



DIOCESAN NEWS

Nativity mobiles – huge success for another year

Once again, our Nativity mobiles graced the arches of Rochester Cathedral for Christmas and they will be there until 15th January 2018 if you want to catch a glimpse of them. Many thanks from the Diocesan team and the Cathedral team who know that Christmas has truly begun when the mobiles arrive. The ideas that our schools put together astound us year on year – those that make us smile, those that make us think and those that are stunningly beautiful. More often than not, the mobiles do all three of these things! We would like to say an enormous thank you to those schools who provided the mobiles for 2017:-



Bredhurst,
Christ Church Erith,
Fordcombe
Horton Kirby



Shorne,
St John's Tunbridge Wells,
St Margaret's Collier Street,
St Margaret's Juniors Rainham,
St Margaret's at Troy Town,
Rochester,



Sutton at Hone
Trinity Bromley,
Wouldham All Saints,



Welcoming Fi to the team



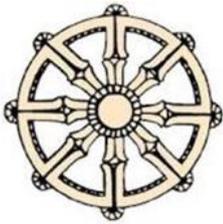
Following a period of reflection about how best to support our schools, we decided that we should build some additional capacity for RE within the existing team. In October, we were delighted to be able to appoint, on secondment, Fi Farrin from St Mary's Island primary school for a day a week. She focusses primarily on writing planning to supplement the Understanding Christianity materials. You have already received some excellent resources from her, including guidance for your policy.

She writes about herself.....

I'm Fiona Farrin and I've been asked to write a little bit about myself, which feels odd, but here goes! I'm a mum of four gorgeous kids between the ages of 23 and 9 and, about fifteen years ago, I started to help out in my eldest daughter's school. I quickly found that I really enjoy working with children so I went back into education for myself, firstly training as a TA then HLTA and then onto university where I finally qualified as a teacher. During this journey, I discovered that I have a real passion for RE. I love learning about people, their different ideas and traditions, cultures and beliefs. I love the way this new learning can challenge my thoughts, my view of the world, my own spiritual and philosophical convictions. I love visiting places of worship, learning about what has inspired people to create such beautiful buildings. I love looking at significant texts and fascinating artefacts. I love history, art and music, dance and drama. For me, RE brings everything together, and while teaching children, I learn so much more as they learn and question and discuss. It has been a real privilege to join the team at the Diocese and engage with new materials and resources for RE I hope I can share my enthusiasm and enjoyment for a subject that engages and inspires children to think deeply, question respectfully and reflect on ideas that have real meaning in their lives.

RESOURCES

Teaching Buddhism? – possibly for the first time?



The Buddhist Society is delighted to announce a **Free Open Training Day for Religious Education In Primary Schools** (booking required) - Thursday 1st February from 1:30pm to 5pm at The Buddhist Society.

Jaymie Pauvaday and June Ben Rabah at Numinous Education (subject specialist teachers in RE), as well as senior Buddhist practitioners and teachers will present an interactive workshop style CPD covering the basic principals of Buddhism enabling teachers to present them confidently in the classroom.

What to look forward to on the day

- * Introducing Buddhism
- * The life of the historical Buddha
- * Some tough philosophical ideas
- * Three Marks of Existence
- * Four Noble Truths
- * Eightfold Noble Path
- * The Middle Way
- * Rebirth
- * Nirvana
- * Enlightenment
- * The Sangha
- * Jataka Tales
- * Mandalas and Meditation
- * Meet the Buddhists
- * How to encourage critical thinking skills in RE.
- * Q&A

The session does not include printed resources but teachers will be directed to useful online resources such as videos, songs, teaching sites.

We look forward to hosting Teachers of RE, Head Teachers, and SACRE Advisors.

Registration at 1pm for 1:30pm start.
<http://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/page/religious-education-in-schools>

Exploring essential concepts: a poster pack for RE

Are you looking for inspirational lesson ideas and creative visuals to stimulate deep thinking and discussion with your students?



Exploring essential concepts: a poster pack for RE is a classroom RE resource to encourage thought-provoking conversation, as well as philosophical and creative responses from 11–19 year olds

The series was written to provide ideas and classroom resources centered around 12 essential concepts that are both at the heart of religious and non-religious worldviews, and of central value for getting students to think about their own understanding of themselves and the world around them.

