

DBE Schools Bulletin

March 2022

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

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions

In this Issue:

Leavers' Service 2022	Page 2
Reflecting Through Lent	Page 3
ABYYT Free Webinars	Page 4
Chester DBE RE Leaders' Conference	Page 5
Developing the Diversity of Governing Boards	Page 6
Mar/ April Training Courses	Page 7
Headteacher Cluster dates	Page 8
News from Schools	Page 9

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Prayers for Peace

As we embark on the season of Lent, discussions in our schools may centre around how we plan to observe Lent this year. There are a number of practical resources and links detailed in this month's bulletin that schools may find helpful. However, as we consider what we might give up or commit to over the coming 40 days, we cannot help but be drawn to the devastating and tragic scenes unfolding in Ukraine.

The small, trivial and insignificant elements that impact our daily lives pail into insignificance when we see what is unfolding on our television screens and the lives of children and our brothers and sisters in Ukraine being turned upside down by the invasion, in fear of their lives and having to flee their homes, families and communities, their futures uncertain.

Therefore this Lent, can I encourage our schools to commit to a time of daily reflection of prayer for the people of Ukraine, praying for peace in the country and around the world and to seek an immediate end to the violence and needless loss of life. Our schools can play their part in joining together in a unity of support.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



School Building Projects

If you are coming to the end of your financial year and wish to pay for any Governors' liability from this year's budget please email sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org with a request, including the project title and confirmed amount.

Welcome to the Team

We warmly welcome Linda Boys, who has joined the DBE team this month as our new administrator. Please contact Linda regarding contributions to the Bulletin, DBE course bookings and Foundation Governor enquiries. She can be contacted by e-mail linda.boys@chester.anglican.org or by phone on 07549 109590.



Year 6 Leavers' Service 2022

****NEW DATE ADDED****

Chester Cathedral

NEW DATE Tuesday 12 July 2022 morning

Wednesday 13 July 2022 morning

Wednesday 13 July 2022 afternoon

[Spaces available](#)

[Spaces available](#)



Eco Lent Calendar

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Green Anglicans have created a Lenten calendar called **My Little Bits of Good**, available [here](#).



Their aim is to recognize that this lent we are all on our individual journeys, but as we perform our "little" actions where we are, when added together makes a significant impact. For this Lenten journey we have small actions that we can perform in our everyday lives.

Reflecting Through Lent

How often do we stop to wonder why it was, that right before his ministry began, Jesus took himself into the desert for 40 days and nights?

Forty was a traditional number for spiritual discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Moses, Elijah, the Israelite spies, even the Ninevites are all examples of this in the Old Testament. During his time in the wilderness, Jesus revealed his identity as the Son of God and the kind of ministry that he was to undertake – something radically different to what had been before...coming to serve, and lead with authenticity.



You may want to watch this [short video](#) as part of your worship time or even to start or end a staff meeting during Lent.

As we approach the season of Lent this year, many will undertake the discipline of giving something up. What if, this year, we were to take up a time to be still each day – to reflect on who we are, our Christian vision and identity as a school, as authentic leaders, as those in service of our communities? How might that prepare us for new and exciting times ahead?



This a great opportunity as a whole school to pause in the busy pace of life, to stop, to better understand our own identities as children of God and refocus on our vision going forward. How might you involve your families in this opportunity? Or strengthen your partnership with the local church?

[Prayer spaces in Schools](#) have some great ideas for creative reflection spaces, both inside and outside, as do the [Joshua Centre](#), [Spiritual Child](#), [Blackburn Diocese](#) and this year Gloucester Diocese have introduced a new resource to their collection; [Experience Lent](#), [Engage Worship](#) have a series of Lent images that would be a great addition to your newsletters home, or as stimulus for reflective spaces or worship. Whatever you choose to do, whether large scale or small, we pray that this will be a time of refreshing spiritual growth, for you, and your schools.

