

The New Syllabus for Religious Education

Thank you to all of you for your commitment to the training for 'Understanding Christianity'. Most of our schools have now attended Day 1 of the training with Day 2 coming up on the following dates in March.

Monday 13th March 9.30 am—4 pm
Rochester Diocesan Offices,
or

Thursday 16th March 9.30 am—4pm
Southborough CEP School,
or

Wednesday 29th March 9.30 am –4pm
St. Botolph's CEP School Northfleet.

In addition, the RE subject leaders (not clergy) need to attend their RE support meetings in February and June as these constitute an element of the training too.

Wednesday 22nd February 1.30pm-4pm
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School
or

Thursday 23rd February 1.30pm-4 pm
Rochester Diocesan Offices.

And in June—please note the different venues

Wednesday 7th June 1.30pm-4 pm
Bore Place, Chiddingstone,
Edenbridge, TN8 7AR
or

Thursday 8th June 1.30pm-4 pm
St. Justus Church The Fairway Rochester

Just to be clear

- ◇ Day 1 and 2 introduce you to the new Understanding Christianity resources and train you to

- ◇ pass on the training to your colleagues in school. We will also look at new overviews in school and the expectations for assessment.
- ◇ The February support meetings will help you to understand how the other world faiths will fit in to using the 'Understanding Christianity' resources
- ◇ The June training will be something new and unique to help us to apply the pedagogy more widely to the curriculum in terms of our understanding of the world – ***please note the different venues for the meetings in June***

The expectation moving forward will be as follows:

- ◇ Implementation of the new syllabus will be from September 2017
- ◇ New overviews will be provided for you to show you how the new materials will support you in delivering the new syllabus for Christianity and for other world faiths
- ◇ We understand that there will be a period of adjustment in moving to a different way of planning, teaching and learning.
- ◇ Support for the implementation of the new syllabus will be on-going and those who come to look at RE in school (including SIAMS) will be fully briefed about what is happening.

You can, of course, contact me if you have any questions but I hope that the training in the coming months and into next year will make things clear as we journey together.

RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

NATRE's Spirited Arts Competition

In its 14th year, this competition has attracted over 300,000 participants averaging 2,000 entrants per year since 2004. Hundreds of UK schools get involved, and entries come from as far afield as Cyprus and Australia, Indonesia and South Africa. In order to enable teachers to incorporate the art competition into their RE lessons, many schools have an 'Art in Heaven' unit of work, or a special learning RE/arts week.

Details about the 2017 Spirited Arts competition are now on NATRE's website www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2017/.

This year's themes are: Big, big questions; Standing up for good; 'The word of God?'; Where is God?; Belief in Action. More information about each theme is on the website and the closing date is **31st July 2017**.

I know that a number of our schools have entered in the past and, even if they have not won the competition, it has helped pupils to think in new and creative ways about their own ideas in relation to some big ideas and big questions as well as creating some impressive display work!



This amazingly intricate piece of artwork by pupils at Bishop Bridgeman C of E Primary School, Bolton, was a winner in the 2016 Spirited Arts competition.

God and The Big Bang – Exploring Science and Christian Belief

A brand new, easy to use resource for members of your groups teaching about science and religion at secondary level.

Developments and discoveries in science are often cited as the reason for decline in religious belief. Is religion directly challenged by science, or are science and faith simply operating in different spheres?

Scientific knowledge is often presented as the only reliable form of information, yet for people of faith religion provides answers to questions they feel science cannot.

This resource for ages 11-18 explores current questions at the heart of contemporary science and Christian faith through the work of scientists, philosophers and thinkers who are also Christians. Students will consider what is meaningful in both science and Christianity, and what both reveal about the human condition.

