



******Good news******

**REQM Success for Stone St Mary's
CE Primary School**



Many congratulations to Stone St Mary's, the first CE primary school in the Diocese to have been awarded the RE Quality Mark – at Silver level! Natasha Brownfield, the RE subject leader, whose hard work lies behind this prestigious award said, 'I'm delighted to have achieved the award as it's testament to the hard work of the teachers in our school who have endeavoured to improve their practice and are always open to new ideas to ensure creative approaches to RE which the children have enjoyed and have also helped to raise the profile of RE in our school'.

The assessor found lots to celebrate in what he saw in the school, including the fact that the pupils recognise that RE is important to their school and that it is important to their lives because they make the connections between learning RE and establishing values for their lives that will last beyond school. He commented that RE has a central place in the life of the school and that pupils are united in saying how much they like learning about religions and beliefs. They also say that RE is fun and that they learn a lot. It was noted that there has been a focus around promoting pupils' higher order thinking skills and pupils say how much they like the opportunities to consider 'Big Questions' because it challenges their thinking.

I know that a number of you have expressed an interest in applying for the REQM. There is quite a lot of work involved but possibly less than you might think. Natasha is starting a new job at another of our Church schools in September but says that she would consider supporting anyone who might be considering an application. I am also happy to look through your evidence in advance of an REQM assessor visit.



**Baking success for Chiddingstone
CE Primary School**

Chiddingstone Primary School in Kent have been crowned the winners of the Love British Food 2016 Cake for The Queen competition. Chosen from a total of 98 entries, their spectacular cake themed 'The Queen's 90th Garden Party at Buckingham Palace', was made with home-grown carrots, Kentish apples and local eggs and honey. It wins them a special prize visit to Buckingham Palace in recognition of their efforts. The winners were chosen for their innovative and healthy recipe, which represented Kent's fruit growing heritage, for the cake design where every child made decorations, and for the way they celebrated with their very own 90 year old helper - Granny Pock!



Megan Glover, teacher at Chiddingstone School, said "Each week, we made different cakes using

healthy and local ingredients which helped us come up with our final recipe. We researched the Queen's history and one of our funniest lessons was looking into the ten most weird and wonderful gifts the Queen has been given. The children made miniature versions of these out of icing for our cake, including the elephant!

I've looked at all the other entries and they really are amazing. I can see how many hundreds of children have benefited from the competition and have no doubt that my class will remember this project for the rest of their lives".



Ideas for the new school year

Thank your vicar week



The Diocesan Education team knows how much our local vicars are doing to support Church of England parishes and primary schools across the Rochester Diocese. We know how much you value the contributions made in your individual schools as you tell us about these as we visit our schools. Thank Your Vicar Week, which launches nationally in every Anglican diocese this autumn, gives parishes and schools the opportunity to say a big thank you to their vicar or curate by holding a special service or school assembly during the week of 16-23 October.

The week is organised by St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy, a charity which cares for the health and wellbeing of Anglican clergy and their families. CEO Claire Walker said: "We know how hard clergy work for the people they serve, and what a difference to clergy wellbeing it makes when parishes and schools show their appreciation. Let's make Thank Your Vicar Week an event your clergy will remember!"

Schools and parishes can download free resources from 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. As a tangible way of showing support for their clergy, schools and parishes are encouraged to hold a simple fundraising event, or make a donation, to St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy. This will make it possible for St Luke's to continue to support clergy who are facing health challenges, physical or mental.

Celebrate Harvest – Thinking about our world

There is a helpful list of resources at <http://www.eauk.org/church/resources/harvest.cfm> if you are looking for something new to think about this Harvest time.

These include real life stories from around the world which help to raise pupils' awareness of faith in action, the ways in which Christians live out their faith in the wider world by responding with compassion to those who need help and support. Although these are charity websites, the materials can be used for education within worship and within RE without raising money although this might also be considered.

Born Hungry – Tearfund

http://www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/resources/for_churches/pack_library/born_hungry_resource/



Christian Aid

<http://www2.christianaid.org.uk/harvestappeal>

Embrace the Middle East

<http://www.embraceme.org/harvest-resources>



Harvest Festival – worship and learn

Susie Braid who has been the RE and worship co-ordinator at Chiddingstone CE primary school for some time has been sharing her wisdom and creativity with our church schools for a number of years. She believes that the best way to do



this is to have an experience first-hand and see what you can take away from it. She has, therefore, given an open invitation for the school's Harvest Festival on Tuesday 4th October at 9 am in St Mary's Church, Chiddingstone, which is opposite the school. She says that any worship co-ordinators are welcome to come and stay on for coffee and an informal chat about festival services. Please email Susie on susiebraid@uwclub.net if you are planning on joining the school for their service.



