From the Diocesan Director of Education

During the course of last term I was fortunate enough to have some time out to attend the Diocesan Conference. This is an opportunity I am immensely grateful for, as it gave me an opportunity to reflect on my leadership from a perspective outside of the world of education – something that periodically is very important for all school leaders.

One of the speakers at the conference was the Bishop of Berwick who proved very insightful in many of the things he had to say about leadership. Since the conference he has started a regular blog and such was my respect for him as a result of the conference that I have been reading some of the blogs he has been producing. He states from the outset that his intention in blogging is to try and do more than just become opinionated on current affairs or to publicise his sermons and talks but rather to look for a greater good and write blogs that have within them the space to search for wisdom. This, is a high aim. Wisdom is presented in the Bible as elusive and relational, and needing to be learned. You can’t command or control wisdom, and rarely is it fully encompassed in a sound bite. How, though, do you pursue wisdom? The bible suggests that ‘the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom’ Others have suggested that it starts with humility. Humility is not so much the belief that I am worse than others, but rather the outworking of the knowledge that I am not the final authority on anything and I am capable of being wrong in everything. Ultimate humility, of course, for the Christian, involves placing God at the centre of things and allowing everything else to flow from him.

We all have opinions about all sorts of things, of course, but in our twitter-fed post-truth days we desperately need to learn to evaluate them carefully and hold some of them lightly if we want to find wisdom. We need to find ways of helping our children and young people to do this too.

Sometimes it may be helpful to focus more on values than opinions. Developing Christian values is something we work hard at in church schools. This is really important because values tend to be more deeply rooted and flexible.

Staff Changes

Our congratulations to Adrian Jackson who has now taken on the role of headteacher at St Swithun’s C of E Primary School Retford.

Sheila Barker (Assistant Director – Schools) retires in March after 12 years in the Education Department. We are immensely grateful for the enormous contribution she has made to the work of the education team and the Diocesan Board of Education. Posts are being reconfigured within the Education Team and job descriptions are being drawn up. We will keep you informed when new appointments have been made.
than opinions. However, even a recourse to values is not enough to guarantee wisdom.

Jesus taught us to pray ‘Our Father… Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done…’ and this must be the foundational prayer for all Christian discipleship. When we pray it sincerely it should help keep us humble and expectant that God will guide and help us in our search for wisdom as we seek to serve Him faithfully.

Wisdom is identified as one of the four basic elements of the new Church of England Vision for Education along with hope, community and dignity. It is identified as one of the strands that should permeate our schools. I would like to encourage you to not only seek wisdom for your own leadership but to consider how you can develop this in the children and young people in your school.

Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of the pupils in your school. Please be assured of the prayers and support of the diocesan education team for all you are doing.

Claire Meese

**Thy Kingdom Come**

Thy Kingdom Come is an initiative started last year by Churches Together which encourages churches, schools and individuals to focus on The Lord’s Prayer and devote some days to praying together from 25th May to 4th June. This year, Bishop Paul is encouraging us all to join in. We would like our schools to be part of this and are suggesting that you set aside Thursday May 25th (Ascension Day). There is no prescription about what you should do; each school should participate in a way that is relevant to them, and could engage with other schools in their area or their local church.

We will be sending around some ideas. The Archbishop of Canterbury has really got behind this initiative and said "If we don’t pray, nothing happens. In prayer, we engage with God, he changes us. As we pray together, it will draw us closer together, closer to God.”


