



ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DECEMBER 2016

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY



It has been extremely encouraging to see every school in the Diocese sign up to attend the 'Understanding Christianity' training. Day 1 provided an introduction to the materials and the opportunity to start to think about what RE might look like once we adopt the materials formally in our schools starting from September 2017. Between Days 1 and 2, there are a few suggestions for taking the materials forward with your staff:

- ◆ Ask for staff training time – use some of the activities from the morning session of the training to introduce the principles to staff in short sessions using the PowerPoints provided
- ◆ Try out the pedagogy yourself – Text, Impact, Connections – on an existing unit of work
- ◆ Teach some of the ideas from the materials within the current scheme to enrich what you are already teaching
- ◆ Try and teach a whole unit in place of a current unit as a trial/pilot

Please be prepared to feed back about any of your experiences when you come to Day 2 and to the subject leaders follow-up sessions for the training which is on the following dates:

ROCHESTER

Day 2: Monday 13 March

Plus RE support meetings at Rochester for subject leaders only

Thursday 23 February

Thursday 8 June



TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day 2: Thursday 16 March

Plus RE support meetings at Bennett Memorial for subject leaders only

Wednesday 22 February

Wednesday 7 June

ST BOTOLPH'S

Day 2: Wednesday 29 March

Plus RE support meetings at Rochester or Tunbridge Wells for subject leaders Only (see dates above)

In terms of how RE will look in our schools from September 2017, guidance about this will form part of 'Understanding Christianity' Day 2 and also feature in these publications during 2017.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and willingness to engage with religious and theological literacy – it will be well worth your time and effort

Virginia Corbyn

FOCUS ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Although we tend to focus purely on RE in this termly publication, I know that some of you are also involved in planning for collective worship. The resources for one can often complement the other and help to reinforce learning about and from RE.

Values for Lifesavers; A new publication for Collective Worship.

LifeSavers is a national, financial education programme for primary schools, helping children manage money wisely. This is part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Just Finance' programme and the Education Office have been working with The Mission and Public Affairs Office of the Church of England and 'Young Enterprise' to develop this. Authored by Shahne Vickery and Neville Norcross and packed with more than 80 pages of ideas, this resource will help children to explore what it means to be generous, wise, just, and thankful with our money. Values for LifeSavers has been written from a Christian perspective, but can be adapted for use in a wide range of school contexts.

Watch out for details of a website for the project that is coming soon where you will be able to download these resources but if you would like to get some hard copies for schools or teachers, use the link below. The resource is technically free but there is a small P&P charge (£4.25 for up to 5 copies).
<https://www.cpo.org.uk/product.aspx?prod=Z3595BT&cat=3613>

OSCAR OUT OF THE BOX

Oscar, the owl puppet, gives a bird's eye view as each story unfolds and adds his insights – interacting with pupils as he becomes part of this special worship time. A worship box is used, containing a coloured worship cloth appropriate to the season of the church year, a story Bible, cross and candles plus props with which to help tell the story in a way children will remember. (Details of the Church seasons can be found in the 'Free Downloads' section of <http://www.imaginer.co.uk/oscar-out-of-the-box/>)

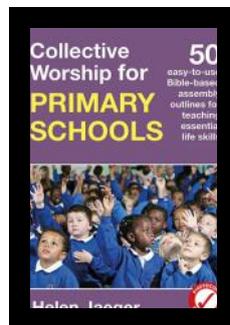


The pattern of worship follows that used in other Imaginer publications and pupils will quickly learn the set responses and songs (if used). The 'Welcome' section invites children to prepare themselves for worship.

They then listen to an interactive story from the Bible, 'Learning', before 'Reflecting' on the significance of the story to them. Finally the 'Respond' section is an opportunity for children to join in a closing prayer as they consider their response to the story they've heard. Two sessions are provided for each of the Imaginer values, each with a clear learning focus which is developed through questions to consider in the 'Reflection' time.

Collective Worship for Primary Schools 50 easy-to-use Bible-based outlines for teaching essential life skills

Collective Worship with 4-11s is a practical resource for those leading Collective Worship in primary school, whether teachers or church personnel with links to their local school. It contains 50 ten-minute outlines, each based on a key theme and including an interactive game, a thought for the day, a Bible story and a reflection time.



One headteacher wrote, This volume is mercifully simple in construction and easy to use. Heads will particularly appreciate the "No special preparation is required" ones. There is one unique feature: the assemblies are published in alphabetical order, according to the theme. Hence we begin with anti-bullying and conclude with world feasts. The best title in the book is appropriately in the middle: "Laughing is good for you."

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/9780857464590/>

TRAINING FOR WORSHIP LEADERS:

LEARNING THE BASICS

Join the FamilyTrust and the Diocese for a short training session on how to lead worship that is engaging and interactive. This is especially aimed at those who are 'beginners' as worship leaders to give them extra ideas and added confidence. We would also welcome anyone who visits from church to lead your worship. £25 per person.