What does the resource include:

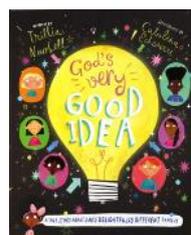
- ♦ 12 hard-back A3 posters of the original artworks to stimulate deep thinking and discussion.
- ♦ A teacher's guide offering 42 inspirational ways to use the pack with 11–19s.
- ♦ PLUS easy access to 190 downloadable images.

See <https://shop.retoday.org.uk/9781910261262> for more details



A RECOMMENDATION FROM ONE OF OUR PRIMARY SUBJECT LEADERS....

She says, 'This book really complements the syllabus' focus on the 'big story' of the bible. A lot of the teachers have found it helpful particularly the Tecarta bible APP for tablets/ipads.



This book celebrates diversity and will help children see how people from all ethnic and social backgrounds are valuable to God and how Jesus came to rescue all kinds of people. It will also excite them about being part of church - God's delightfully different family.

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS – A LIVING FAITH



Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly. Micah 6:8

Welcome to HOPE 2018! The following pages and links will inspire, encourage, upskill and resource us to be confident as we share the Hope we have in Jesus with our communities, through Word and Action. Whether you're involved in Community Engagement, Social Responsibility, Faith Sharing Courses or Volunteering in your church or community, we want to welcome and support you as we love our neighbours and help transform lives together in 2018.

If you're new to HOPE, it's based on a few simple principles:

- Demonstrating God's love as local churches work together, meeting needs in our communities;
- Continuing to love and serve people whatever they choose to believe;
- Inviting people to go further in their spiritual journey by sharing the Gospel with words in culturally relevant ways; and
- Giving people opportunities to respond to the gospel, then connecting people who do respond into church life.

Hope 2018 provides an opportunity to show the 'Impact' part of your RE teaching by looking at local examples - appropriate to age and stage.

<http://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/hope-2018/stories-that-need-to-be-told/>

It may also be another way of linking with your local parish especially if they are actively involved in the campaign



SHARE A PENCIL DAY 2018



It is always good to find a new way of raising children's awareness of how lucky they are to have free, high quality education.

While we have celebrated and enjoyed Christmas, let us not forget the millions of children worldwide whose Christmas wish is simply to go to school. Join in teaching our children a little more about the reasons children worldwide are still missing out on the education they deserve.

Share a Pencil Day is a fun, engaging and interactive global education awareness day for all UK primary and secondary schools. Sign up free today at

www.shareapencilday.co.uk

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Further information can be
found on : www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2017

FEBRUARY 2018

- Wednesday 21st February **RE Support Group** - 1.30pm to 3-30pm
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Tunbridge Wells
TN4 9SH
- Thursday 22nd February **RE Support Group** –1.30pm to 3-30pm
Diocesan Offices, ME1 1SL



Bromley schools should contact Lee Kings for details of their REConnect meetings.

MARCH

- Tuesday 6th March **Cof E Vision Training** - 1.30 pm - 4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices,
Boley Hill Rochester, ME1 1SL.
- By popular demand we are running this course one last time, but only if there is sufficient interest. please note this will be the final opportunity to attend this training as it will be the 5th time we have offered it.***
- Wednesday 21st March **New SIAMS framework:** 1.30 pm - 4 pm Southborough CEP School,
Broom Hill Park Road, TN4 0JY
- Friday 23rd March **New SIAMS framework :** 1.30 pm - 4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices,
Boley Hill ME1 1SL
- Monday 26th March **New SIAMS framework :** 9.30 pm - 12 noon Rochester Diocesan
Offices, Boley Hill ME1 1SL
- Tuesday 27th March **New SIAMS framework:** 1.30 pm - 4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices,
Boley Hill ME1 1SL

Please note these will be the four opportunities offered for this training and no further courses are planned at present.

JUNE 2018

- Wednesday 6th June **RE Support Group**—1.30pm to 3-30pm Bennett Memorial Diocesan
School, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH
- Thursday 7th June **RE Support Group**—1.30pm to 3-30pm Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL

*****Heads & Chairs breakfast briefings*****

Thursday 25th January —8.30—11am (coffee/pastries from 8am) Diocesan Offices Rochester ME1 1SL
Friday 26th January —8.30-11am (coffee/pastries from 8am) Holiday Inn Wrotham