

Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education

Weekly Communication: 26th November 2021

Reflection: 'Let your light shine' – A Service of Opening and Blessing of the Trinity School Chapel



The afternoon sun shone, suffusing the new chapel at Trinity in pink, orange and gold light as Bishop James cut the golden ribbon and declared this place of prayer and peace open.

Members of the school choir opened the service with a beautiful, simple hymn. It was good to be among others of every generation, hearing voices raised in worship:

*Take, O take me as I am
Summon out what I shall be
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me*

Governors, pupils and staff were involved in the readings and lighting of candles, one for each year group, with the reminder to each year to 'Let your light shine.'

Candles were lit in form rooms at the same time, as the rest of the school watched the service beaming live from the Chapel.

Bishop James blessed the chapel:

*Loving God,
We praise you for this new school chapel.
May its walls remind us of the safety and security that comes from you.
May its windows remind us that the light of your love shines in the darkness.
May its door remind us you are always standing at the door of our hearts,
waiting to be welcomed in.
Bless all who visit this place,
may it be for them a source of sanctuary and peace.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

The new stained-glass windows shimmered in the afternoon sun. Designed by staff and pupils at Trinity, they are stunning; integrating references to the school crest, Carlisle Cathedral, the river Eden, the school's yellow 'values fish' and a candle streaming rivers of coloured light, reminding everyone who sits in the space to 'Let your light shine'.



Vanessa O'Dea, 22nd November 2021

Training:

Don't forget, if you are looking for ideas to help you to recruit or hang onto governors, do join Morven for:

Successful Recruitment and Retention of Governors on Wednesday 1st December at 6pm

There is also an opportunity to attend **Understanding Christianity** training with Laura Watson, our RE Consultant in the New Year (poster below). **Please note that due to more interest for the April course in the West of the County rather than the South, the April course will now be in the West.**

Simply email education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk to join any of our courses or events.

There's always lots going on. Don't forget to keep an eye on our [Events Programme](#):

Heads Huddle:

Heads Huddle is a weekly opportunity to meet with fellow school leaders and members of the Diocesan Education Team in a relaxed and informal online chat.

Please do join us to share the highs and lows of the week; to take a moment for reflection; to enjoy some mutual support; to ask any questions on your mind; and to receive any updates available.



We'd love to see you at 3.45pm on Tuesdays whenever you can make it.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88350734545?pwd=aEFSQlk3Wm5qK2FWNk8wSoxVNC84dz09&from=addon>

Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

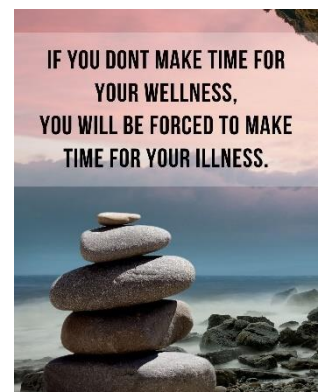
We very much missed Huddling with you this week. Thank you for your forbearance. Normal service will resume on Tuesday.



It has been my absolute privilege to be warmly welcomed into no fewer than **seven** schools all over the County this week. Seeing and hearing about all the wonderful things going on has been a real source of Hope & Joy for me. Thank you.

The recurring theme however is still just how difficult life is for all of you. As one Headteacher put it, for the government, it's business as usual but life in schools is still far from 'usual' and just getting through the week can be hard enough, never mind preparing for inspection or long-term strategic planning.

As always, we can't urge you strongly enough to remember to take a little bit of time to look after yourself, whether that's exercise, a good book, fresh air, collapsing on the sofa and speaking to someone you trust. Remember, we're only a phone call away if ever you need someone to talk to (or vent to) in confidence.



Keeping a Sense of Purpose



I am not sure about you but where I live, over the last couple of days we have started to see the gradual arrival of Christmas Trees in windows and brightly lit houses. My husband is of the ‘it is still November’ variety and we are still in darkness in our little corner of the world; however, what is apparent is the festive season is making itself known. For those of you knee deep in Carols, Nativities, Advent Services and glitter, I am sure you have felt in a deep friendship with Christmas for several weeks now!

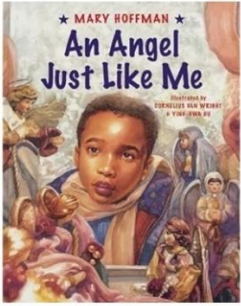
Christmas is a time of great joy and celebration; it is busy, bright, expensive (I have two, bordering on adult children with a fetish for t-shirts that cost more than our weekly food shop), cheerful and permissive – it is the ‘just one more mince pie’ or eating six chocolates straight out of the Quality Street tin in a row, because for once no one is going to casually glance over and remind you about your Slimming World class. It is full of a special magic only a young child could explain and adults are nostalgic for. However, Christmas can be also a very disorientating and challenging time. It can also feel overwhelming and lonely, a time of feeling lost. It can be a time when it is easy to feel a lack of connection to purpose and what gives life meaning on a personal level.

