conflict, to consider how they engage with the wider world, and to experience prayer.

All over the UK, prayer spaces have been welcomed and praised by Head teachers, teachers and parents as a valuable contribution to the RE and PSHE syllabus, in line with government requirements, as well as assisting in the statutory responsibility to support the spiritual and moral development of the students.

Mrs Gill Booth, Executive Headteacher for The Dayspring Trust in the Diocese of Durham, said: "No project that we have used in school has had a bigger impact on student well-being than this one and it is something that many of our pupils would like to see as an annual event."

### **The Training Workshop will include:**

- 'How to Get Started with Prayer Spaces' presentation from Phil Togwell, National Director of Prayer Spaces in Schools
- Story-telling with local practitioners
- Prayer activities to explore
- Refreshments

**Register with Judith Sadler [j.sadler@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:j.sadler@newcastle.anglican.org) 0191 2704100**



Spring's Dance Company's  
Exploring Values Dance Workshops  
for schools  
[www.springsdancecompany.org.uk/schools](http://www.springsdancecompany.org.uk/schools)

# Exploring Values Workshops

**Growing children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through dance.**

**Springs Dance Company** is offering to schools an engaging programme of workshops which explore the current British Values focus for schools. The workshops will examine these values through fun, creative, dynamic sessions based on one of three themes; *Get Fit Go Green*, *The Magic Paintbrush* or *The Wemmick Story*.

Give young people a voice, stand up against injustice and encourage acceptance, respect and tolerance. Springs' workshops will challenge young people and will help guide the next generation.

To book and for more information please contact **Springs Dance Company** on [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk) or call 07876 752 910

**[www.springsdancecompany.org.uk](http://www.springsdancecompany.org.uk)**



For attention of the Head of RE/Philosophy/IB

Based on the International TV Series 'The God Question'

# INTRODUCING The God Question *for SCHOOLS*

ATHEISTS AND THEISTS TAKE A SCIENTIFIC JOURNEY  
AND DEBATE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

A brand new DVD and Study Guide resource for

- A Level Philosophy
- A Level Religious Studies
- Cambridge Pre-U Philosophy and Theology
- Theory of Knowledge in the International Baccalaureate

## For Schools in Scotland

The series is designed for use in the senior phase within:

- SQA Courses – Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies
- Core RME/RE
- Curriculum for Excellence Interdisciplinary Learning Projects



## The Films

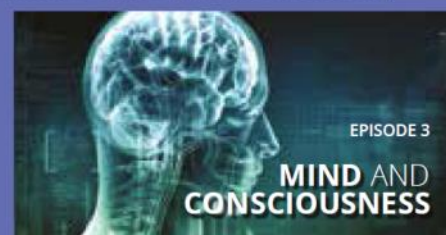
6 x half-hour films with accompanying full-colour Study Guide and Teacher's Guide (details overleaf).



Is there space for God?



Does evolution dispense with God?



Can mind come from mindlessness?

What they're saying in 'Introducing the God Question'...

*"I'm about as convinced that God doesn't exist as that the Easter bunny doesn't exist."*

**Professor Daniel Dennett**, Philosopher, Tufts University, Boston

*"To miss God is to miss the ultimate purpose for life itself."*

**Professor John Lennox**, Mathematician and Philosopher of Science, University of Oxford

Available from:

[www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce](http://www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce)

# INTRODUCING THE GOD QUESTION addresses the biggest question of all time: *Are we the products of cosmic chance or divine intention?*

## Contributors Include

- World-renowned scientists and philosophers
- Outspoken sceptics and atheists
- Committed theists

See the website for a full list of contributors to the series

## The Resources

### INTRODUCING

## The God Question

Atheists and theists argue their case.

### DVD Box Set (3 discs)

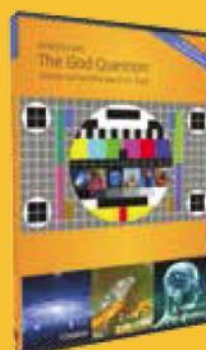
Designed for flexible use with menus and chapter headings making any section of the programme easy to select or re-visit. With optional subtitles.

### Full Colour Study Guide

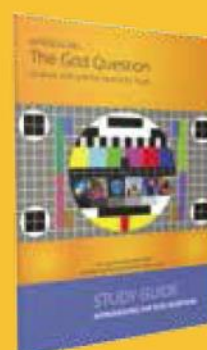
Providing essential information and encouraging structured discussion of each topic with additional information and further reading. Available in print and PDF (various licence options).

### Teacher's Guide in PDF format

Part 1 — Contains a wealth of information on the series and the topics  
Part 2 — Links programme content to relevant A Level, Cambridge Pre-U and IB curriculum requirements as well as RME/RE and RMPS in Scotland and provides additional student tasks and activities, contributed by teachers.



DVD Box Set (3 discs)



84-pp Study Guide



PDF Teacher's Guide

See website for individual prices, multiple pack options and licence purchases (where applicable).

**ORDER ONLINE:** [www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce](http://www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce)

**CONTACT:** [info@kharisproductions.com](mailto:info@kharisproductions.com)

To see programme trailers and samples of the print resources, visit  
**[www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce](http://www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce)**

## What they're saying about the 'Introducing the God Question' series...

*"The God Question resources are high quality, utterly engaging and probe the deepest questions of all. They do not give answers but encourage thoughtful reflection and discussion. A great resource especially for KS 4 and KS 5 students."*

**Sir John Rowling**, Director, Partners in Excellence

*"This invaluable resource encourages students to ask questions of meaning and purpose. It promotes religious literacy, critical thinking and will inspire debate."*

**Wendy Heydorn**, Director of Higher Education, Sevenoaks School, Kent

*"The well-balanced approach of this series makes it a perfect resource for meaningful discussion."*

**Barbara Coupar**, Director, Scottish Catholic Education Service

*"Captivating and engaging... Promoting critical thinking on the issues."*

**Mandy Evans Ewing**, Humanist Celebrant and University Chaplain

# LifeSavers

Helping children manage money wisely

**A free national teacher training offer, supporting primary schools to help children and their families learn about money**

*"The best thing about LifeSavers was developing a mind set to children and families that is threaded through the whole school ethos."*

*Headteacher*

*"This session was very informative. It is important to see how money is valued by children and how this can change their perceptions in later life. Excellent teaching and thorough explanations."*

*Headteacher*



**LifeSavers** is a whole-school financial education programme for primary schools

# LifeSavers

**We can offer a free teacher training session to help schools:**

- Develop pupils' social and moral thinking around money
- Integrate a whole school approach to financial education
- Discover the benefits of practical and experiential money learning
- Explore a whole community approach to saving and money management



To register your school's interest and for more information and free resources please visit: [www.lifesavers.co.uk](http://www.lifesavers.co.uk)