Lent 2022 Resources



New Lent Resource - Way Maker

This Lent, the Archbishop of York Youth Trust are challenging your Young Leaders to reflect on the Easter story using our free resource, **Way Maker**.

With 6 weeks of content, **Way Maker** takes pupils on a journey through Lent, reflecting on Jesus' ministry and His example of being a Way Maker.

[Download Way Maker >>>](#)

- Use in school, at church, or at home
- Suitable for KS2 and KS3, but can be adjusted for KS1 and KS4
- Downloadable resources includes a PowerPoint and video files



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
YOUTH TRUST
Be the change you want to see

abyyt.com/Lent

Download Way Maker with this link: abyyt.com/Lent.

Chester DBE RE Leaders' Conference

On **Friday 20th May 2022**, we are thrilled that [Lat Blaylock, from RE Today](#), will lead us through **Creativity in approaching religions and worldviews**. This will be a fabulous opportunity to develop your own subject knowledge, get updates on the national picture of RE, network with colleagues who are leading across the whole of Chester diocese, gain helpful resources and materials and engage with stimulating workshops across the day. All in the relaxed setting of the **Holiday Inn, Runcorn**. We know that you will return to your school refreshed and inspired!



It would be great to see as many of our schools there as possible...bookings can now be made [here](#). **Thank you**, for all that you do to encourage and develop amazing RE in our schools.

Spring Term RE Cluster Leader Meetings

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Don't miss out.



Details can be found below:

Name of Cluster Group	Group Leaders	Details of meeting	Venue for meeting
Cheshire East South	Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE)	10th February 2022 4pm Contact Fiona Pulle at Brereton CE or Liz Taylor at Wybunbury Delves for further details	Zoom
Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich)	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Paula Perry (Lower Peover CE)	24th March Contact Carys Clark St Johns the Evangelist, or Paula Perry (Lower Peover CE) for further online details.	Zoom
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port)	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)	10th March in person event Hoole Primary 4pm Just go along.	In person
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural)	Finola Jackson (Saighton CE)	1st February at 4pm (met already) Contact Finola Jackson at Saighton for details of future meetings.	Zoom
Tameside & Stockport	Amelia Wassall Hyde St Georges	17th March Contact Amelia Wassall at St Georges for further details	Zoom
Trafford	Vanessa Horner (Bowdon CE) Zoe Power	8th February 2022 4pm Contact Vanessa Horner or Zoe Power at Bowdon for further details	Zoom
Wirral	Helen Jones (Oxton CE) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)	3rd March 4pm Contact Rachel Clark at St Andrews, or Charlotte Cummings at Christchurch Birkenhead	Zoom

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org for further information.

Developing the Diversity of Governing Boards

This Governor Conference will focus on the reasons why diversity of race is good for governing boards & how Chairs, Governors, Clerks and Senior Leaders can proactively recruit and retain diverse representation within their schools.

Please click on the link below for further details.

[Developing Diversity on Governing Boards](#)

Worship in a church school

What makes working in a church school so special? When answering this question many people cite the joy of collective worship, whether that be the whole community coming together with shared vision and goose bump inducing, heartfelt singing or the intimate setting of form / class-based worship that allows friendship and knowledge of the Christian faith to grow.

In many of our schools, collective worship is most definitely the heartbeat of the school that permeates through the day. As a diocese we value and greatly appreciate those who take on the responsibility of leading on this important aspect of our school lives and want to further our support of those who are making this happen.



So, we warmly invite you and your associated clergy to join our **Collective Worship in Church Schools Network**. Aiming to meet once a term, via Zoom, we will look to share resources, ideas, explore the implications of the [CEEQ Guidance for CW](#) and work through big

questions together as we seek to offer high quality worship in our schools. **There is no charge for this network.**

The next Meeting will last one hour, **9:30-10:30am** on **Wednesday 22nd June 2022** ****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE****

The meeting is available to book through [Bookwhen](#).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

As we have engaged with the Growing Faith adventure, we realise too that our clergy would greatly value that time to be supported and support schools in this. Do share this information with those who support your school.

