

## From the Diocesan Director of Education

I hope you have enjoyed a good summer and return refreshed for the new academic year. Recently, the central Church of England Education Office published a new vision for Church of England education - it provides a fresh articulation of why the Church is involved in education and what a good church school education looks like in the current educational landscape. It is a helpful and inspiring read at the start of a new term. It reminds us again of the importance of securing transformational outcomes for young people by combining academic rigour with a rounded approach to personal development. The vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children. It offers a vision of human flourishing which is deeply Christian with the promise of Jesus of "life in all its fullness" at its heart. It is worked out through four basic elements - Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

It points out that:

- good schools foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge and skills.
- good schools equip pupils for the drama of ongoing life by opening up horizons of hope and aspirations crucial for how they will approach later life
- good schools have a core focus on relationships and commitments and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together that are learnt in community
- good schools are one of the main places where children and young people learn to respect the value of each person through continual processes of discernment, deliberation and action.

The complex education system we find ourselves part of has been shaped by many different stakeholders. It is like a rich eco-system with long-term and newer elements which interact with each other. The Church of England is embedded in this system and is committed to sustaining its health through this vision and supporting wise improvements and innovation. It has learned many lessons over the course of its formation and history and these have shaped its approach to education and how it seeks to shape settings.

I do hope we will see you at our two main events this term; the launch of the Understanding Christianity Project and the Church School Leaders Conference.

I commend the new vision to you and once again remind you of the support available from the diocesan education team and assure you of our prayers for the term ahead.

**Claire Meese**

## Staffing Update

**This term we welcome the following headteachers/principals:**

**Caroline Aldrich** Halam C of E Primary School

**Heather Gabb** Burntstump Seely C of E Academy

**Claire Kent** The Mount C of E Primary School, Newark

**James Marshall** Mansfield St Peter's C of E Primary & Nursery School

**Anna Martin** Magnus Church of England Academy, Newark.

**Jo Redfern** as Executive Headteacher at St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School, Sutton in Ashfield

**Adrian Jackson** as Acting Head of School, St Swithun's C of E Primary School, Retford

**Mike Follen** Acting Executive Headteacher, St Swithun's C of E Primary School

## New Appointment

Mr Andy Wolfe, former Vice Principal at Emmanuel Church of England School in Nottingham, has been appointed Dean of the Younger Leadership College.

The College is part of a wider diocesan vision for Growing Disciples – wider, younger and deeper. The College will develop a variety of programmes and courses,



along with mentoring resources, for those aged 15-30. Andy is looking forward to working with our church secondary schools as part of his new role.

## Admissions and Consultations

Schools who are their own admissions authorities, i.e. **VA schools** and **Single Academy Trusts** and **Multi Academy Trusts** are reminded that they must consult on any changes to their admissions arrangements (including supplementary information forms) that apply to the admission year September 2018-19. All admissions authorities must **determine** their arrangements by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**. The consultation period has now changed from a minimum of 8 weeks to a minimum of 6 weeks. **The consultation must take place between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017**. We remind you that the diocese **must be** consulted as your religious authority and regard must be taken of our advice. See page 4 of the revised guidance from the Board of Education, accessible via this link <http://southwell.anglican.org/admissions/>

Proposed changes should be sent to Sheila Barker at [sheila.barker@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:sheila.barker@southwell.anglican.org) **prior** to consultation, ensuring the diocese has sufficient time to scrutinise them. Schools must consult at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes. You **MUST** publish a copy of your full proposed admissions arrangements – including the proposed PAN – on your website throughout the consultation period, together with contact details for any comments. For details of who to consult with, please see page 16 of the admissions code <http://southwell.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/School-Admissions-Code-2012.pdf>

For Multi Academy Trusts (including the diocesan MAT), the MAT is the admissions authority. Governors should contact the MAT regarding any changes, giving sufficient time for the MAT Board to meet to discuss and organise consultation if necessary. However, the diocese is still the religious authority for all church schools **and** academies in the diocese so should always be consulted about any proposed changes.

If VC schools do not simply adopt the LA admissions criteria but have

## Church Schools and Academy Status

At the end of April a new Memorandum of Understanding between the DfE and National Society was published following consultation with the Central Church of England Education Office and dioceses. This sets down the key principles that underpin decisions regarding all C of E schools taking on academy status and also states the importance of DBEs having an academisation strategy.

In light of this new publication, the DBE has updated its academisation policy and formulated a strategy for developing academy trusts in the event of large numbers of schools converting. We are holding another briefing for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors (or another key governor) on Thursday 15th September at 6.30-8.30 at Jubilee House, to explain our policy and strategy. This will be followed by a presentation from the new Chief Executive Officer of the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust for those schools that might be interested in joining the Diocesan MAT. It is really important that all schools are represented at this briefing if no one attended the summer term briefing; the session will be aimed at Church of England Primary schools.

## Understanding Christianity Project

Now is the time to get in touch if you haven't yet booked your place for the launch of **Understanding Christianity**; the national Church of England Religious Education Project resource to strengthen the teaching of Christianity in schools takes place on Thursday 29th September from 9.00am - 12.00 noon at Holy Trinity Church, Southwell.

Please email Ally Horne at [ahorne@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:ahorne@southwell.anglican.org) if you are able to join us for this event.

It is expected that all C of E schools and academies, both primary and secondary will be

## Dates for the Diary

All at Jubilee House unless indicated otherwise.

