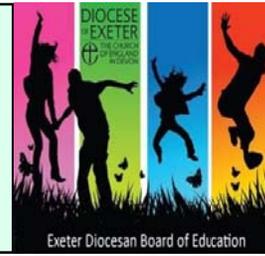


Diocesan Board of Education  
Diocesan Education Office,  
The Old Deanery,  
The Cloisters,  
Exeter, EX1 1HS

Main Telephone Number: 01392 294950

Website: <http://www.exeter.anglican.org>



## Summer Term: April 2015

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you all had a very restful break after what had been a very stressful term for many of us. The joy of Eastertide and the lovely springtime sunshine will do us all good for the term ahead.

This is the first of our new pattern of newsletters and mailings. We hope that the new pattern of newsletters will be more helpful for busy schools. There will be a general letter at the start of each term and then other mailings, as required, to target the specific audience for each subject, rather than the more scattergun effect of half termly newsletters to everyone. I hope that this newsletter will be posted to all staff and governors of our schools and academies. Each other mailings will have a clearly identified target audience.

#### FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES.....

At the end of term we said farewell to Patricia Morris, who retired as Headteacher of Rockbeare C of E Primary School after a distinguished period of service. We're delighted that she is continuing her links with our church school community as a member of our Board of Education and as a SIAMS inspector.

On a very personal note, I'm very sorry to say farewell to Marilyn Pearce, who has been our SIAMS administrator for the past two years. Formerly she was Executive Officer and PA to the Director, before her family move to Sussex. Her local work and family commitments mean that she is relinquishing her post. Happily, we have a strong candidate in place to take over and there will be a hand over period this term. Marilyn has been an invaluable member of our team and it is sad that she will no longer keep a link with us.

Marilyn's replacement is Jacque Ward, who is also PA to the Archdeacon of Barnstaple. We wish her well in her additional role. This is again a separate role to DBE officers and staff and Jacque is separately line managed by me, in order to keep the impartiality and confidentiality – and the National Society who is the co-ordinating body with the DfE.

We will also be pleased to welcome Ed Pawson in June as he joins our team to take up his DEO post, after the completion of his students' examination period.

There have been quite a few changes with headships around our schools. We welcome Chris Connors to Tavistock Church School's Federation, Kathryn Rowden to St Sidwell's, Julie Spencer-Smith to Rockbeare and Sarah Parkes to Thorverton. Andrea Smith has been appointed as Executive Head Teacher of St George's and St Matthew's (a new school build at Derriford due to open in September 2015). In addition we have a number of Acting Headteachers recently appointed to substantive posts in their schools and welcome David Holt as Principle to St Luke's Sports and Science College, Sue Julyan to Torre, Gillian Adnams to Silverton and, very recently, Liz Wiseman at Chagford and Steve Bosley at Bickleigh On Exe. A warm welcome to everyone and we very much look forward to working with you in the coming years.

### **MANY THANKS....**

to all of those who attended our recent Cathedral Service 'Jesus – the unexpected Leader'. We had almost 500 at the Service – plus Bishop Robert who sneaked in to sense the atmosphere between meetings. The most memorable part was the look on the children's faces as Rupert the donkey appeared as we told the story of Holy Week. We were very pleased to establish a link with the Donkey Sanctuary. Many thanks to all the children, young people and adults, who contributed so much to make the service a success. Now the planning starts for next year's service!

March was a very busy month for our DBE staff. Not only did we hold our Cathedral Service, but also two conferences – both very successful. Firstly, we held a first ever **South West Dioceses Church Secondary Schools' Conference** at Tiverton, attended by secondary leaders and Diocesan officers from across the south west dioceses. Our lead speakers were Sir David Carter, our Regional Schools' Commissioner and Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer from our National Society.

A week later was our **School Leaders' Conference** at Dawlish Warren, where our lead speakers were Bishop Robert and the Rev Dr Howard Worsley. The theme of 'Joining the Dots' was explored by means of discussing leadership approaches in the current climate, church schools' distinctiveness in the current climate and how church schools can support the Church's mission objectives. On the second day there were a series of case studies illustrating the changing focus of the DBE in a world of academies and partnerships, as well as a wide choice of workshops and seminars. I'd like to thank all the speakers, leaders and helpers for their massive contributions to the success of the event. The feedback was extremely positive. We will be setting out plans for 2016 before the end of this term, so would be very pleased to hear of suggestions for themes, speakers, etc., as we really want

the conference to meet the needs of our schools. Please email any thoughts you might have.

The lead talk by Bishop Robert has led to considerable media coverage and discussion amongst those who heard him. A media link can be found at our Diocesan website;

<http://www.exeter.anglican.org/excellence-education-valuing-people-just-results-bishop-exeter-says-today>

One of the many pieces of learning I've had in my time as Diocesan Director is that the focus has to be to protect and enhance our church schools so that the diocesan interests are protected. To do this I have to be aware of our national Church Board of Education policy, practice and influence as well as the diocesan expectations at local level. This has been particularly so in the Voluntary Aided school domain. This has been especially true with Federation activity where we have needed to be very stringent in our expectations. This isn't always popular, but it is very important that the context of VA schools is not lost in the search for local and, quite understandably, popular solutions. As formerly Head of two VA schools in my 23 year headship career I was very proud to serve the local communities and provide the distinctive education such schools offer. Similarly, as Director, I have encouraged innovative solutions, especially around collaboration and academy solutions, whilst at the same time protecting the original intentions of VA status. I do not see the two as in conflict. I see school improvement, raising standards and protecting VA status as complementary.