March/April 2022 Courses

**** DELEGATES WILL BE NOTIFIED IF A VENUE IS CHANGED FROM 'IN PERSON' TO 'ONLINE'**

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
08/03/2022	Headteacher Wellbeing Session for Governors ** REPEAT SESSION**	ON-LINE
15/03/2022	Employment & Staffing in a VA School or Academy for Governors & Headteachers	ON-LINE
15/03/2022	Effective Partnering- 'Courageous Advocacy & Global Neighbours'	ON-LINE
New Date 16/03/2022	Early Careers Teacher Support - 2 Year Programme - TICKET FOR YEAR 1 ONLY (2021-22 - 6 Days)	MORETON CHRIST CHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
New Date to be confirmed	Collective Worship in a Church School	ON-LINE
23/03/2022	RQT Development Programme 2021-22 ***4 FULL DAYS***	TO BE CONFIRMED
23/03/2022	Religious Education & the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule ** REPEAT COURSE**	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY**
29/03/2022	Vision Ambassadors -A Pupil Conference ** REPEAT COURSE **	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY**
31/03/2022	Chairs' Clinic & Networking Group	ON-LINE
26/04/2022	Being a Governor of a Church School/Academy ** REPEAT COURSE 2**	ON-LINE
26/04/2022	World Faiths 'Humanism' (ONLINE TWILIGHT)	ON-LINE
27/04/2022	Preparing for SIAMS- An Inspector's Eye View &SIAMS SEF Starter ** REPEAT COURSE**	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY **
29/04/2022	Heads, Chairs and Incumbents Briefing	ON-LINE

Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to linda.boys@chester.anglican.org

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
2022 DATES		
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Tuesday 15 March - NEW DATE Thursday 16 June	1.30pm – 3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Thursday 26 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 20 June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 24 March - NEW DATE Thursday 23 June	10am -12pm
Warrington/Halton HTs	Thursday 10 March -NEW DATE Monday 16 May	11am -1pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Macclesfield HTs	Tuesday 17 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Tuesday 24 May	10am -12pm
Chester HTs	Wednesday 22 June	10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 8 April - NEW DATE Friday 10 June - NEW DATE	12.30pm -2.30pm

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

chris.penn@chester.anglican.org	Director of Education	07540 722667
sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
linda.boys@chester.anglican.org	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

News from Schools

Acton C of E Primary School



Have recently written letters to their partner school in Ghana. They told them all about their school and what a normal day in Acton is like. Pupils asked them lots of questions as they wondered what it is like to live and go to school in Africa. They are now awaiting letters back from the Ahafo and District Education School in Ghana.

Bollington St John's C of E Primary School

Class 4 visited the Yeshurun Synagogue, linked to our learning about Judaism. The children were fantastic, sharing their knowledge about the Story of Exodus and the Torah. They learned a lot and had a wonderful day.

They also recently celebrated the Lunar New Year with lots of creative activities. The children learnt all about the animals in the story of the Great Race, they re-enacted the order using puppets.

The children enjoyed making good luck posters, lanterns, and lucky red envelopes. They looked at the traditions of this special festival through the stories, Dragons in the City, and the Runaway Wok.

They shared their learning with Class 2 during assembly



Brereton C of E Primary School

Before half term, they were very lucky as they received a loan of 34 knitted Bible scenes from St Georges United Reform Church in Hartlepool. Each class had the opportunity to explore the Bible scenes chronologically and talk about them and there was much awe and wonder



Dodleston C of E Primary School

Children recently took part in a Light and Colour Science Week.

To begin their week, Reverend Hazel led worship on the awe and wonder of light and how the concept of light is explored in the Bible; from God creating light on Day 1 to Jesus declaring, 'I am the Light of the World', in John's Gospel.



Throughout the week children worked as scientists engaging in fun enquiries to learn more about light and colour.

