

# DBE Schools Bulletin

November 2020

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



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## Autumn Joy

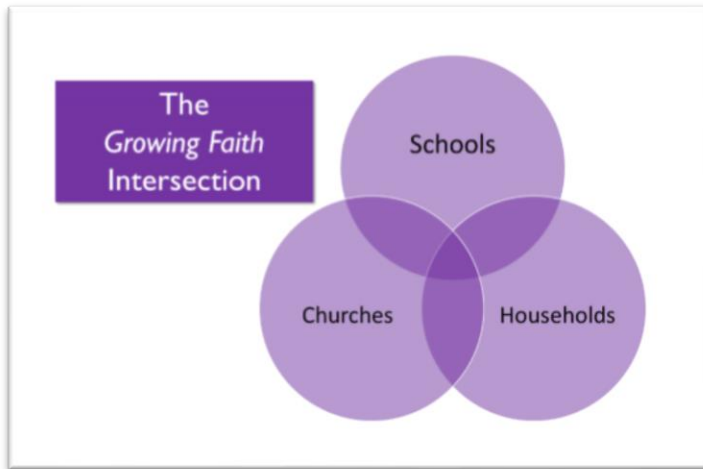
One great joy at this time of year is the wonderful kaleidoscope of colours that autumn brings. Half term presented an opportunity to get out and about to enjoy this spectacle in our neighbourhood, local parks and within the beautiful countryside across the Diocese. It is a timely and welcome reminder of the wonder of God's creation and His beauty that is displayed all around us; a great tonic during these difficult times.

Half term is a chance for staff and pupils to take a deserved and much needed break from school activities and to be able to return to school refreshed for the next phase of learning. I do hope that you managed to get some quality time for rest and recovery, a chance to strengthen yourself with the resolve needed for the coming half-term.

Our schools return this week, amidst the start of a further national lockdown throughout the month of November, placing further challenges and strain on a school system that is already stretched. I hope that you can gain both comfort and strength in knowing that you do not face this alone, but with the support of colleagues from across the Diocesan team and our DBE Family of Schools, something so evident during our recent headteacher cluster meetings.

But most of all from the strength that we receive from God, as is written in Isaiah 41:10, 'So do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'

## Growing Faith & Advent Resources



The [Growing Faith Adventure](#) is a drive to encourage churches, schools and households to work in partnership to increase opportunities to grow the faith of the children and young people in our care. Through the lockdown and into the current season, the Church of England are creatively producing some fabulous materials on the [Faith at Home](#) webpage that many have used in sustaining worship in the bubbles and homes of your school communities throughout this time.

Here in Chester Diocese, we are passionate about supporting our schools and churches in this adventure and a group has been considering exciting ways in which we can do this – we have already established a Peer Support Network with the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership. Over the next year you will begin to see and hear more about this adventure and we will seek to signpost you to some resources that will encourage greater interactions within your own communities.

In this current season, our celebration of Christmas may look very different from the traditional gatherings at Nativity plays and Carol Services – key opportunities when you work together with your local church to draw the community together. As you consider how to do this afresh there are many creatives who are working to provide resources to do this differently this year. [Katy Eaglestone](#) is a local Christian and artist who has developed a series of 5 Advent resources;

For any who are familiar with [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#), her ideas will have a familiar feel. Perhaps this is a gift that church and school can share with families to encourage spiritual opportunities at home to grow over this coming season, it could easily be picked up and developed in the worship that you might do during this time.

Don't forget to share with us or post on your social media feeds, the work that you are doing together with your local church – we love to celebrate how our schools are rising to the challenge and sharing the hope that Isaiah 9 speaks of when he says; "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..." Praying for you as you seek to share this light over the coming half term.

**HOPE**  
to have confident expectation

Those who walked in darkness have seen a radiant light shining upon them, because a child has been born for us; a son has been given to us, and his name will be:

The Wonderful and Extraordinary One!  
The Mighty God! The Father of Eternity!  
The Prince of Peace!  
Great and enormous is His kingdom.

**Isaiah 9**

**LET'S BEGIN...**

**Start by making a den!** This should be everyone together gathering blankets, blankets and duvet covers from around the house. Make it the best den ever, and make sure all of you can fit inside it!

