

Schools' Autumn Newsletter

October 2020

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

You know the feeling. Up against it with requests, demand and need coming from all sides, you seek to plant your feet firmly and make the next right decision, for your people, your children, your community. But the ground is constantly shifting, the needs shifting too. You're tired and you want some respite from the constant fire fight. Can't someone else do this? Just for a bit? But fending off the doubt and fatigue you stand anyway, take a breath and walk towards the door, readying yourself to try and work order out of chaos one more time. For you are here FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

Drawn from the story of Esther, these are the words of Mordecai, Esther's Uncle. Esther is Queen, married to King Xerxes of Persia. She is also Jewish, although the King doesn't know this, and a decree has just gone out to annihilate the Jews. Mordecai entreats Esther to risk her life, to go to the King and plead for her people. *'Who knows?'* Mordecai says to Esther, *'Perhaps you occupy your royal position for such a time as this.'*

How did Esther fend off the doubt and fatigue, quell her fear and step towards sacrifice and suffering, her heart hammering in her chest? When I imagine Esther wrestling with the choice before her, grappling with her weakness ("Don't put your head above the parapet, it's not your job, someone else will do it") and finding courage ("Your people need you, only you can do this"), I imagine a moment of stillness and her whispering the words of the prophet Isaiah: *'The Spirit of God is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release from darkness the prisoners.'* Then Esther stands, her royal bracelets jangling, and moves towards the door.

There is something you are being called to do. It is just for you to do, no-one else can do it. It is God's work. It is sacrificial. You will want not to do it. When you are doing it, you will want it to stop. At times you will wonder where God is – why isn't God showing up? You will feel lonely. Despondent. Angry. Tired. Like Jesus in the Garden before the crucifixion, you may cry.

Sometimes the stories only make sense in retrospect.

We are human and can only live in the here and now. In the moment we find ourselves, it can all seem so... WRONG. Unfair. Ugly. To endure can feel impossible. What can we lean on when God seems silent?

When all is said and done, there is a choice for each of us to make. Either God is there and has got this, or isn't, and doesn't. If the latter is true, then there is nothing to do other than lean on our own understanding. And because our nature is rather selfish, to preserve ourselves may then feel right. Sensible. Why would you willingly walk towards suffering?

If God is there, and God *has* got this (covid-19 and all), we are free to trust in God and God's plan. We don't have to have all the answers. This trust is not blind. We have a book full of the stories of those who chose to trust, and what happened when they made this choice. The Bible shows us, again and again, that good does come, and will come, when we choose to trust and step towards the sacrifice and suffering. Jesus chose crucifixion – the result was resurrection. Esther chose to risk her life and go to King Xerxes – the result was liberty for her people.

Cont...

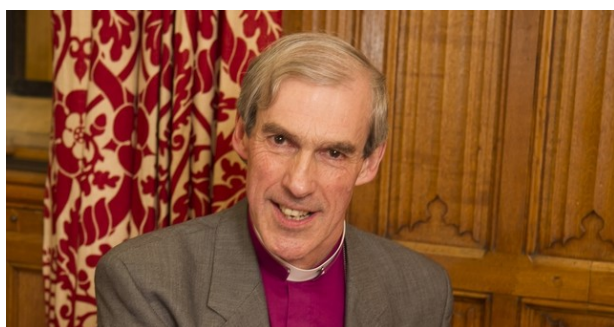
PLEASE DISPLAY IN YOUR STAFFROOM

Hundreds of years after Esther, Jesus stood in the synagogue in his home town, and spoke these words to his community: *“The Spirit of God is on me... the Lord has anointed me...”* Jesus was chosen, and because of our identity in Jesus **we** are chosen too. We are chosen to serve and suffer for others, as Esther and Jesus did. Jesus, the pioneer of our faith, has trodden this path of struggle and suffering ahead of us. He gets it. He is waiting in the shadows of our doubt and our grief, our fear and exhaustion. He draws alongside us and says to us: *‘You are chosen. Despite everything you may think to the contrary. Because you are mine, you are chosen, and you are chosen for such a time as this.’*

So my prayer for us today is for courage, that we will step towards the sacrifices we are being asked to make, trusting that God will sustain us, redeem us and draw us to himself.

Trusting that God is at work, in us and through us.

Trusting that we are made FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

Letter to Headteachers

Bishop James has once again written to all Headteachers and staff to express his gratitude at the tremendous work that is ongoing in our schools. The letter was e-mailed to every school last week and a copy can be found on our website [here](#).

A Prayer for School Leaders

Lord Jesus Christ, you yourself were a leader, now you call us to lead our schools through uncertainty. May we do so, relying on your strength.