### SEPTEMBER

**15 Academies Briefing for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors**  
6.30pm - 8.30pm

**22 Headteacher Induction**  
9.30-12.30

**22 Deputy Headteacher Induction**  
1.30-3.30

**29 Diocesan Launch of Understanding Christianity**  
Launch a.m. Holy Trinity Church, Southwell  
Modules begin p.m. at Jubilee House

### OCTOBER

**7 Middle Leadership in Church Schools**  
9.30 - 3.30

**11 Induction Training for those new to working in church schools**  
9.30-3.30

## Dates for the Diary continued

### OCTOBER

**13 Primary Headteachers  
Network Meeting**  
1.30-3.30

**13 What If Learning Network  
Meeting**  
4.15-6.00

**14 What Does Character  
Education Look Like in  
Practice?**  
Langar C of E Primary School  
1.00-3.30

### NOVEMBER

**1 Primary RE Leaders  
Network Meeting**  
4:15 –6:00

**3 Ofsted Ready? Can you tell  
your story?**  
7.00-9.00pm

**9 Developing Christian  
Character Education**  
9:30 –3:30

**9 Secondary Headteacher  
Network Meeting**  
10:30 –2:30 venue tbc

**14 Governor Training**  
7:00-9:00

**17 Understanding Christianity  
Project: Secondary**  
9.30-4.00

Detail of these courses and  
others can be found in our new  
training brochure.

**22 Understanding Christianity  
Module 4 (primary)**  
9:30 –12:30

### DECEMBER

**1 Leading a Small School**  
9:00-12:00

**9 Effective Quality Assurance  
in Schools**

## Church School Leaders Conference Faith, hope and.....leadership

**Wednesday 16th November 2016**

We look forward to welcoming Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Schools Chaplains and clergy with church schools at The Derbyshire Hotel. This year focuses on Leadership in Church Schools.

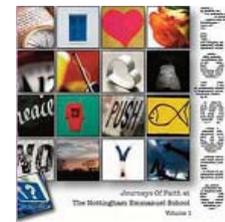


Bishop Paul will be the main keynote speaker on the theme of Being a leader in a Christian context and how it applies in schools. He will be supported by Tim Summersby, a primary practitioner, and leaders from the Nottingham Emmanuel School.



There will be a choice of five workshop sessions in the afternoon.

The booking form with information is available at <http://southwell.anglican.org/education/schoolsacademies/>  
Book via Ally Horne at [ahorne@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:ahorne@southwell.anglican.org)



## Hold the Date!

### Faiths Roadshow at Southwell Minster



Building on the success of the previous Faiths Roadshow another event will be held on March 15th 2017. This is aimed at KS2 children who can come and experience food, clothes, artefacts, music and much more from people of 6 different faiths who will tell their stories. There will be a range of interactive activities for children to experience. Bookings will be for either a half day or a full day if schools would also like to take part in activities around the Archbishop's Palace and Gardens. More

## The Christian Aid Big Sing 2015

The diocese is once again partnering with Christian Aid to raise money for their Christmas fundraising campaign which this year is for people fleeing violence.

The Big Sing will be taking place on Thursday 8th December at Samworth Church Academy, Mansfield. We have space for a couple more school choirs, so if you are interested in your school being involved please contact Jane Lewis on [jane.lewis@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:jane.lewis@southwell.anglican.org)

## Trees for free!

The Woodland Trust invites applications from schools to receive free saplings to plant in their school grounds.



The trees are given away every March and November, to coincide with the tree-planting season. Not only will they help to improve the appearance of school grounds, they will also encourage more wildlife to the local area.

Schools can apply for packs of 30, 105 or 420 saplings. There are also KS2 resources available to inspire pupils about trees and wildlife. For more information and to download the resources, visit the

Many of you will appreciate how hard your local vicar or curate works for your school and will see them as a valued member of the school community. Here is an opportunity to make sure they know it!

16-23 October sees the launch, in every Anglican diocese, of Thank Your Vicar Week, and schools are being asked to hold a special service or school assembly to show their appreciation for all that they do and give them an event to remember!

Schools and parishes can download free resources from

[www.stlukeshealthcare.org.uk](http://www.stlukeshealthcare.org.uk) from 8 September, with ideas for Thank Your Vicar Week celebrations. School resources have been devised to complement the RE curriculum.

Please do consider joining in this special nationwide thank you and let us know when you have arranged a service or assembly by emailing Sheila on [Sheila.barker@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:Sheila.barker@southwell.anglican.org)



## New Collective Worship Resources

Jane Lewis, one of our schools advisers, has written some complete acts of collective worship that can be used in primary schools to help children and staff begin to explore the values in the National C of E Vision for Education.

There are 5 acts of worship, focussing on each of: God is good & God is love, Wisdom, Hope, Community & Dignity. There is another act of worship which can be used as an introduction to the series written by a colleague in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese. The acts of worship will be on the diocesan website and will be freely available for schools

## The Real Advent Calendar



**“If Christ is being written out of Christmas – let’s put Him back, by sharing the Christmas Story.”** ....says the Meaningful Chocolate Company who have produced a Real Advent Calendar which comes with a book telling the story of Christmas. This is suitable for primary age children and contains illustrations to bring the Christmas story to life and a range of Advent challenges.

The chocolate is Fairtrade certified, and every sale means a donation to the work of Traidcraft Exchange and the Funzi Baby Clinic in Kenya.

The calendars will be available from retailers including Tesco from October, priced at £3.99 each. Or if you wish to buy in bulk, visit the Meaningful Chocolate Company website at [http://shop.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/product\\_p/realad2016case.htm](http://shop.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/product_p/realad2016case.htm) Please consider if your school can support this cause and help