Finally add a string of fairy lights to light up the space. You may want to get a snack or drink to celebrate your den!

Now, whilst sitting in the den read the Bible passage from Isaiah 9. Explain that this part of the Bible was written 1000 years before Jesus was born, so for all those years people were hopeful that God's special baby would come.

You may want to take it in turns to read it, and one person can switch the lights on and off whenever the reader mentions 'darkness' and 'light'.

**ACTIVITIES**

In the resource pack on the back pages are giant letters that spell out HOPE. Print them out, then colour them in bright colours. Cut them out and punch holes in the bottom of each letter.

Then cut out the tags and give each person one or two. They can write something on them that they feel hopeful for. Encourage everyone to think about what God would want us to be hopeful for, not simply materialistic things! Talk together and discuss what it means to have our hope in Jesus.

Then use string to dangle the tags from the HOPE letters. You can stick the letters onto the wall or on your fridge and add as many tags as you want over the coming days and weeks.

**PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, help our family walk in Your light as we show other people what it means to have hope in You. Amen.

**THIS WEEK...**

**Bibles**  
In the resource pack there are Bible character puppets to colour, cut out and attach to lolly sticks. Your child can play with them through the coming weeks.

**School Day**  
Make an advent calendar using the instructions in the resource pack. This is a great rainy day activity and you can fill up each pouch with goodies or messages of hope for the coming month.

**Creatings**  
Put on some Christmas carols in the car or kitchen and worship as you go about your daily life!

**Week 1**  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>

**These who hope in the Lord will renew their strength!**  
Isaiah 40:31

## Comfort & Joy

Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's 2020 Christmas campaign.

Taking inspiration from a traditional carol service, it features daily reflections for the Christmas season from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcot, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby.

Beginning on Christmas Day and ending on 2 January, each day explores a Bible reading and a familiar carol, encouraging us to look with fresh eyes at how the timeless truth of Christmas might shape our lives in these extraordinary times, and inviting us to hear again the message of the angels – good news of God's unfailing love for a world that is weary and hurting.



Churches all over the country will be marking Advent and Christmas in both new and familiar ways, both in person and online. Find out more about the campaign, access online services, download the free app featuring audio versions of all the featured carols at: [www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy](http://www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy)



## Inter Faith Week

Inter Faith Week 2020 will take place from Sunday 8 - Sunday 15 November. Inter Faith Week's aims are to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

There are suggestions on how schools can celebrate the week <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>



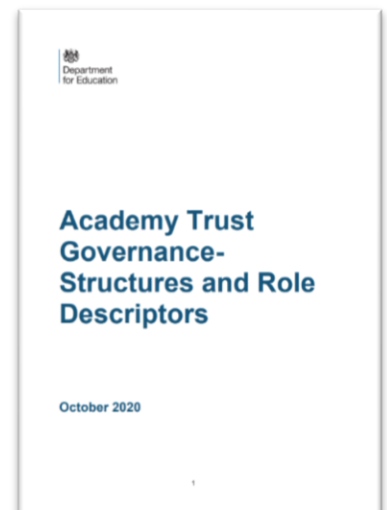
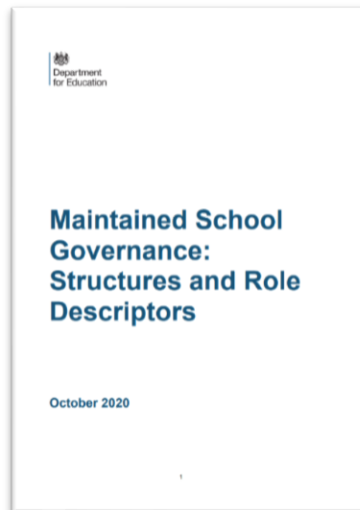
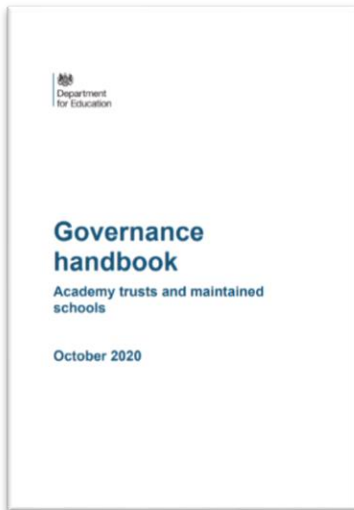
## RE Quality Mark