**Days for year 6 children at Southwell Minster**

**Go M.A.D.**

Special days for year 6 students are being held on 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th July this year. The day, called MAKE A DIFFERENCE celebrates the transition to secondary school and offers a chance to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

The cost is £5 per child. For more information, click this link [http://tinyurl.com/hjvbykmg](http://tinyurl.com/hjvbykmg) or contact the Minister Education Team (not the Diocesan Education team!) at [education@southwellminster.org.uk](mailto:education@southwellminster.org.uk)
Living Well Together Conference

One hundred year 6 children and staff from 12 of our church primary schools gathered in the Archbishop’s Palace, Southwell, last November for a Living Well Together Conference. They were welcomed by the new Dean of Southwell Minster, Nicola Sullivan, and the Bishop of Sherwood, Tony Porter. A worship dance and Bible readings were provided by pupils from Lowdham Church of England Primary School. The keynote talk was given by Tom Wilson, Director of the St Philip’s Centre in Leicester, and pupils from Sneinton Church of England Primary School. Tom focussed on the need to listen, understand, act and say sorry when we are learning to live well together with people from different backgrounds.

The children then had the opportunity to work in mixed groups to discuss their responses to a series of questions and prepare feedback for presentation in the afternoon. Each group gave their feedback to the conference delegates who were joined in the afternoon by invited panellists David Picken (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education), Liz Plant (Chair of Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) and Nigel Spraggins (Diocesan Chief Executive).

Panellists commented on the excellent quality of the feedback from the children, picking out some keywords from the presentations – Respect, Responsibility and Integrity – all of which had been displayed by the children during their group activities. Tom Wilson commented that all of the children had “not only been talking about ‘living well together’ they had been doing ‘living well together’!”

The day had been organised jointly by the Diocesan Education Team and the Minster Education Team in collaboration with the St Philip’s Centre, Leicester, and was filmed by the National Church of England Education Office for possible use as a national resource for schools / Dioceses looking to organise their own Living Well Together Conference.

Big Sing

Great support for Christian Aid!

In December, five church primary schools and one secondary school in the diocese came together at Samworth Church Academy, Mansfield, to celebrate Christmas and support Christian Aid in ‘The Big Sing 2016, viewing this opportunity to come together to sing and help raise money for Christian Aid as one of the ways in which they can fulfil the ‘Seeking Justice’ strand of the diocesan mission statement.”

Children from Farnsfield St Michael’s C of E Primary School; Mount C of E Primary School; Ravenshead C of E Primary School; St Wilfrid’s C of E Primary School and Hucknall National Primary School sang their hearts out with Christmas songs and traditional carols and students from The Samworth Church Academy welcomed everyone with their own musical contributions.
National College for Teaching & Leadership

National Leader of Governance

If you’re an experienced chair of governors who is interested in supporting chairs of governors in other schools, you can apply to be a NLG. This is part of the government’s plan to give schools a central role in developing a self-improving and sustainable school-led system.

You must be an experienced chair of governors with:

- excellent leadership skills
- a track record of raising school or academy performance in at least 1 school
- the skills to influence improvement by supporting or challenging headteachers, or principals
- a track record of implementing and sustaining effective governance in at least 1 school

You must have been Chair of Governors for at least 2 years within the last 5 years.

Register your interest for the next cohort at [http://tinyurl.com/jv727ot](http://tinyurl.com/jv727ot)

Reminder - Governor Appointments at Church Schools and Academies

Please remember that anyone wishing to become a Foundation Governor of a church school or a Diocesan Governor in a church academy must complete the appropriate application and eligibility form. The application form includes a section that needs to be filled in by the Chair of Governors and requires the Chair to identify what skills are currently needed on the governing body. The diocese has produced a governing body skills audit that includes skills / knowledge required specifically in church schools. These forms are available on the diocesan website [http://tinyurl.com/zgcox3f](http://tinyurl.com/zgcox3f) or by contacting Alison Jacobson the Diocesan Governance Officer on 01636 817230 or alison.jacobson@southwell.anglican.org

Small Schools Support for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors

Making the budget work effectively is a challenge for all schools but particularly so in small schools. The movement of one family into or out of the school can have a big impact on finances.