- Class One, explored colour mixing and how rainbows are made
- Class Two investigated shadows made their own shadow puppets and used their knowledge of light and colour to see if they could make a coloured shadow.
- Class Three were visited by an Education Officer from Chester Cathedral, who ran an 'Amazing Light' workshop. Children explored the properties of light, how the eye works and how Jesus is the Light of the World, guiding us on to do His work.

Hartford C of E High School

THE GREEN TEAM

"The earth is the Lords and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1



Our Form Council Reps. did a questionnaire and asked their Forms what positive changes they would like to see around the school. Our Year 10 Executive School Council then processed the results and discovered that the overriding thing was to make our school a greener, more eco – friendly place for generations to come.

Our Executive School Council then did a full school survey, looking at issues like energy, waste, food, hygiene, water, biodiversity, recycling and litter. As a result, they came up with a plan, which they presented

to our Head and Governors for approval and then to our whole school through assembly and tutor-time presentations.

We now have a newly formed Eco Committee, made up of students, staff and governors. We are seeking to eliminate the use of plastic cutlery and water bottles in our canteen and to have a separate 'paper bin' in each classroom, which is emptied daily by student monitors.

We seek to improve our outside environment by planting some flowers in house colours in raised beds; by leaving a patch of grass un-mown to increase the insect population, by planting a hedge to increase biodiversity and also by planting a school orchard/ copse, with saplings from the Woodland Trust and the Queen's Green Canopy.

We are also seeking to develop a school allotment, which will link into various departments (Food Tech, DT, Biology etc.) and produce food that can be used both by the Food Tech department, and also by needy families from both within the school and local community. We are seeking additional adult support for this project from the local church, thus strengthening our community ties.

It has been proven that spending time in the outdoor environment also improves mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, and as such we are hoping that students that are struggling mentally and emotionally will also benefit from this initiative. Watch this space...

Tracy Morgan-School Chaplain

Hyde St George's C of E Primary School

Family groups – EARTH, WIND, FIRE and WATER

This half term started with an art project to launch their new 'Family groups' which will replace their previous house groups, Derby, Chester, Lancaster and York. The Junior Leadership Team decided that they needed something more meaningful and family groups seemed more appropriate. They have also included all the school - Nursery, Reception, KS1 and KS2 where it was just KS2 before.

The process started by thinking about names for the family groups such as authors, courageous advocates, local people, landmarks, etc. and this went to a whole school vote. The winning vote was the four elements, EARTH, WIND, FIRE and WATER. The children explained that they liked this idea because the elements linked to God's creation and there were many references to each of these in the Bible. They then thought it would be a great idea to produce a piece of artwork to represent each of the family group names. Each class split into their family groups to create their piece of artwork, using bible references for each of the elements. They were also inspired by the tapestries in St Alban's Cathedral, 'Elements in Salvation'.



Kingsley St John's C of E Primary School

Pupils have been studying Northwest Coast Art. It looks back at who the First Nations people were and their history. After having practised their skills and researched more about the importance of this artwork to the First Nations culture and its people, the children began to think about their community and how they could represent their world in the same style.

Pott Shrigley Church School

Like many schools across the country, they spent a week in February focusing on mental health and wellbeing, thinking about and exploring the theme of Growing Together. They thought that the theme fitted their chosen Christian Values, Koinonia, Compassion and Respect, particularly well. Their mental health ambassadors worked with members of staff to lead activities and a workshop which encouraged children to take care of their own mental health and wellbeing.



They also performed a whole school samba, made support balloons, enjoyed exploring our artistic talents using clay and went outside to enjoy nature.



Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School

Pupils have been learning about diversity and celebrating differences. Pupils have been taught not to ignore differences but to appreciate them and celebrate them. When we celebrate our differences, it shows we care about each other.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28



As part of this topic children researched 'Chinese New Year' and found out all about the celebrations that are taking place this month. They were given opportunities to design their own project, choosing whether to design a menu, prepare a

shopping list, make a dragon, give a card, draw a tiger or make a lantern and they all produced their own posters. They finished the week-long celebrations with a parade and a Chinese banquet. The children were taught that there are many different events throughout the world which are important to different cultures and religions. Celebrating together helps communities to come together to show love for each other.



