

# RE Newsletter SUMMER 2015



Welcome back from half term – there is lot to update you on!

*What matters most in what we learn from school and home*

*is not the knowledge we accumulate  
but the kind of person we become.*

‘Thought for the Day’, [Lord Sacks](#)

## New DEO Starting in June



We are delighted that Ed Pawson will be joining our team in June as a O.4 DEO with special responsibility for RE. Ed is currently Assistant to the Chair of NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE), Devon RE Adviser, Head of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, The King's School, Ottery St Mary Devon. He is also on the steering group for Learn Teach Lead RE [www.ltlre.org](http://www.ltlre.org) and comes with a wealth of experience and huge enthusiasm.

## Hockerill Educational Foundation / NATRE Prize

There is still time to enter 2015 "Hockerill NATRE Prize for Innovation in RE Teaching". If you know of any RE teacher who you think should enter either write to Derek Humphrey at [info@hockerillfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@hockerillfoundation.org.uk) or ask the teacher to go to the website [www.hockerillfoundation.org.uk](http://www.hockerillfoundation.org.uk) from where the entry form can be downloaded. **Closing date 31 May 2015.** Last year's Primary prize winner Gill Tewksberry only entered at the last minute – it would be great to have another SW winner this year.

## The Christianity Project - Postponed until Autumn 2<sup>nd</sup> half

Exeter Diocese has been asked to be part of the Wave 2 pilot in the second half of the summer term. Schools interested in participating should contact [tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org); As well as trying out and commenting on the draft materials we will looking at different models for assessing RE without levels. Unfortunately the writing group have had to delay the second wave of the pilot in order to accommodate some significant re-writes. Please accept my (and their) apologies for the delay.

## Subsidised Secondary RE Student Conference ‘God and the Big Bang’

“God and the Big Bang is an inspirational day conference which enables students to develop their understanding of the Universe and have their horizons widened. I highly recommend these days as a means of engaging students with world class scientists who have found that science brings them a greater appreciation of God’s creation.” Revd Nigel Genders, Church of England, Chief Education Officer. For more information or to book an event at a school, contact: Stephanie Bryant, God and the Big Bang Coordinator. T 0161 828 1407 E [contact@gatbb.co.uk](mailto:contact@gatbb.co.uk) [www.gatbb.co.uk](http://www.gatbb.co.uk)

## The National Society's Religious Education Conference 2015

This year's annual Religious Education Conference takes place in London on Thursday 25th June 2015 at the Hallam Conference Centre near Oxford Circus.

<http://www.cavendishconferencevenues.co.uk/marylebone-euston-conference-venues/>

Following the Church's review of the provision of RE in Church of England Schools (*Making a Difference?: A Review of Religious Education in Church of England Schools 2014-*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/education/publications.aspx> We welcome subject leaders from both **primary and secondary** schools. The focus of the conference is on improving standards of teaching and learning in RE. Speakers include Deborah Weston, Alan Brine and Mary Myatt (REQM) Cavan Wood. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. For further information please contact [jemma.adams@churchofengland.org](mailto:jemma.adams@churchofengland.org).

## Free Resources from Stapleford

The Stapleford Centre offers a range of different free resources for RE teachers to download which are really practical and useful. <http://www.stapleford-centre.org/resources/free-resources>

## Open letter to 'IS' from Muslim scholars

Over 120 Muslim scholars from around the world have signed an **open letter** to the leaders of the self-declared Islamic State, its fighters and supporters. The letter denounces the actions of 'IS' and uses the Quran to refute their claims of legitimacy and the justification of their brutality under Sharia law. Imam Monawar Hussain, founder and director of the **Oxford Foundation**, is one of the signatories to the letter, which has been translated into English and includes an executive summary. The letter would be a useful resource for teachers and RE professionals, in particular those focused on key stage 4 and above, dealing with subjects of extremism in the classroom. Free pdf copies can be downloaded [www.theoxfordfoundation.com](http://www.theoxfordfoundation.com).



## Young Ambassadors for RE

The RE Council champions RE at all levels - from students and teachers, to politicians and policy makers. The Young Ambassador scheme gives students aged 11 - 18 opportunities to:

- share their enthusiasm and interest for RE and gain leadership experience
- give their perspective to adults who work to support RE at the highest levels, such as the RE Council and MPs in parliament
- develop skills in communicating successfully to a wide range of audiences
- build up relevant experience for college, UCAS or job applications
- meet and debate with other young people about why RE matters

Applications to the YA scheme are assessed on a rolling basis, and so if you know of any schools which might be interested in taking part, please spread the word! Further information and an application form can be found on the [RE Council website](#).