You yourself were a learner, now you call us to learn new ways of working. May we do so, seeking after your wisdom.

You yourself were a teacher, now you call us to teach away from our classrooms. May we do so, enabling understanding just as you did.

You yourself were a listener, now you call us to listen to the needs of our families. May we do so, discerning how best to show your love. You yourself gathered people to you, now you call us to gather our communities from a distance. May we do so, embodying your compassion.

You yourself took the time to rest, now you call us to rest our tired souls and bodies. May we do so, trusting in your unending faithfulness.

As you led, learnt, taught, listened, gathered and rested, may we too follow in your footsteps, knowing that you see us, hear us, understand us and walk with us, Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen



2019/ 2020 Board of Education Annual Report

We are always seeking Jesus' promise for 'life in all its fullness' for all those working and learning in our church schools. It is the mission of the DBE and the Diocesan Education Team to work with schools, clergy and other partners to bring the Church of England's Vision for Education 'off the shelf', and to life, in the corridors and classrooms of our schools. By educating for wisdom, hope, community and dignity we seek growth and flourishing for all, and through this the transformation of society for the common good.

A full copy of our Annual Report 2019/2020 can be found [here](#)

SIAMS Update

We fully appreciate the relief that school staff have felt without the pressure of external inspection from either Ofsted or SIAMS to think about during such difficult times. We equally understand how frustrating it is not to have clarity about when inspections will resume and what they will look like.

We share your frustration. National guidance around SIAMS inspections is still awaited but is unlikely to be available until well into October. SIAMS inspections (under s.48) will remain suspended until inspections by Ofsted (under s.5) resume, as the two are linked. We do not yet have an official restart date (although we know that it will not be before January 2021). There is inevitably a backlog of inspections outstanding. We await information about scheduling to enable us to space out the inspections so that we are not under pressure to inspect a disproportionate number of schools every 5 years from the anniversary of the lockdown. We will keep you updated as soon as the position is confirmed to us.

Whether or not you are due to be inspected by SIAMS, do keep in mind that a huge amount of the work currently being undertaken feeds directly into the SIAMS schedule: mental health and wellbeing, recovery, hope, forgiveness, repairing relationships, and closing the gap between the most vulnerable or disadvantaged pupils and their peers. You are doing it naturally – remember to get the credit for it! Keep a note of everything you are doing and have put in place.

If you have any queries about your SIAMS inspection contact Charlotte Tudway, Deputy Director

charlotte.tudway@carlisediocese.org.uk



Diocesan Conference for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Governors and Clergy

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Full details will be available at the start of the Spring Term.





Collective Worship

Current safety measures in place continue to make providing engaging and enriching opportunities for collective worship for our pupils challenging. If you are a governor, minister or member of a church team, please do consider how you can support your school with material for collective worship. Some people report how difficult they find recording a video without getting interaction with, and feedback from, the children. However, do remember that staff at school who watch your videos with the children can pause them and ask questions and invite responses so although it isn't the same as you actually being there, pupils still get lots out of it. Our COVID friendly collective worship guidance is constantly being updated as we receive suggestions or recommendations. You can find the latest version [here](#).

The Church of England Foundation For Education continue to produce resources as part of the **Faith at Home** series. For the full programme updated with a list of themes for Autumn click [here](#).



NISCU also continue to provide assemblies. For a full list of resources click [here](#). NISCU teams are available to Zoom or be in school to support assemblies.



And finally... these Godly Play Collective Worship resources are lovely.

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Collective-Worship-Autumn-2020.pdf>

Partnership Agreement 2020/21



It is our aim to work in close partnership with all 104 schools in the Diocese, as set out in our Partnership Agreement (whether or not you choose to purchase the Enhanced Support Package). Every school has a named Diocesan Link assigned to them this academic year and you should feel free to contact your named Link at any time. If you have not yet returned your Partnership Agreement form, please do so. A web link to the full document can be found [here](#).

If you would like to discuss the potential benefits and savings available for your school by purchasing the Enhanced Support package, please contact Morven Anson, Administrative and Governance Officer education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake."

Victor Hugo



Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship

The Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship (including NPQH) provides rigorous preparation for senior leaders preparing for their first headship, Heads leading both primary and secondary schools for the first time, and Heads who have not yet completed the NPQH.

Completing your NPQH with the Church of England will enable you to gain the NPQH qualification whilst also reigniting your own vision and vocation, taking inspiration from the Church of England's Vision for Education.

We are now recruiting for Cohort 4 which will begin in December 2020. For more information contact www.cefel.org.uk/cofepqh/ or Vanessa O'Dea at director.education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



Listening as a means to restoring and building strong relationships: Developing your Practical Toolkit

A training that will be of real, practical support to ALL school staff.