Tuesday 16 May 2017 from 1-30pm to 4pm at the Rochester Diocesan offices ME1 1SL

Book with teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org

RESOURCES



Conference for Teachers

*of the new GCSE Religious Studies,
Islam - first examination 2018*

A Training Conference for Teachers of the new GCSE Religious Studies, Islam - first examination 2018

- Full Day conference on Thursday 2nd February, 2017
- Presentations by representatives from the examination boards
- Presentations focusing on the way candidates will be assessed by the awarding organisations
- Workshops on subject content: Beliefs/Practices and Themes by a range of scholars with the focus on the focus on the new materials of Shia and Sunni Islam in the curriculum
- Trainers will include prominent Imams, Ayatollah Sayed Fazel Milani, Sheikh Mohammed Al Hilli, Dr Rebecca Masterton scholars in Islam, Dr Chris Hewer, Deborah Weston OBE from NATRE and Monawar Hussain
- Lunch and refreshments are included
- A vibrant art exhibition of Islamic art work. Arabic Calligraphy by the renowned Samir Malik



Early Bird Booking (By 1st January 2017) - £100
Standard Booking - £130

Time: 9:30 am - 3:45 pm

Venue:

The Al-Khoei Foundation,
Chevening Road,
London, NW6 6TN

For further information or
if you would like to register please contact

Ms Siddika Ghulamhussain

✉ s.gulamhusein@alkhoei.org
☎ 020 7372 4049



Charity no: 802000



/alkhoei.org



@alkhoei_org

STUDENT SUNDAY 2017

On 19 February 2017, student groups, churches and other Christian communities will come together to celebrate Student Sunday and pray for students around the world. The theme next year is 'All Are Welcome', and so you are invited to think about how your church or community can be involved!

In an increasingly hostile world, it's more important than ever to create spaces that are generous, hospitable

and welcoming for all: spaces to think, reflect and act; spaces to be ourselves, as God made us. For students who are exploring their identity and vocation – and sometimes struggling to be heard and recognised – a truly welcoming community can make all the difference.



Get Involved

Could your church, network or school, get involved and celebrate Student Sunday with us next year?

Here are a few ways you can help:

1. **Download and use the resources:** We've created a handy resource toolkit, which contains prayers, reflections, stories, liturgies, activities and notes on the lectionary readings. You can download the pack for free from SCM's website and use it to plan a service.
2. **Invite a student to share their story:** Nothing beats a personal testimony from students in your congregation, or from the local university, so ask them to share their story during the service. You can also invite someone from the SCM team to speak about the importance of faith for students. Email the office to get in touch.
3. **Spread the word online:** help us share the resources with other churches and networks, using the hashtag #StudentSunday and link to the webpage. Please also use the hashtag next February to share photos and moments from your service.
4. **Arrange a collection for SCM:** SCM's aim is to inspire more students to deepen their faith, explore their calling and take action for justice while at university. You can support this movement by arranging a collection for SCM, either during Student Sunday or at another convenient time.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with SCM if you have any questions, either about Student Sunday or anything else about the movement.

<http://www.movement.org.uk/resources/student-sunday>

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St Nicholas Church
Boley Hill
Rochester
ME1 1SL

Phone: 01634 560000
Fax: 01634 408942
Website: www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2017



FEBRUARY

Wednesday 22nd February

RE Support Group—**Bennett Memorial Diocesan School**, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH **1.30pm—4pm**
(please park on the road as parking is limited in the school grounds) **Understanding Christianity**

Thursday 23rd February

RE Support Group—**Rochester Diocesan Offices** Boley Hill ME1 1SL.
1.30 pm—4 pm—Understanding Christianity

Friday 24th February

RE Support Group—**Crayford Community Hall (Bexley Schools)** **1.30 - 4 pm**
This does NOT have an 'Understanding Christianity' focus.

MARCH

Monday 13th March

Understanding Christianity **9.30 am—4 pm** Rochester Diocesan Offices
Boley Hill ME1 1SL

Thursday 16th March

Understanding Christianity **9.30am - 4 pm** at Southborough CEP School, Broomhill
Park Road, Southborough TN4 0JY

Wednesday 29th March

Understanding **Christianity 9-30 am - 4 pm** at St. Botolph's CEP School
Northfleet DA11 9PL

JUNE

Tuesday 13th—Friday 16th

Church Schools Celebrations - Rochester Cathedral
Please note: year 1 schools will have priority booking this year.

****** HEADS AND CHAIRS BRIEFINGS 2017 ******

Thursday 2nd February

Breakfast meeting **8 am (coffee) —10.30 am** The Holiday Inn Wrotham TN15 7RS

Friday 3rd February

Diocesan Offices St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL **1.30 pm— 4pm**