## 2015 Spirited Arts competition

All schools are invited to submit an entry to NATRE's 2015 Spirited Arts competition, which is well underway, with entries coming in from primary and secondary schools. There is still time to take part, so visit the [NATRE website](#) and get your entry in before the 31 July 2015

## Primary RE television programmes

EY and KSI

Cbeebies produce some excellent resources <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lets-celebrate>

KS2

Watch 'My Life, My Religion' A new series of programmes developed by Lat Blaylock available [here](#).

## ***Making a Difference?*** – A Review of Religious Education in Church of England Schools

Subject leaders, heads and governors should read this report which can be downloaded [here](#) and carefully consider the recommendations in Section 3. **It will be important for schools to have reflected on their own practice following the finding and to have addressed some of the key messages in preparation for SIAMS.** For further advice and guidance contact your Diocesan Education Officer.



The ***Making a Difference?*** [report on RE in Church of England schools](#) highlights the positive impact on RE of the RE Quality Mark programme, both as a means of developing and recognising effective subject leadership and as providing an audit tool to monitor effectiveness through its self-evaluation documents. The REQM is available for schools of all types; further details on all aspects of the programme are on its website at [www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org). Some SACREs within the Diocese are offering bursaries for schools applying for this award.

## **RE Today Re-styled**

If you are an RE Today subscriber or a **NATRE** member, your September mailing would have brought you the newly-styled *REtoday* magazine. Along with its cleaner, fresher look, *REtoday* now offers you even more value; 96 pages worth of classroom ideas and news from the RE world, which also includes NATRE's journal *Professional Reflection*, formerly known as *REsource*. You too can get a copy of our *REtoday* magazine, curriculum books, as well as many new benefits, such as discounts on courses, online seminars, FREE downloadable resources, access to RE Advisers and much more by [becoming a NATRE member](#). View a copy of the [REtoday magazine](#) here.

## **'Discovery RE' and 'Christian Concepts Unpacked'**

We have been asked for our views on Discovery RE. Discovery RE was based on the Poole Bournemouth Agreed Syllabus [www.discoveryschemeofwork.com](http://www.discoveryschemeofwork.com) is the website that will tell you all about this. Like any scheme of work it has its good bits and bad bits. First you should note that it has obviously been developed for community schools rather than church schools. Salisbury Diocese has developed a number of units in the same style (and in the style of something called the Christianity project which is being launched later this year) to supplement this. These units are on their diocesan website as a free download. They are called 'Christian Concepts Unpacked' and here is the link: <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/schools/re-support>

## **Key festivals**

Details of Key religious festivals this term can be found [here](#)

## Recommended websites

[RE Online](#): promoting excellence in RE teaching

[Discovery RE](#): an enquiry-based approach to RE for F1 to Y6

[RE:Quest](#): 'asking the big questions'; exploring the Christian faith



### Funding available to pay for supply cover

Teachers who wish to attend meetings during the day often decline these opportunities through reluctance to place strain on their school's finances. A 'Leadership Fund' is now available for practising RE teachers to facilitate their active involvement in national curriculum and policy development work with RE organisations.

[See how you can apply here.](#)



### Email a believer

[Do you or your pupils have questions about a faith or belief?](#)

Would you like to find out how people's beliefs affect their lives? RE:online's 'e-mail a believer'

feature gives the opportunity for your questions to be directed to people from a number of faith and belief backgrounds. They will get back to you as soon as possible with their responses. [To email a believer click here.](#)



### The Jewish Way of Life

The [Jewish Way of Life resource](#) is a highly recommended resource which is featured on the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities website. The resource concentrates primarily on two young Jews named Sarah and David. With sections looking at who Jewish people are, what they do and what they believe, Jewish Way of Life is exceptionally helpful for teaching about Judaism. It is also suitable for pupils to explore independently. The resources section of this website also contains some useful articles for teachers' subject knowledge. [Access here.](#)