The resource includes a 36 page book with accompanying DVD and costs £25. It can be purchased through NATRE at <http://shop.natre.org.uk/9781910261088>

Early Years and RE

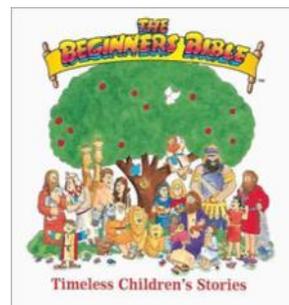
RE will never be the same when Rev Freddie Fisher and his cat, Puddles, come to visit.



Books@Press publishes a number of excellent big books for EYFS children which feature Rev Freddie and this handsome toy is just right to complement them. He can help you learn more about Christian faith in a very child-friendly way. The resources on

the website can help you create work which links well with ELGS: <http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/>

The Beginners Bible



<http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/> **Beginners Bible** Available as a book, as individual stories and also as a series of videos on you-tube. There is also a good Beginners Bible app for i-pads with some 90 stories, puzzles etc. Bright and easy to read, this Bible is good for EYFS children and they will enjoy hearing and finding stories from it

Easter ideas and resources

Easter Pause Day resources from the Diocese of Guildford



<http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/our-school-services/re/pause-days/easter-pause-day>

The overall aim of the Easter Pause Day material is to give schools an opportunity to connect with those who witnessed the events of the first Easter, through learning experiences planned for Foundation Stage, Years 1/2, Years 3/4, Years 5/6 and Year 7. There are two 'themes': 'Easter Witnesses' and 'Easter Journey', which could be run over a 2-year cycle, enabling good progression through the Days.

The Diocese of Guildford is grateful to Anna Shaw for producing all the KS2 material for both 'Easter Witnesses' and 'Easter Journey' and to Surrey artist Nancy Wilks for her original paintings, which are linked to the UKS2 'Easter Journey' materials, but could be used with both the Pause Days.

Reference is made in the materials to music and lyrics written by '**Out of the Ark**' which can be found in 'Sunday's Cool' Books 1 and 2. Guildford Diocese is very grateful for their generosity and support of this initiative.

Barnabas in Schools

Look for 'Easter' through the search facility – here are a few examples of what you will find:

Symbols of new life

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/easter-eggs-and-symbols-of-new-life-talking-about-easter-foundationkey-stage-1/>

An Easter map – seeing and understanding all of the Easter narrative

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/the-easter-story-as-a-3d-map/>

New beginnings at Easter – helping pupils to reflect

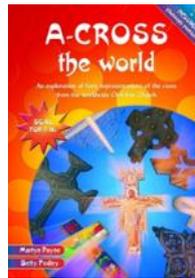
<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/beginnings-with-jesus/>

Crosses from around the world

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/crosses-from-around-the-world/> You will need A-cross the world <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/9780857460745/>

to make the most of this idea but it is a great way to

look at Christianity with a multi-cultural focus.



Easter Through Art



Simply by searching 'Easter art religious paintings' you will find a wide range of images, both old and new, and which span the world. This is the 'bargain' way to look at Easter art!

Ely Diocese – An Act of worship for Easter



This is a year when you will be able to be back in school very soon after Easter Day, but this gives an ideal opportunity to retell the first and one of the most famous resurrection stories – Mary Magdalene in the garden. Easter is a story about light coming out of darkness. It is the key story on which the Christian faith is based (yes, more important than Christmas, although people often do not know it so well), and it is important that the story is heard.

http://www.elyeducation.org/main/?page_id=731

**ISSUE NO: 34
FEBRUARY 2017**

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

Friday 24th March

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

Wednesday 29th March

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

JUNE

Wednesday 7th June

RE Support Group—**Bore Place, Edenbridge TN8 7AR 1.30pm—4pm. Please note that this is a different venue to usual.**

or

Thursday 8th June

June RE Support Group— **St Justus Church, The Fairway, Rochester ME1 2LT - 1.30 pm—4 pm. Please note that this is a different venue to usual.**

Tuesday 13th—Friday 16th

Church Schools Celebrations - Rochester Cathedral
We have some spaces available please let me know if you would like to come.