Coupled with ever tightening budget allocations the need to look for creative solutions to meet statutory requirements and staffing becomes more essential. The Small schools’ toolkit on our website helps with future planning and can be found at [http://tinyurl.com/glqepp8](http://tinyurl.com/glqepp8)

Sam Dennis, Deputy DDE, has experience of working in small schools and experience of making small schools work within the constraints of a shrinking budget, and is available to work with you on staffing structures and solutions. Contact Sam on 01636 817247 samantha.dennis@southwell.anglican.org
Regional Character Education Conference
East Midlands
The Derbyshire Hotel,
Tuesday 25th April 2017

This is an innovative day conference for school leaders exploring the leadership decisions surrounding embedding Character Education, with regional case studies illustrating the impact of The Church of England’s Vision for Education - Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good

Keynote addresses will be from Revd Nigel Genders, Church of England Chief Education Officer and Dr Tom Harrison, Director of Education in the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at Birmingham University. The conference will also look at case studies from across the region.

This conference is presented in partnership by the Dioceses of Southwell and Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and as part of a national series of Character Education conferences by The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership

A flyer and booking form will shortly be emailed to schools. Please save the date and register by completing the booking form and sending, with payment, to Ally Horne at the Diocesan Education Department.

National Conference:
'Bringing the Vision Alive'

Time is running out to book for the National Education Conference taking place on Saturday 4th February at Church House, London. Please consider making a booking – or preferably two, which will make the conference even better value!

Inspiring speakers including Archbishop Sentamu, Professor David Ford, Professor Bill Lucas, Bishop Libby Lane and Revd Nigel Genders

Click here to book tickets for this unmissable National Conference, and become part of the movement - http://tinyurl.com/hp3r3lr (£125 per person or £200 for 2 tickets from same organisation)
Dates for the Diary

At Jubilee House unless indicated otherwise.

JANUARY

25 Understanding Christianity: module 5 1300-1600

FEBRUARY

2 Secondary Heads Network Meeting
Bluecoat Academy, Aspley Site 1030-1230

7 Improving Classroom Practice 2: Writing 1330-1530

8 Middle Leadership in Church Schools: session 2 0930-1530

22 Primary Heads Network Meeting 1300-1530

28 Improving Classroom Practice 3: Maths 1330-1530

MARCH

2 Understanding Christianity Modules 1-3 2nd cohort 0930-1530

8 Islam: Planning a Core Content in RE 0930-1530

14 Moving EYFS from Good to Outstanding 0930-1530

15 Religion & Belief Roadshow The Minster 1000-1200 or 1300-1500

MARCH

16 Primary RE Subject Leaders Network Meeting (north) Primary School of St Mary & St Martin 1615-1800

21 Improving Classroom Practice 4: Review 1330-1530

21 Governor training 1900-2100

Save the date!

Our annual School Leaders Conference will be held this year on **Wednesday 22**nd **November 2017** at The Derbyshire Hotel, when our keynote speaker will be Mary Myatt who has recently published the book ‘Hopeful Schools’.

You can read more about Mary on her website page [http://marymyatt.com/](http://marymyatt.com/)

Please mark the date in your diary!

School Improvement Courses coming up this term

**Improving Classroom Practice**

For teachers relatively new to the classroom, or those that need further support to improve classroom practice, this course provides a wealth of practical ideas and an expectation that work is implemented in the classroom and evaluated for the final session. Staff must attend the final session but can attend any combination of the three subject training afternoons.

Led by Heather Rattenberry, a primary NLE, this is a final opportunity to access Heather’s expertise in school improvement before her retirement at the end of the year.

Writing Tuesday 7th February 1:30pm - 3:30pm £50
Maths Tuesday 28th February 1:30pm – 3:30pm £50
Review Session Tuesday 21* March 1:30pm – 3:30pm £50

BOOK ALL THREE SESSIONS FOR £100

**Moving EYFS to Outstanding**

Tuesday 14* March 9:30pm- 3:30pm £100

Aimed at EYFS and school leaders this course will provide a thorough understanding of the features of outstanding EYFS practice. It will look at how to make the most of the setting to maximise children’s progress and drive for the highest standards. Jo Redfern, course leader, has a wealth of expertise in Early Years and has recently gained national recognition with Quality Lead Status for Achieving Early.