In order for our wellbeing to be strong, we need to understand who we are, what our goals are, what we are here to achieve and what being empowered to achieve them looks like. It can be easy to lose sight of this in the busyness of living and Christmas especially can highlight what isn’t feeling quite right. Much like passing a magnifying lens over an image for intense scrutiny. For some the lack of everyday routine is unsettling and not for everyone the gift of a family.

Let’s not forget Christmas began in the simplest of ways, in true humility. It began with a child being born to exhausted parents amongst straw and animal mess. In the noise and chaos of a town packed to the rafters for the census, it was in a place of quiet and solitude that Jesus arrived into the world. For those feeling overwhelmed, lost, wondering what it is life is asking of them, in the noise and chaos that is Christmas, it will be in the quiet and peace, and the spaces in between the tinsel and glitter, that we can look for ourselves once more.

**Pam Weeden, Diocesan School Consultant
Executive Coach**

Inclusion Corner: *if you haven't had a look at this yet, do take a peek..*



The Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth have shared an exciting Christmas project which challenges the stereotypical portrayal of angels in books, on Christmas cards, in nativity sets etc as white with golden hair.

Everything you need is attached separately.

Do let us know how you get on. We'd love to hear how your pupils respond.

Update for NPQs

The DfE have announced that **ALL** NPQs are now fully funded for Teachers and Leaders in state schools and 16-19 provision

DfE Accredited

Great news from @educationgovuk - all NPQs are now fully funded to all teachers/leaders in all state schools in England!

Time to get involved for our @CofE_EduLead NPQH February intake.

Good Shepherd Trust have experienced facilitators and coaches based in Cumbria to support you or your colleagues on your or their leadership journey.

Sign up today!

Go to: www.cefel.org.uk/npq to find out how

SIAMS Update

If you are expecting an inspection during this academic year, please do discuss with your Diocesan Link any support you might need as you prepare.

Remember, if you have purchased the Enhanced Partnership Agreement Package, there is no charge for support.

- The rate of inspections is beginning to pick up.
- The **Revised Evaluation Schedule** suite of other documents is available here:
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>

niscu Furness Job Advert Youth Evangelist/Christian Worker

Do you hope for young people to become the long disciples of Jesus?

Are you an enthusiastic and passionate evangelical Christian?

Do you have great communication skills and the professionalisation to succeed in youth environments?

Could you work alongside adults and children to support young people across Furness in seeing discipleship as a reality?

We have a vacancy to work in the Furness area. Professionals with strong verbal and written skills, with an interest in the Christian faith. Hours: 8 per week. Salary: £22,397 per annum (pro rata £2).

INTERESTED?

Download a job pack from our website niscu.org.uk/resources. Completed applications by email or post, to: 17 Lansdale Road, Carlisle, LA1 8JZ. @churchofengland

Key Dates

Closing Date: Thursday, 17 January 2023
Interview Date: Wednesday, 17 January 2023 (9am)
Starting Date: will start February 2023 (9am)

About NISCU: If you would like an informal chat about this role, please contact: [contact info]

The NISCU team currently have a vacancy for a Youth/Schools Worker in the Furness area (South West Lakes).

If you know anyone who might be interested (a teaching assistant who wanted to add 8 hours to their working week for example), do please encourage them to take a look at the details which you can find [here](#)



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I wanted to share our new free resource for Advent this year: '**Community Matters at Christmas**'. The resource is available for order now.

Throughout Advent we will explore different communities from the Christmas story, see what they can teach us about community and how they can inspire us to make a

difference this Christmas. Over four weeks, the resource celebrates how **community** can bring us **joy, acceptance, generosity** and **love**. The resource includes videos of pupils talking about their communities, bible links, reflections and practical challenges and can be used in the classroom or in collective worship.

Schools can sign up here: <https://www.abyyt.com/advent>

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this week's communication, don't hesitate to get in touch:

Charlotte Tudway

Deputy Director of Education

charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education

07917 993659





A resource of theological literacy, that explores the impact of Christianity and encourages reflection and connections.



UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY TEXT IMPACT CONNECTIONS

- 7 modules over 4 sessions
- Teacher's handbook
- 22 units of work
- Wall frieze of the Bible
- Folder of photo-copiable resources
- Online access to resources
- Follow up support from the Diocese

Understanding Christianity for Primary Schools

North Cumbria

Monday 10th January
Church House, Penrith. 9:30am-
3:30pm

West

Cumbria

Tuesday 19th April
Location TBC.
9:30am-3:30pm

Follow up sessions:

Monday 9th May 4-5:30pm online
Monday 13th June 4-5.30pm online
Monday 4th July 4-5.30pm online

Trainer: Laura Watson – RE Consultant Carlisle Diocese

Cost: £195 to include the resource folder
£100 without the folder; ideal for new staff in school

For further details or to book a place please contact:

education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk or laura.watson@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

RE Today
Services