Training for 2016/17

Understanding Christianity



The RE materials which started life as 'The Christianity Project' were finally launched as 'Understanding Christianity' in May 2016. These materials provide us with an excellent opportunity to re-vitalise RE in our

schools at a time when we need to update our RE syllabus. The key purpose of this project is to help all teachers to support pupils in developing their own thinking and their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it. It will support pupils from 4 to 14 in exploring the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy. It will support teachers in developing their own knowledge and understanding of Christianity theology to be able to teach with confidence.

The materials are for every teacher in primary and secondary classrooms, teaching RE from EYFS right through to KS3, laying down excellent foundations for further study at GCSE and beyond. It is relevant to RE in every classroom in every school, in Church of England and in Community, Academy and Free schools. These resources explore Christianity widely, including (but not limited to) Anglican Christianity.

The total training plan must be taught over approximately 15 hours by an accredited trainer. I have already been trained so that we can offer training over the next academic year (2016-17) with implementation in schools from September 2017. The plan is to offer this in 2 whole day blocks and to follow up through RE subject leader meetings to make up the 15 hour total training. The same person from each school would need to attend each training session to maximise the effectiveness of the training. That person will then disseminate the training in their school. The requirement is that teachers will need to have several training 'encounters', with activities to undertake between the sessions. At the end of the first training your teacher will be given a specific log-in code by the trainer. This will unlock the whole of this website and give you access to all of the materials and resources for you to work through with your colleagues. You will be shown the downloadable worksheets for you to use in the classroom, which will also work on whiteboards.

At the recent clergy briefings, we discussed the possibility that clergy connected to our schools might attend the briefings. We are inviting them to attend the training sessions with the appropriate representative from their school. As theology provides such a strong underpinning of the materials, we feel that it is important for the clergy to understand the project and this seems to be the best way to ensure that this is the case. This would then place our clergy in a position to support staff with any theological questions they might have and also in lessons, where that is appropriate, especially in answering pupils' questions. We will be writing to clergy but please circulate dates and details to them and invite them to attend alongside your RE subject leader. There would be an additional cost of £25 for the clergy to attend which would cover basic costs for them which we suggest is paid by the governing body on behalf of the school.

Costs and more information

The cost which includes all the materials will be £200 + VAT per school. This includes the cost of the materials. For more information about the materials, please see

<http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk/>

For schools in multi-academy trusts, training will probably be offered through their trust and details will come to you through that route. For our other schools, there will be courses on offer in Rochester and in Tunbridge Wells.

The training dates will be as follows:

Rochester – Diocesan offices MEI ISL
Thursday 10 November 2016 - 9-30am to 4pm
Monday 13 March 2017 - 9-30am to 4pm

plus the RE support group meetings from
1-30pm to 3-30pm on Thursdays:
3 November 2016, 23 Feb 2017, 8 June 2017
 At the Rochester Diocesan Offices.

Tunbridge Wells – Southborough CEP Sch TN4 0JY
Monday 14 November 2016 - 9-30am to 4pm
Thursday 16 March 2017 - 9-30am to 4pm

plus the RE support group meetings from
1-30pm to 3-30pm on Wednesdays:
2 November 2016, 22 Feb 2017, 7 June 2017
 At Bennett Memorial Diocesan School TN4 9SH

Please book your place with Teresa
teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org

**ISSUE NO: 31
SEPTEMBER 2016**

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 2016

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 2nd November | 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 3rd November | RE Support Group—Rochester Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL. 1.30 pm—4 pm—Understanding Christianity |
| Friday 4th November | RE Support Group—Crayford Community Hall (Bexley Schools) 1.30 pm to 4 pm |
| Monday 7th November | New to a Church School 1.30 pm - 4 pm at the Rochester Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL This course is suitable for NQTs, and class teachers new to Church Schools |
| Thursday 10th November | Understanding Christianity 9.30 am - 4 pm at the Rochester Diocesan Offices. |
| Monday 14th November | Understanding Christianity 9.30 am - 4 pm at Southborough CEP School, Broomhill Park Road, Southborough TN4 0JY |
| Tuesday 15th November | New to Leading RE 1.30 pm - 4 pm at the Rochester Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL For those who are new (or fairly new!) subject leaders for RE |



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

After consultation with schools there will now be 1 breakfast meeting and 1 afternoon meeting

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday 13th October | Breakfast meeting 8 am (coffee) —10.30 am The Holiday Inn Wrotham TN15 7RS |
| Friday 7th October | Diocesan Offices St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL 1.30 pm– 4pm |

*******LOOK OUT IN YOUR INBOX*******

Please note that materials for assessment in RE have been sent into schools and to RE subject leaders directly over the summer. Please make sure your RE subject leaders have received them as they are designed to help to bring RE assessment in line with other areas of the curriculum