

RE Newsletter November 2015



Here is the latest newsletter, giving up to date info on RE related matters that might be of interest to you. Please keep in touch if you would like support, information, etc

If you are looking for inspiration on helping children improve their learning power and develop their critical observation skills, check out 'Austin's butterfly' through this link:

<http://headguruteacher.com/2013/11/05/lesson-from-berger-austins-butterfly-and-not-accepting-mediocrity/>

Ed Pawson: ed.pawson@exeter.anglican.org

Other DEO contacts:

Penny Burnside: penny.burnside@exeter.anglican.org

Richard Maudsley: richard.maudsley@exeter.anglican.org

Tatty Wilson: tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org

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Teaching British Values?

You are invited to a free morning conference on 'Teaching British Values? Faith and Belief Perspectives' at the Mint Church, Fore St, Exeter on Saturday 14th November. There will be contributions from teachers and members of Faith and Belief groups and a special governor training workshop. Contact ed.pawson@exeter.anglican.org for more information.

Teaching British Values?
Faith and Belief Perspectives

with contributions from local Faith and Belief groups, Jonathan Marshall, Rosemary Khreishah, Ian Jamison, Penny Hammett, Ed Pawson, Jeremy Roberts, DUFFY (Diocese of Exeter) & Youth

Special governor seminar with Graham Langtree (ex HMI)

Free event marking Inter Faith Week 2015

Saturday: 14 November 2015 9.30 - 13.00

Mint Methodist Church
Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT

open to:
• members of the public
• teachers
• school leaders
• governors
• parents
• young people

Contact:
ed.pawson@exeter.anglican.org

This is your invitation to take part in a morning event exploring current contentious issues through presentations, debates and workshops

Parking is available close by at Mary Annes car park
The venue is also close to the bus stop for 'park and ride'

Holocaust Memorial Day 2016



The 27th January marks Holocaust Memorial Day again next year, when we will be remembering victims of genocide. The theme for HMD 2016 is 'Don't stand by'. There will be an exhibition of pupils' work at the Exeter Guildhall on the day, with presentations and talks at Southernhay United Reform Church. There are useful resources available at hmd.org.uk. Please contact me if you would like to be involved with events in Exeter.

Learn, Teach, Lead RE

Are you accessing support and training through Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)? This project was established in 2012 to build RE communities across Devon and Cornwall, with the aim of improving the quality of Religious Education in all our schools. This year's annual conference was held in October at Dartington Hall and next year it will be hosted at St Mellion Golf Club (date in October to be confirmed).



For information on your nearest local group and next year's conference, go to <http://ltlre.org/>. There are currently vacancies for hub leader roles in some areas. If you are interested, please contact lrudge@waitrose.com

LTLRE is in the process of preparing adverts to appoint hub leaders in Area 2, expanding to encompass schools across Somerset, Bristol, Bath and Swindon area.

Assessment Without Levels in RE Project

Learn Teach Lead RE is working with Dr Barbara Wintersgill (ex HMI) to develop an exciting new approach to improve the quality of assessment in RE. The old system of levelling was linked to a predetermined, abstract statement of theoretical standards (levels). The advantage of the method being proposed is that it ties assessment to expectations of pupils' understanding in relation to what they are learning in the curriculum. It utilises Bloom's taxonomy, but related to each unit of learning, rather than as a pattern of progression through school life. You can find details on the LTLRE website (link below). If you would like to be a part of the project please email [Linda Rudge](mailto:Linda.Rudge)

<http://ltlre.org/projects/assessment-witout-levels-in-re/>

NATRE: 2016 national conference

NATRE's 2016 national conference will take place on Saturday 30th January 2016 in central London. There will be inspiring speakers, a packed programme of seminars, an exhibition of resources and support networks and the chance to chat with your fellow RE practitioners.

Booking: <http://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictly-re-2016/>



GCSE and A Level Examination Reform 2015 update

As many of you may be aware, although draft specifications for GCSE and A level RS were submitted to Ofqual for accreditation in August 2015, they are still yet to be approved. The link below, to the NATRE website, shows a summary of the specifications as far as we know at present, with a useful comparison table.

<http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/examination-reform-2015-your-one-stop-shop-for-all-the-materials-published-so-far/>

What's Money Worth?

Barnabas in Schools has just launched their new theme for the year, linking RE and Financial education in primary schools. *'What's Money Worth?'* explores the spiritual aspects of how we use money, using RE to draw out the Christian themes of Thankfulness, Generosity and Stewardship. The project offering includes a creative arts Barnabas RE Day, the *'Valuing Money'* teacher's resource book, INSET/CPD for school staff, and free website lesson materials. For more information, please visit:



<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/whats-money-worth/>

RE PD Portal

The [RE PD portal](#) is a one-stop shop for teachers of RE to find out about professional development opportunities of all kinds; the portal includes a database of courses, conferences and meetings across the UK and online. New opportunities have recently been added to the portal and [tweeted](#).

RE Teacher Recruitment: Beyond the Ordinary

Please take the opportunity to connect with the *Beyond the Ordinary* campaign which highlights the benefits of a career in RE teaching. It aims to specifically target potential trainee RE teachers to raise awareness of the reintroduction of bursaries.