The RE Quality Mark has a new online version of the award. The REQM acknowledges and celebrates outstanding RE. If you know that you are making a difference to learners, consider applying for the REQM. More details at their new website [www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org)



## DfE Guidance on Governance

The DfE have published two helpful documents regarding the structures of governance in academies and maintained schools and also roles and responsibilities within them. The new governor handbook has also been published which should be read alongside the two documents as it looks at this in more detail. These can be found by clicking on each document below. Please do share them with your Board.



## Free support for Governing Boards



Thinking Governance is a free programme developed by the Church of England Education Office that supports governors in developing a vision and strategic plan. The full programme has been shared previously with schools but an additional programme has been developed called Thinking Governance Express.

The normal programme takes around 8 hours over a number of sessions. With the impact of the current situation it has been realised that governors may need to review the plan that was in place and adjust it to reflect the impact of lockdown and the return.

To support this Thinking Governance Express is a shorter programme with two modules that helps governors review their plan/vision and look at what to do going forward. It's a really good programme that can be undertaken remotely or in person and has some instructional videos which explains how to use the resource.

The link to the express version can be found here <https://thinkinggovernance.org/thinking-governance-express>



## DBE Officer New Contact Details

Please note new contact telephone numbers for members of the DBE team have been added to enable schools to contact officers by phone as well as e-mail during this period.

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org">sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org</a>	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

## Family of Schools' Membership 2020-21



Thank you to the schools who have already confirmed their Family of School membership for 2020-21. It is hoped that all of our schools will continue to be a member of the Family of Schools and benefit from the additional support from the DBE, including preferential rates for our training and CPD programmes.

**To confirm your membership for 2020-21 or to discuss it further, please contact [charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org](mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org)**

**For details about the services and benefits of being a member of the Family of Schools for 2020-21, [click here](#).**

## School Improvement Service 2020-21

Our school improvement services for 2020-21, delivered through DBE Services offer the following support:-

- **School Improvement Partner (termly or annual visit)**
- **Headteacher Performance Management**
- **Tailored leadership & school improvement support**
- **School Improvement Courses from Leading Schools**

All of our school improvement services are delivered by our team of trained diocesan and headteacher consultants, overseen by Mark Whitehill, our School Effectiveness Officer. This provides the perspective of school improvement within the context of being a church school.

For further details of the services available [click here](#) and to request an order form contact [liam@dbeservices.co.uk](mailto:liam@dbeservices.co.uk)



## Family of Schools' CPD Programme 2020-21

Due to the on-going pandemic and local lockdown measures, our CPD programme will need to continue to be delivered on-line for at least the autumn term. Where training is best delivered as a 'face to face' meeting, these will be postponed and rescheduled for later in the school year. We hope to be able to resume our meetings as soon as possible but, in the meantime, we would like you to be aware of changes to our programme as follows:

### Autumn 2020 Courses

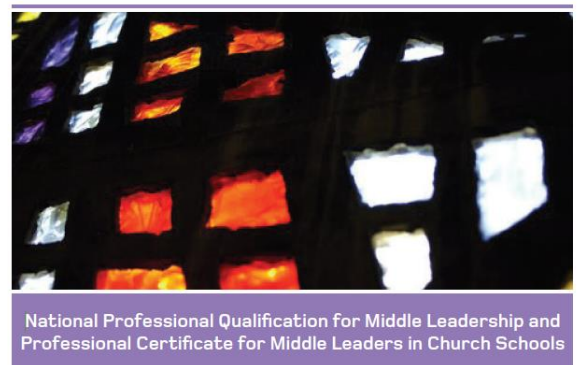
DATE	COURSE	STATUS
17/11/20	<a href="#">Help I am a Religious Education Subject Leader in a Church School (Sue Glover)</a>	ON-LINE
23/11/20	<a href="#">NQT Course 2020-21 6-day Programme</a>	ON-LINE in 2020
27/11/20	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking (Sue Noakes &amp; Mark Whitehill)</a>	ON-LINE (no charge)
01/12/20	<a href="#">Religious Education &amp; the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule (Sue Glover)</a>	ON-LINE
08/12/20	<a href="#">Faith Encounters</a>	ON-LINE

## NPQ for Middle Leaders in church schools

An exciting CPD opportunity for Middle Leaders, this programme has been designed specifically for Middle Leaders in church schools. Now in its second year, it is being run in conjunction with Liverpool Hope University and the five north-west dioceses.