An opportunity to take part in the second of our **free** pilot sessions run by NISCU, the Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union.

This twilight training will run on **Thursday 15th October AND Thursday 22nd October**
Places are limited. To reserve a space and ensure you receive your invitation please contact education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

"The training was great thank you. I found it a very valuable experience. I thought listening was something I was good at, but I realised today that there is lots of room for improvement! I hope I can remember the 'Three Questions'."

Archbishop of York Youth Trust Young Leaders Award

free online webinar sessions offering an Introduction to Character Education...

...and overviews of the Primary and Secondary Young Leaders Awards. These sessions will give an overview of the Young Leaders Awards and how they complement and enhance Character Education in schools. Dr Tom Harrison, the Director of Education at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, is our guest speaker for the Introduction to Character Education session. The webinar sessions are being held on various dates in October and November, starting at 4pm and are free to attend. To book a place or to find out further information please visit <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/conferences> .



Governors



Governor Training 2020/21 Autumn Term

Governor Peer Support Network

Following our highly successful launch of the Governor Peer Support Network much earlier this year with sessions at Penrith and Grange, we plan to resume sessions (virtually) during the autumn term. If you would like to join the network and missed the first sessions, do not worry we would be delighted for you to join us.

Monday October 19th @ 4pm

Wednesday October 21st @6.30pm

Open to all governors not just Foundation Governors, you will receive resources specifically written for Governors, including key questions to support the role of governor.

If you would like more details on the benefit of these sessions to your Governing Board please contact Ruth Houston ruth.houston@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Virtual Training Sessions for Governors*

Tuesday 20th October @6.30pm: Vision and Leadership in a Church School including SIAMS

Wednesday 4th November @ 6.30pm: An Introduction to Church School Governance

Thursday 26th November @ 6.30pm: Delivering RE and Collective Worship in Schools

The full training and support programme can be found [here](#).

To reserve your space and receive your Zoom invite to any of the above, please contact Morven Anson at

education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

*Session should last around 90 minutes and are available free as part of the Enhanced Partnership Agreement or £35 per attendee.

E-Learning



We continue to offer our E-Learning module. The technical glitches that some governors experienced last term have been resolved and the content is currently being updated. The training is free and available to all governors, not just Foundation Governors. If you would like to receive details of how to register a User ID and access the modules please contact Morven Anson education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



Headteacher Performance Appraisal Guidance for Governing Boards —Covid 19

It has been a year like no other and our Headteachers have risen to each and every challenge thrown at them in difficult and stressful circumstances, with little or no notice and with minimal support or preparation. We are keen to encourage Governing Bodies to acknowledge the change in role and additional responsibilities imposed on Headteachers this year and to reward them for and celebrate their successes. We have produced a guidance paper which we hope will be helpful to Governing Bodies in thinking creatively about reviewing targets set before the COVID pandemic.

The full document is available on our website by clicking [here](#).



Clerk's Briefing 30th September 2020

Thank you to everyone who attended the clerk's briefing last Wednesday. There will be another specifically for Good Shepherd Trust clerks this Thursday 8th October at 4.30pm.

Notes and PowerPoint from the presentation will be forwarded to all clerks this week.



The Role of the Clerk in a Church School

Wednesday 21st October 2020 @ 4pm via Zoom

A practical session exploring the additional responsibilities of clerking in a church school. The course will provide details of how Foundation Governors, including the ex-officio are appointed and the legal and other responsibilities of governors in CE schools.

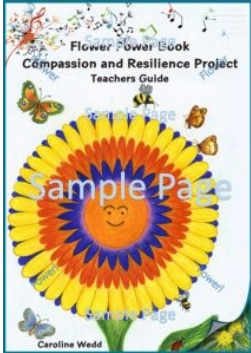
For further details or to reserve a place please contact Morven Anson
education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

The DfE keep details of schools and governors on the [Get information about schools \(GIAS\) website](#). It is important details on this site are kept up to date.

Schools must update GIAS with:

- email addresses for all chairs of governors
- start and end of term of office dates for all governor posts





A new resource called 'Flower Power' has been produced by Caroline Wedd. She works in the Derby Diocese area and has contact with Church schools there. This is a curriculum enrichment mental health and well-being project using music and story. It may be of interest to schools thinking about ways to develop pupil resilience over the next few months:

<https://www.flowerpowerbook.co.uk/resources/>

And if you haven't already seen them, can we point you towards the Goodness and Mercy RSHE website produced by Katy Staples:

<https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/>



Back-to-school wellbeing workshops, available for your school.