### Interfaith Explorers

Interfaith Explorers is a unique, free online learning resource that is designed to give value to RE and PSHE lessons, helping pupils explore cultural diversity, respecting differences and embracing similarities. The learning unit was originally designed for Years 5 and 6, but could be adapted for other ages and is supported by a range of classroom and teaching resources. [To find out visit the Interfaith Explorers website.](#)



**Look for #REChat** You can search previous chats including one over the summer on creative RE as well. A new topic every month tweeting online for an hour

### Best on Twitter for RE

@CofE_Education	The Church of England's Education Division
@fionajmoss_	RE. Exec Officer for NATRE and leads #REChat
@gilesfreathy	Specialist Leader of Education: RE, Humanities and Thinking Skills
@hartleyian	Head of Hums in Plymouth. RS specialist,
@HuffPostRelig	Sharing light in the digital darkness. Email: <a href="mailto:religion@huffingtonpost.com">religion@huffingtonpost.com</a>
@Itltre	Learn Teach Lead RE project in Devon & Cornwall.
@MarkChater	Director of Culham St Gabriel's Trust. Supporting RE & SMSC through research, development and innovation.
@MaryMyatt	I see some great stuff in schools. I talk with students, teachers and leaders about learning, leadership and the curriculum. I advise and inspect.
@NATREupdate	NATRE is the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education – check out our website to find out more
@reonline_tweets	News from the world of Religious Education / Religion in the news / what's new on the RE:ONLINE website.
@REquestUK	RE:quest is the definitive toolkit for teaching Christianity in RE. Exploring the BIG questions!
@RE_Today	RE Today Services works to support multi-faith RE in schools by providing consultancy, teaching and learning resources and a subscription service.
@threefaiths	Three Faiths Forum (3FF) works to build understanding between people of all faiths and beliefs.
@TrueTube	Short films, big stories. Free videos, lesson plans for teachers of RE

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

contact [educationevents@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:educationevents@exeter.anglican.org); or phone Fran Bradley 01392 294921

#### **Course title: SIAMS The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools – an introduction**

<b>Facilitators:</b>	Tatiana Wilson, Diocesan Education Officer
<b>Dates:</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2015, The Old Deanery, Exeter
<b>Time:</b>	09:30 – 15:30 including a light lunch
<b>Cost:</b>	Staff - £180 or £130 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)
<b>Governors</b>	£80 or £50 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)

#### **Course description:**

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) is a significant way in which Church schools are judged. The course unpicks the rationale behind the inspection framework and offers strategies to support effective self-evaluation as well as ideas for further improvement. It is aimed for new staff and governors and hopes to prove to be an interactive, informative and enjoyable day.

#### **Intended outcomes:**

An introduction to the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Framework including:

- Unpacking the 4 core questions:
  - I. How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of

- all learners?
2. What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
  3. How effective is the religious education?
  4. How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?
- Strategies for effective self-evaluation
  - What research evidence tells us?
  - Case studies of best practice

***Please bring a copy of your school's most recent SIAMS self-evaluation form and action plan with you as you may want to annotate these through the day***

**Course title: Effective Religious Education**

**Facilitator:** Tatiana Wilson, Diocesan Education Officer

**Dates:** Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 09:30 – 15:30

**Venue:** The Old Deanery, Exeter

**Cost:** Staff - £180 or £130 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)  
Governors - £80 or £50 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)

**Intended outcomes:**

- To enable schools to understand how Religious Education underpins all aspects of SIAMS for VA and VC schools To unpack the Statement of Entitlement for all Learners in Church of England Schools
- To draw on current research findings to understand the current strengths and challenges for RE
- To develop methods for the effective monitoring and assessment for RE including Assessment for Learning
- To look at new resources available to support RE teaching
- To explore the characteristics of effective subject leadership in RE
- To review and develop RE development plans

**Course description:**

This course is for Subject Leaders, link RE governors and school leaders keen to improve the quality of provision within their school.

**New for schools - RE Today professional development webinars**

RE Today has new online seminars. Teachers struggling to get out of the classroom for CPD training can now take part without leaving their desk!

[Secondary Webinar: Teaching Sunni and Shi'a Islam 12/05/2015](#)

[Wondering how to teach about Sunni and Shi'a Islam? then check out this webinar.](#)

and

[Primary Webinar: RE Ideas: Literacy 16/06/2015](#)

[Looking for great ideas to link Literacy and RE? then check out this webinar.](#)