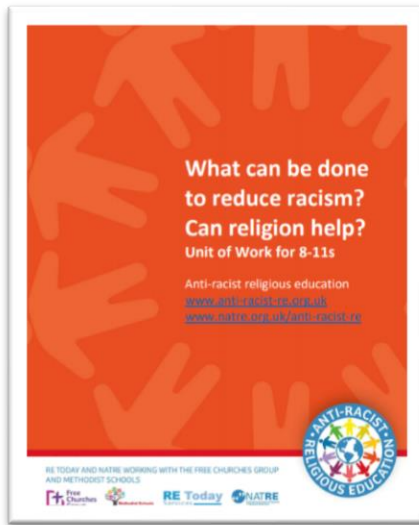
This programme will enable participants to explore and articulate their personal values and mission, have a better understanding of the distinctive mission and vision of Church of England schools and the role of middle leaders in these settings. It will provide participants with the opportunity to critically engage with leadership and management theories/research and how these relate to, and support, the understanding and development of personal leadership capabilities and practices.

The cost of the programme has been subsidised and so is just £300 per delegate and runs from January to June 2021. It is hoped that there will be the possibility of face to face sessions but the programme has been refined to enable it to run on-line as is needed. Click on the image for further information and/or to register contact The CPD Team at the Faculty of Education, Liverpool Hope University.



T: 0151 291 3061/3029 E: [cpd@hope.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@hope.ac.uk)

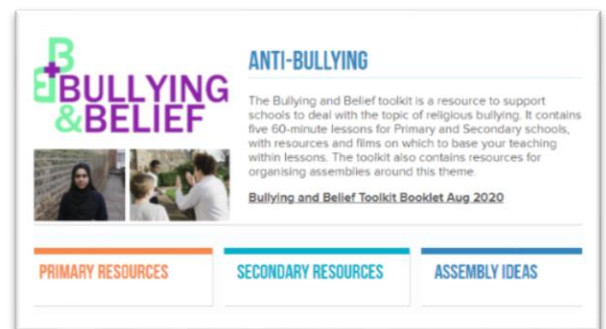
## RE Resources from NATRE



NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) in partnership with the Free Churches Group, Methodist Schools, RE Today, NATRE and many teachers of RE and educators from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities have recently jointly published some Anti-racist RE resources. These are free to all schools and can be found at either <https://www.freechurches.org.uk/antiracist-re> or <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/>. The resources include films and classroom ideas for Upper KS2 & KS3.

NATRE says: *'In RE pupils learn about diversity all the time. In anti-racist RE, negative or racist attitudes or behaviour are confronted and challenged so that prejudice can be reduced and equality and justice issues can be highlighted.'*

NATRE have also published a 'Bullying and Belief Toolkit' which is a resource to support schools to deal with the topic of religious bullying. It contains five 60-minute lessons for Primary and Secondary schools, with resources and films on which to base your teaching within RE lessons. <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-bullying/>



Sue Glover our RE Consultant would welcome feedback from schools who trial the materials.

## Virtual Ethos Conference 2021

The fourth annual children's Ethos Group Conference in Cheshire West and Chester has again been organised and planned by leaders and children from St Oswald's Mollington, Tarporley and Witton Church Walk CE Primary Schools with help this year from Bishops Bluecoat High School.

The conference takes place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January and this year's theme is 'The Goodness of God' – A chance to celebrate what is good during a challenging time.

There is no charge for this year's conference. To make a booking or to find out more information contact [head@stoswald-moll.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@stoswald-moll.cheshire.sch.uk)

### VIRTUAL ETHOS CONFERENCE 2021

**Date:** Friday 29 January 2021

**Start:** 9:15am

**Finish:** 2:45pm

**Venue:** Online

**Cost:** No charge

**Featuring**

- Online collective worship
- 3 workshops with all the planning provided
- Secure Padlet page to share on the day
- Conference Prayer

The fourth annual children's Ethos Group Conference in Cheshire West and Chester has again been organised and planned by leaders and children from St Oswald's, Tarporley and Witton Church Walk CE Primary Schools with help this year from Bishops Bluecoat High School.