It was a joy to visit St. Andrew's VA, Buckland Monachorum, for their Easter Service recently. A confident VA school with very close parish links – and very popular with parents!

I am very keen to undertake school visits to support the work of the DEO's and to promote innovative ways of future school organisation. With this in mind, with the General Election period at present, the National Society has produced a leaflet entitled 'Education and the Election'. I post the link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2207378/education%20and%20the%20election.pdf>

## **REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT**

I. From Canon Anna Norman-Walker:

### **Devon County Show**

*I am the Chair of the Devon County Show Churches venue and host the Show service the night before the show begins on May 20th.*

*Bishop Robert is preaching and pupils from Lady Seaward School (Clyst St George) are singing.*

***I have been asked to see if we can invite children from our Church schools to write a prayer for this year's county show.***

**Could your department possibly make contact with our church schools asking them to invite children to write a prayer for the county show?**

The theme of this year's show is '**family milestones**' the idea being that one generation passes on important things to the next as it is the 120 year anniversary of the show.

If each school who would like to participate would submit to me their best prayer, we will have a look and choose a winner. That prayer will be read at the show launch service and appear on the show guide etc... something for the school to be proud of!

Please feel free to offer my email address as a point of contact – I anticipate receiving the prayers via email!

**The deadline is quite tight – it is FRIDAY 8th MAY.**

Please send any responses via email to:

[chancellor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:chancellor@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## **2. Send a Cow:**

Bishop Nick has asked us to circulate the work of this regionally based but national/international charity, which he endorses wholeheartedly. I hope that many of you will like to take part in the Big Picnic event. I remember that the DBE has worked with this charity before, but quite a few years ago.

Send a Cow  
The Old Estate Yard,  
Newton St Loe,  
Bath BA2 9BR  
Tel: + 44 (0) 1225 871920  
Email: [ann.hatton@sendacow.org](mailto:ann.hatton@sendacow.org)

32 The Avenue  
Tiverton  
EX16 4HW

9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### **Church Schools: The Big Picnic**

Dear Bishop Nick,

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Jenny Reynolds who tells me you are already very much aware and a supporter of Send a Cow. We very much hope you might feel able to endorse a church primary school project we are running from Easter through the summer which teaches RE through literacy. We have enclosed draft samples of the resources for you to look through. The project, *The Big Picnic*, will be run this summer as a church primary school fundraising campaign. It comprises:

- An assembly about the work of Send a Cow
- RE and Literacy resources based on the Feeding of the 5000
- Maths resources based on multiplication
- And a teachers' fundraising pack for the *Big Picnic*

The *Big Picnic* will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June (the Friday closest to the longest day, or a date suitable for the school). Families will be invited to bring their picnics along at the end of the day to have a fun and relaxed time together in the school grounds, or a park close by. Each family will be charged an entrance fee. The aim is for each school to raise £205, enough to buy a local cow for a family in Africa.

The Send a Cow Education team have developed some fantastic resources for this initiative, we are wondering if you would be willing to write a letter endorsing this project and encouraging schools to get involved. This would add considerable value to what we are trying to achieve - raising money for our projects in Africa, exciting children in the UK about their learning and inspiring them about global issues.

Send a Cow Education is one of the UK's leading charities in global education, seeking to provide development education for schools, tackling poverty and sustainability, and reaching 1.8 million children through our Lessons from Africa website: [www.sendacow.org.uk/lessonsfromafrica](http://www.sendacow.org.uk/lessonsfromafrica).

Perhaps you would read through this information and let me know if you have any queries and if you would be willing to be involved.

Many thanks for your help,

Yours sincerely,

Ann Hatton  
Development Education Executive



### **3. Dementia friendly schools:**

The onset and impact of dementia is something which affects not just the individuals affected by it, but also their families, including younger members. Our diocese is developing a reputation for concern for those in our communities affected by dementia. This has been targeted for adults to be trained. Parishes have been receiving training for the past year or so. Bishop Nick has been working nationally with this campaign and recently he was very impressed with Stoke Damerel Comprehensive School's work in this area. There is much young people can learn and do to develop their understanding and to support those suffering. I attach a Dementia Resource suite from the Alzheimer's Society for schools to use and I hope that many of you will read and use the resource to develop an understanding of this condition.

It is wonderful to see about the engagement of two of our schools in this project – St Leonard's Primary and St Luke's' High School for their work in this area. It's pleasing to read that there is national recognition of work in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, although here there isn't a linked school to support some nationally reported and noteworthy activity

The following resource is on our website, but I have copied the link here for easy access.

<http://www.exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Dementia-resource-suite-for-schools.pdf>

Best wishes for the new term.

Philip Mantell  
Diocesan Director of Education



# Dementia Resource Suite for schools

## Creating a dementia-friendly generation

Ideas and tools for teachers of key stages 2, 3 and 4

Based on learning by students and teachers  
in 22 pioneer schools across England, 2012-2013



Compiled and written on behalf of Alzheimer's Society by Sitra, 2013.  
Updated by Alzheimer's Society 2014