SPRINGS
DANCE COMPANY

Springs Dance Company specialises in cross-curricular dance, in particular with Religious Education, Citizenship and PSHE. Springs **Back-to-school wellbeing workshops** provide physical, feel-good dance workshops framed in a reassuring and structured environment. A boost for children's mental health as they negotiate 'back to school'.

Further details on the **Back-to-school wellbeing workshops** can be found at:

<https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/images/downloads/BACK-TO-SCHOOL-WELLBEING.pdf>

To book and to find out more please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07876 752 910.

5-MINUTE WALKING BUBBLE
#StaySafeGetActive on your journey to school

#Stay Safe
Get Active

Protect our children

If possible walk, cycle or scoot to school

If you have to drive, park at least 5-minutes away

Supported by the Department for Transport

MODESHIFT **STARS** EDUCATION

For more hints, tips and information please visit www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive

St John's In the Vale Centre

An open invitation to all schools to use St. Johns' in the Vale Centre for day visits.

Get outdoors in stunning scenery, with full use of facilities that allow for social distancing.



Facilities include large common room, kitchen, large dining/art space, toilet facilities, wifi, campfire and woodland areas and access to breathtaking outdoors

£50 per school per day

Contact Lisa Farren, Centre Manager, on

07422942457

carlisedyc@gmail.com





SCHOOL NEWS

St John's in the Vale and Rydal Hall

I was born and raised in Cumbria, but until this summer I had never visited St John's in the Vale Centre or Rydal Hall. Both have a rich history of connections with children and young people and in this season of bubbles, social distancing and a general heightened anxiety, SJVC and Rydal provide some much-needed balm for souls.



Driving up the track towards SJVC, I could feel the pressures of life slide from my shoulders a little. I had to stop and take a photo: this really was the Lakes at their best. SJVC is tucked into a hillside, with ample space for children and young people to run, play or lounge around in the long grass with mates whilst ignoring attendant teachers. With a natural firepit and plenty of inside space, it wasn't long before ideas for fun, restorative away days for bubbles and staff were dancing round my head. Indeed, St. Herbert's school in Keswick have already taken advantage of all SJVC has to offer, using the centre as their base for a year 5 residential (pre-covid) which included outdoor adventure and geocaching, art workshops in the centre, campfires and a candlelit service held in the neighbouring church.

At Rydal, my children scampered hooting around the campsite and grounds whilst I toured



the site. Rydal is a hidden educational gem; there are so many ways a visit here can enrich the curriculum: from the science of the hydroelectric power generated on site, to the poetry of Wordsworth (who, tradition has it, sat in the Grot getting all inspired), to the Hall's history as host for an entire school evacuated from Liverpool during World War II. And all that before you get going with ways in which schools might use the grounds around the Hall for exciting outdoor adventures, or as a Duke of Edinburgh base.

Should you be considering days away for the children and young people of your school, do consider Rydal or SJVC. Lisa Farren at SJVC (carlisle lyc@gmail.com) and Amanda Fogg at Rydal (manager@rydalahall.org) would be delighted to discuss your needs with you.



Good Shepherd Trust

life in all its fullness

The Good Shepherd Trust have launched their new branding to the world working with schools to design a new logo that better reflects the values of the Trust.

The work to refresh the branding was driven by schools and began many months ago. The new design combines elements from drawings created by children from across the Trust. It was also influenced by ideas and input from all members of the Trusts school communities from LGB Chairs to staff and volunteers.

If anyone involved in a school in Cumbria is interested in finding out more about the Trust and what it would mean for them and their school, please go to www.goodshepherdtrust.uk or contact Claire Render at ceo@thegoodshepherdmat.co.uk



Church House, Penrith: the home of the Board of Education remains closed and officers continue to work from home. Some changes have been made to our contact details and working patterns may vary while responding to demand.

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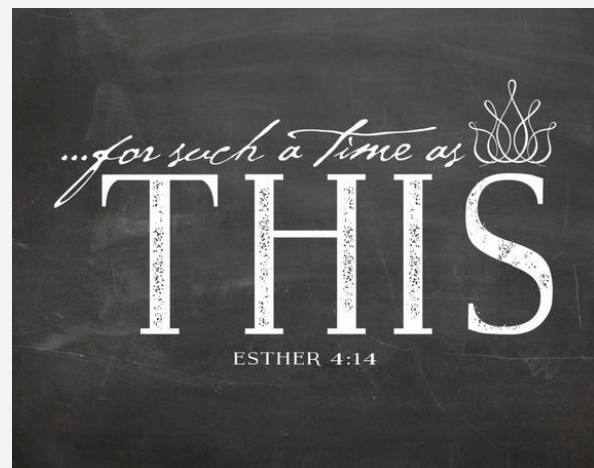
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