Our theme for the day is  
**'The Goodness of God.'**  
*A chance to celebrate what is good during a challenging time.*

This conference will be an online event and all schools will be taking part from their own schools. You will need an internet connection and a free padlet account (details will be sent out about this).

The conference would be ideal this year for a whole class or bubble to take part either in a classroom or the hall.

To make a booking or to find out more information contact  
[head@stoswald-moll.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@stoswald-moll.cheshire.sch.uk)  
There is no charge for the conference this year.

## New Headteachers' Standards



The DfE recently published guidance regarding the newly revised Headteacher Standards as well as updated information regarding professional qualifications. The link to these documents is embedded below for your information as there are some significant changes in emphasis and wording compared to the 2015 document. The standards are non-statutory and are intended as guidance to be interpreted in the context of each individual headteacher and school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-of-excellence-for-headteachers/headteachers-standards-2020>

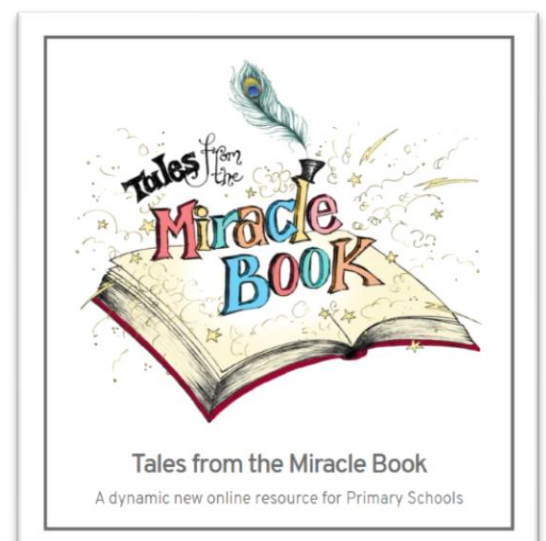
## Admissions

This is a reminder that VA schools and academies must consult on their admission arrangements every seven years even if there are no changes. For a number of schools this will be the year that they need to consult (the work on the variation does not count as a consultation). Please check our guidance which can be found [here](#) and also a reminder that the policy should come to the DBE prior to any consultation. Sue Noakes will be able to check it to make sure it follows the current legislation. The variation wording that we included in 2021 policies should also be included in the 2022 policy as the variation is a permanent change to the policy.

We are starting to get variation judgements coming through. Once you have received your judgement you can then publish the policy with the variation included.

## Tales from the Miracle Book

The Rhema Theatre Company have produced a new resource that they describe as, 'a brand-new, dynamic way of telling RE stories.' 'Tales From The Miracle Book' is a collection of fun and engaging 4-5 minute films, designed for the teaching of RE in Primary Schools. From a partnership with over 40 years combined experience of working in schools, each film comes with its own downloadable education pack - filled with top-quality worksheets to help unpack these memorable stories for Key Stages 1&2. So step into the Miracle Book to begin an amazing RE journey!...





## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

In responding to the current situation and restrictions, the regional diocesan headteacher cluster meetings for this term will all be on-line via Zoom. We know that it can often be a challenge getting away from school to be able to attend such meetings so having them on-line will hopefully enable more of our headteachers to be able to attend and be involved. Here are the dates for the remainder of this term and also for the spring and summer terms for your diary.

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>AUTUMN TERM 2020</b>		
Congleton/Nantwich HTs	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am – 11.30am
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00am – 12.00pm
<b>SPRING &amp; SUMMER TERMS 2021</b>		
Chester HTs	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10am-12pm 10am-12pm
Macclesfield HTs	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm – 3.30pm 10am-12pm
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm 10am -12pm
Warrington HTs	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10am -12noon 10am -12noon

Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

## News from Schools

### Bollington St John's C of E Primary School

Bollington St John's have been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom. The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. The school's international work includes a whole school and community plastic pledge, where children, parents and governors signed an agreement to reduce the use of plastics. This initiative was started by the school's student council and global ambassador pupils. They also spoke to former Bollington Mayor, Roland Edwards, and local town councillors about the work they had done towards the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

### Bridgemere C of E Primary School

Class 4 have been exploring 'Good News' in their RE lessons and how the 'I am sayings' of Jesus are still signs of good news for Christians today. They have enjoyed using their creative skills to share what these sayings means to them.



### Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School



Y6 in RE have been looking at how to help others. They have been focussing on Christian Aid, and how it helps people all around the world. One of the activities has been to look at all the different countries where Christian Aid is active and put these onto the class world map. The information included the work Christian Aid does, the children it helps and the different religions and languages of those people. The map is up and ready for people to see.



### Elworth C of E Primary School Harvest Prayer Space

Pupils had a wonderful day and amazed teachers with their thoughtful reflections and prayers. The prayer spaces were themed around this term's worship on generosity. There was also a prayer space dedicated to Operation Christmas Child. As a school there is a set target of 24 boxes - 2 from each class. The generosity of the school family was overwhelming, and they ended up filling 60 boxes. There was also a prayer space for the local food bank, again the generosity shown was incredible. A clear answer to prayer.



Teachers were so proud of the children and how they conducted themselves. The feeling in the hall was so calm and the chat between the children was inspiring. New Chaplain, Cathryn Houghton, who is St Peters Children and Families worker, also joined. She has been part of the school family for a couple of years and in September she took on a more formal role as chaplain. We are very blessed to have Cathryn. The next Prayer Space will be at the end of the Spring term and be themed around Easter.

### Great Budworth C of E Primary School



Great Budworth have opened a new chapter in its history by creating a new purpose-built library. The construction of the library represents the latest in a series of innovative and imaginative building projects that have taken place since the school opened in 1857. With the original vaulted ceiling providing the perfect space to construct a mezzanine floor, it is now home to the stunning new library. Its creation was driven by the determination and passion for the school of the former Chair of Governors, Mrs Hilary Brudenell. Sadly, Mrs Brudenell passed away as the builders were nearing completion and she didn't get to see the project finished, but the school will honour her by naming the library after her as soon as the postponed official opening ceremony is able to take place.

Sandra Finney, Head Teacher is thrilled with the new library, "So much hard work has gone into this project and to see it come to fruition, and the brilliant resource we now have, really does make all the effort worthwhile.

"We have had incredible support from the Chester Diocese, our PTA who have raised funds to furnish the library and the many people who have generously donated books. "At a time when many schools are having to close their libraries, we are so proud to be able to open our new one.

### Kingsley St John's CE Primary School

Steve Baker, foundation governor at Kingsley has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to education.

Steve is the executive headteacher of the outstanding Aspire Schools Federation including Gilbrook and Kilgarth schools based on the Wirral. He is highly regarded in the world of education, leading schools on non-confrontational behaviour management and has held a range of school leadership positions, including Ofsted Inspector, and is often selected as a keynote speaker at educational conferences.



Steve is a member of the Ambition Institute and Learnus advisory boards (Learnus is a think tank that aims to bridge the gap between neuroscience research and education); he was recently made a Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching for his 'significant and sustained' impact on teaching. Steve is on the SecEd and Headteacher Update editorial board, sits on the panel of judges for the Pearson Teaching Awards and works with the Ministry of Justice in youth and adult establishments nationwide as they focus their efforts on developing a culture of rehabilitation.

As a former war crimes investigator, Steve regularly speaks in schools and prisons about the consequences of hatred; in addition to receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, an award by Lord Bourne for his 'outstanding contributions to tackling hatred and building a better society,' he has now been awarded an OBE in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

### Lower Peover C of E Primary School

Forest schools allow children to have the time and space to develop and gain new skills and interests, and to further their knowledge about the environment and learn to love the world whilst nurturing nature. This evolves through a range of activities that are provided for them, with the attributes to be able to grow as an individual but continuing to learn how to work as a team. Forest School at Lower Peover helps children to become healthy, resilient, creative and independent learners within the beauty of the natural woodland.



