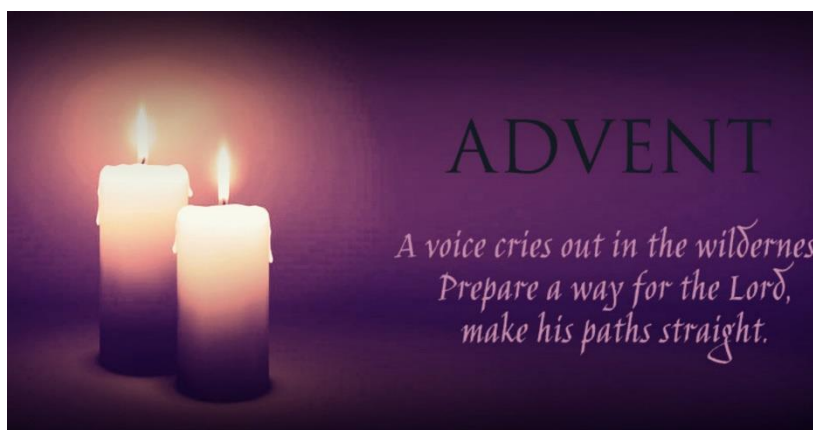


Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education

Weekly Communication: 2nd December 2021

Reflection:



Earlier this week, I stepped over several boxes of Christmas decorations, which had just come out of the loft, in order to get to the signing in book at the school I was visiting.

Love it or hate, Christmas is 'here' in our schools.

In order to be 'ready' and 'fit everything in', it can be easy to miss out on the special season of Advent: the pausing, the waiting, the preparing.

Come Lord, come again

*Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.*

*Come Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up*

*out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.*

*Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.*

AMEN



Training:

Don't forget, there is 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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88350734545?pwd=aEFSQlk3Wm5qK2FWNk8wSoxVNC84dz09&from=addon>

Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week



I had a very special Heads Huddle this week. At 3.48 on Tuesday, I was sitting in a zoom room alone and wondering whether I was in the wrong meeting. To my great delight, a name popped into the waiting room. And I, for one, really valued our chat.

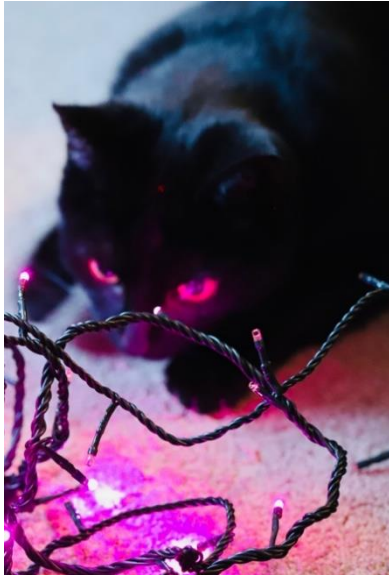
We covered pretty much **everything** during our time together: births and deaths and an awful lot in between!

We discussed her school's exciting new plans for working with the community; we discussed the government's multi-academisation agenda; the American celebration of Thanksgiving; the highs and lows of Christmas craziness in primary schools; our vision for Church School education as reaching out to the most vulnerable. So much, in fact, I couldn't possibly list it all. However, there was one point we strongly agreed on which I thought I would share.

Looking 'outside' makes you value what you have in your own life: it's easy to imagine that the grass is green on the other side. We discussed this in a number of contexts – we had both relatively recently relocated to Cumbria from other counties and were reminding one another of why we made the move and the joys of living in this beautiful part of the world. We also agreed that seeing how another school or place of work operates can often be really helpful in reminding us how lucky we have things, whether that's your role, context, colleagues, job satisfaction or anything else.

It's important to hang on to this when feeling like we can't go on. Remember, if you are ever feeling like you can't go on in your role and need someone to talk to, we're always here. We know it's tough.

Wellbeing and the Festive Season



The festive season is now officially in fully swing! Incidentally, due to a significant amount of pressure from two children and a wife, my husband caved in on his steadfast belief that the Christmas Tree should not see daylight until December and we put it up last weekend during the dying days of November. Somehow, I managed to injure my back quite badly whilst sorting some ridiculously tangled lights and fending off one very excited rescue cat who refuses to grow up (his siblings watched with mild interest from their cat trees) and I am currently writing this through the fog of some powerful painkillers the doctor gave me; I think there is an element of Divine retribution in the mix here.

As much as it is a time for celebration and joy, Christmas and the lead into it can be a trigger for stress and anxiety; likewise, there is a strong emphasis on materialism, often leading to the need for kindness and compassion to become lost. The Charlie Waller Trust website has some excellent recourses to support positive mental health and wellbeing through the festive season. Alongside articles relating to specific tips for wellbeing and exploring ways to look after mental health, they also have kindness advent calendars. These come in adult and child form and provide a great companion to the commercial variety. It is a website well worth visiting for their festive features and beyond; enjoy having an explore.

[Wellbeing in the Festive Season – The Charlie Waller Trust](#)

Pam Weeden, Diocesan School Consultant
Executive Coach

Inclusion Corner:



I am very excited to be beginning to work with Anti-Racist Cumbria – an absolutely inspirational and innovative team of people delivering some wonderful projects and events.

I am delighted that they will be joining us at our Conference on 16th June 2022.

Anti-Racist Cumbria encourages all supporters to work on their own anti-racism. Using the resources suggested on the Anti-Racist Cumbria website, I have been doing just that.

It's certainly made me think differently. Do take a look: <https://antiracistcumbria.org/but-im-not-racist/>

- The rate of inspections is beginning to pick up.
- It's fair to say that inspections feel very different to those which took place under the current Evaluation Schedule before lockdown. Expectations are high and, with so much more now taking place before the inspection (document exchange and extra phone calls), the exploration of lines of enquiry on the day itself feels much more rigorous and challenging.
- As anticipated, following Ofsted's research report which highlighted concerns about quality of RE teaching, inspectors are thoroughly assessing the effectiveness of RE. If you haven't read the Ofsted research paper, you can find it [here](#).
- Please make sure you have read the SIAMS Information for Schools document which sets out expectations about Self Evaluation:
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>

AND FINALLY ...

Applications have now opened for new SIAMS Inspectors.

The link to the application form, and more details about the applications process can be found on the [SIAMS Inspections webpage](#), on the Church of England website. Applications will close **at midday (12pm) on Thursday 13 January 2022**.

If this is something you think you might be interested in and would like to find out more and explore whether it is right for you, please do get in touch to arrange a time to discuss this with me.



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](#)

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