Jesus said ***Love one another***. He didn't say to love the ones who look like us, who act like us, or who speak as we do. He simply said to love. Loving is a *choice*. More on this to follow as we are looking forward to the 'love' themed virtual Ethos conference on February 14th.

St John the Evangelist C of E Primary School



Their vision is that 'Children are a gift from the lord,' from Psalm 127 v 3. In worship, they have been reflecting on their own gifts and how they would like to be the gift that keeps on giving.

They have, therefore, decided to do school council a little differently at St John's.

They are aiming to make changes within in their school community, so that the children can see change first-hand.

They will look at celebrating each other, which is why they have changed the name to GIFT team. They want the children to see their role within school as one that displays and shows off their Christian vision for the school

The GIFT team's first mission comes after a suggestion from Mr Jackson, the site manager, and they are going to start the term looking into what they can do to reduce plastic waste in and around school. The GIFT team are planning an assembly to deliver to the whole school and have already begun to make a difference to the school grounds by inspiring classes to clean up the woods.

Stretton St Matthew's C of E Primary School

Have been inspired by Chester Cathedral's Global Images of Christ exhibition. Combining RE and Art, each class were given a piece of artwork which challenged typical perceptions of Christ and instead looked at how he is depicted in other cultures.

Class R and Class 1 worked collaboratively to produce this piece inspired by Silvia Dimitrova's 'Miriam'. They used a variety of printing and collage techniques to create the different elements.



Year 2 were inspired by our own El Salvador Cross, which hangs in our school. These crosses are hand painted by a Latin American group. The children each created a small animal, house, person, or flower to represent the many creations.

Year 3 had the challenging task of creating a 3D sculpture which was inspired by Peter Eugene Bell's Christus Rex. They used fabric paint for the clothes and modroc to sculpt the hands, feet and face.



Year 4 used collage skills to re-create this beautiful stained glass window effect which was inspired by Mary DuCharme's 'Jesus'.

Year 5 were thrilled to hear from Lorna May Wadsworth herself, when they shared with her their work inspired by her painting 'Pink Christ'. Each child had a canvas which was then joined together to create these fantastic pieces.



Year 6 used ink pens to produce work in the style of Sophia Mison's 'Moari Jesus'. Whilst some children focused purely on the intricate patterns, others created whole pieces inspired by the beautiful artwork.



The Bishop's Blue Coat C of E High School

This term, students are *'springing into social action'* to support a range of charities voted for by Year groups. They launched their social action initiative through assemblies that focused on the South African concept of *'ubuntu'* ('humanity towards others') and Jesus' teachings of putting love into action to improve the lives of others. Assemblies delivered during Children's Mental Health Week also reinforced the point that altruistic behaviour and showing compassion for others is one of the best ways that we can take care of our own mental and spiritual well-being. As the students progress through the spring and summer terms, they will *'spring into action'* for their charities by raising awareness and funds for them. Social action projects are being organised both at a tutor group and year group level and, in addition, planned non-uniform days will also be treated as social action and fundraising days.

Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School

Staff, children, and families have had a fabulous two weeks in January exploring God’s Big Story. The school were able to book a magical, engaging experience which consisted of thirty-three knitted scenes of prolific bible stories. Across the two weeks, all children from Nursery to Year 6 viewed the gallery of scenes and explored and developed a deep understanding of God’s Big Story. They engaged in tasks to consider their wonders, to discuss the concepts within each scene and to share in their knowledge with one another. After the experience, all classes had the opportunity to engage in prayer spaces – reflecting on how God’s everlasting love sits behind all aspects of the Big Story. Families and the community were invited to experience the Knitted Bible for themselves and to allow their child to share their learning.