The centrepiece of the campaign is a three minute video which looks at the experiences of RE teacher Lynsey Wilkinson and her students from Redhill Academy near Nottingham. It presents RE teaching as a career that is far from ordinary, and communicates the breadth and diversity of RE in schools today

Egypt: Faith after the Pharaohs

The British Museum's autumn exhibition [Egypt – Faith After The Pharaohs](#) opens on 29 October. The exhibition details Egypt's incredible journey over 12 centuries, as Jews, Christians and Muslims transformed this ancient land. It is a story charting the change from a world of many gods to the worship of one God. Many of the remarkable objects on display have never been seen before. For more information, visit the British Museum's website at the link above and scroll down the page.



RE with Soul: RE Learning Through Partnership



What does Jesus' commandment to 'love your neighbour as you love yourself' mean today, in a globalised culture? RE with Soul aims to provide resources to support Primary and Secondary schools in using enquiry-based learning pathways and global links to explore this question, within RE and Citizenship. <http://www.rewithsoul.co.uk/>

Inspiring spaces: the Hagia Sophia, Istanbul



The Hagia Sophia (meaning 'Holy Wisdom') was originally built in 537 CE as a Christian Orthodox Cathedral and for a thousand years it stood as the largest cathedral in the world. When Islam came to Constantinople, in 1453, it was converted to become a Mosque, but in 1931 it was secularised. Today it is the one of the most visited museums in the world in terms of art and the history of architecture.

This gallery of photographs depicts the Hagia Sofia's architectural features giving a breath-taking sense of the HOLY.

<http://ayasofyamuzesi.gov.tr/en/photo-gallery>

Thinkpiece on Hindu concepts through Festivals

In this helpful thinkpiece Sushma Sahajpal gives some thoughts on how to teach Hinduism. This is often considered to be a challenging topic to teach, as there is no single source of authority to quote, founder to research or tradition to study; instead a range of devoutly followed spiritual paths and variations of practice across India and the world.

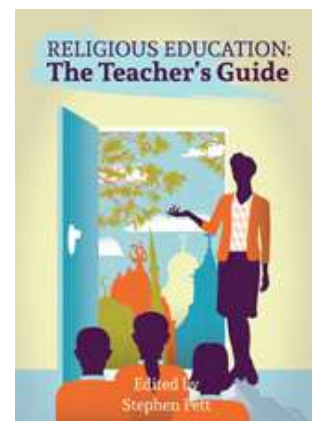
<http://www.reonline.org.uk/news/sushmas-blog-hindu-concepts-through-the-festivals-sushma-sahajpal/>

Religious Education: The Teacher's Guide

By Stephen Pett

Religious Education: The Teacher's Guide explores the landscape of RE in the UK, setting the context for the teacher and leader of RE. It focuses on the essential information needed by teachers of RE, and offers a wealth of practical strategies for effective subject leadership, from active learning and assessment through to visits, visitors and British values. Brief guides to religions and worldviews support teachers' subject knowledge as well as suggesting ideas for the classroom. Cost: £25

<http://shop.natre.org.uk/9781910261002>



Religious Education and British Values

By Lat Blaylock, Kate Christopher & Fiona Moss

This book of guidance has been written and edited by the RE Today Advisory Team. It aims to help schools and teachers of RE to understand and respond to the requirements to promote British Values in schools.

Inside you will find up-to-the-minute guidance, a review of the inspection requirements, suggestions for policy and curriculum development and some tried-and-tested RE lesson ideas that explore tolerance, respect, democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty. Cost: £15



The Christianity Project

Exeter Diocese has been asked to be part of the Wave 2 pilot in the second half of the autumn term. Schools interested in participating should contact tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org; As well as

trying out and commenting on the draft materials we will be looking at different models for assessing RE without levels.

Christian Concepts Unpacked

Some useful resources free to download <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/schools1/re-support>. The 'Christian Concepts Unpacked' resources have been developed to support the teaching of Christianity in schools under three main themes: 'Prophecy', 'Salvation' and 'Trinity'. The units all use the engagement-enquiry-evaluation-expression approach.

'Save RE' Facebook group



If you have not yet discovered it, the Save RE facebook group provides a wealth of vital resources and ideas.

Here's a link to the shareable resource pages:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B8cCMPxRJHfgT3hiaTIRVDdtU00&usp=sharing>

RE Twitter chat

You are warmly invited to join in with #REchatUK – NATRE's monthly twitter chat. Take part in the discussion and read what others have to say on RE related topics each month. Chats take place from 8-9pm, so you can participate from the comfort of your own home. Upcoming topics are:

Date	Topic
Monday 2 November 2015	How do we teach pupils to be religiously literate about Islam? What do they need to know?
Monday 7 December 2015	What makes for effective, efficient and engaging RE teaching?
Monday 11 January 2016	Questioning in RE. What makes for excellent questioning?

Farmington Scholarships

Applications are now open for the 2016-17 Farmington Scholarships for Teachers of Religious Education to conduct research in RE.



The Scholarships are for teachers of Religious Education in UK schools (both primary and secondary). Applicants should have completed at least two years in their present post.

The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale. For further information, contact:

http://www.farmington.ac.uk/scholarships_and_awards/scholarships.html

Up-coming RE courses

Title	Date	Place	Time
Effective RE	Mon 23rd Nov	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:00
Fundamental British Values	Tues 19th Jan	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 13:00
Effective RE	Wed 10th Feb	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:00

Teaching Judaism & Islam	Tues 23rd Feb	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:00
Preparation for Quality Mark application	Tues 15th Mar	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 13:00
Philosophy for children in Primary School	Mon 18th Apr	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:00
Inclusive Spiritual Development	Tues 28th Jun	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:00
Effective RE	Wed 6th July	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:00

To get more information about these courses or to make a booking, please contact Fran Bradley at educationevents@exeter.anglican.org