### Marton & District C of E Primary School

The staff and new PE Provider (ASM Sports) wanted to welcome the children back in an energetic style. Given that some of the children had not been in school since March they thought about the best way to do this. The plan was to rebuild some of the friendships, develop some teamwork and welcome the children back with a bang. The idea was to launch the new school year with ASM's very own assault course challenge. The challenge included nets to climb under, balance beams and tyre traps to list just a few of the obstacles. The children had a fantastic time and were all thoroughly exhausted by the end of their session on the assault course. A huge thank you went out for all the hard work the ASM staff put into the event.



Everyone at Marton & District CE Primary continued to show their support in the community this Harvest time. Now more than ever, they saw the importance of supporting others and were delighted to raise awareness for The Store House Food Bank. Loading their Harvest donations into the brand new 'Love Thy Neighbour' Van, the whole school was delighted to maintain their assistance for a special place that helps so many local families, even without the traditional harvest display and festival in the hall for Marton families (due to restrictions). The school enjoyed sharing their online harvest videos with parents and each other's classes, to once again celebrate this special time of compassion, and in thanking God for the harvest.

### Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School

On 13th October, a really special outdoor Harvest Service was held with a re-enactment of the text, 'Handa's Surprise' and some reflections on the theme of thankfulness. Chris Gilbert joined the service to lead with his Guitar Group with a brilliant rendition of 'Times like These'. It was lovely to hear the children talk about counting our blessings and being thankful for the things that really matter: families, health, friendships, teachers, our beautiful world, pets and, of course, for the food we have to eat. Their final reflection was particularly moving: "We are also very thankful that Shocklach School has re-opened and that we can play, have fun, learn and worship together". Special thanks must go to Reverend Tim, Reverend Norma, Chris Gilbert and St Edith's Church Warden and School Governor, Helen Peel for all their support, kindness and flexibility. A group of Shocklach pupils also sang and played musical instruments at St Edith's Harvest Service. On entering the church, four year old Ben exclaimed, "isn't it great to be back here again" – out of the mouth of babes.



### Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School



This year, students were given the opportunity to enter the Cannon Chancellors Award at Chester Cathedral, the focus being Pilgrimages or special journeys. Year 7 students, who are now in Year 8, were doing a project based on communities and belonging. Following on from this, they studied pilgrimage and Labyrinths. Inspired by the significance and symbolism in Labyrinth designs, the students requested to research them further, with the goal of creating one in school. They recognised the value of having a space for reflection and contemplation within the busy school day.

The group put a proposal together for their Headteacher, Mrs Beverley Scott-Herron, and presented their ideas. They also worked with the school's Graphic Designer, Miss Alice Roberts, to come up with some suitable designs for their Labyrinth, they surveyed the school building for suitable sites. It was agreed the Labyrinth would be built within the school's Peace Garden. The students are looking forward to work beginning on the creation of the Labyrinth and reflection space.

To their delight, the group won the Cannon Chancellors Award for their Labyrinth project. This involves a prestigious opportunity to visit Chester Cathedral, which they plan to do as soon as they are able. Head of RS, Mrs Kate Coleclough, said "It's fantastic for our work to be recognised within the Diocese. We are so proud to be able to create something for all students and staff to use in school, both now and in the future, that will benefit them and help them take time out in a busy day to reflect and refresh."

**Tilston Parochial C of E Primary School**

Tilston celebrated Harvest with friends and families via a Zoom service. It was the first ever virtual service, but it was still as special as ever as everyone came together to say thank you to their wonderful community



**Tushingam -with-Grindley C of E Primary School**

Tushingam are very proud to have been awarded the Rainbow Flag Award for creating an LGBT+ inclusive environment which demonstrates the practical ways they are living out their school vision.

1 John 4:7 'Let us love one another, for love is from God.'



**Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School**



It has been fantastic to have the smiles and laughter of both children and adults lighting up the classrooms of Witton Church Walk again.

Central to the school vision, this half term pupils have taken the time through reflection and stillness to value self-worth and understand the importance of their place and purpose in the school community. They have reflected on the special gifts which uniquely contribute to the school community and have valued the gifts that others hold. Each class has been inspired by their reflections and exploration of Biblical texts to create their own school badge representing our renewed, strong sense of belonging to the Christian community.