

## Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

[www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education](http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education)

**Weekly Communication: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### Reflection:



*"The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined."*  
Isaiah 9:2

We walk in darkness. The long run of winter nights and dark early mornings steadily sap energy. The darkness of human hearts in stories of little children alone, neglected and killed by those who should love them. Parents who do love their children fighting desperately to keep them alive in Afghanistan. The grief and loss in the shining eyes of a colleague and the gathering gloom of another covid variant.

Viktor Frankl (1905-1997) was an Austrian neuroscientist, psychiatrist and a Holocaust survivor. He was caught up in that dark tide sweeping over and through human hearts and wrote of the experience in his book 'Man's Search for Meaning.' It is a stunning read, written in just nine days, and buried in its pages is the phrase:

*'What is to give light must endure burning.'*

As our seven-year-old lights another candle in our Advent spiral, I watch the delicate flickering of the flames and think of all the injustices that Jesus endured, even as a tiny baby. And I think how, despite the mess of our human experience He, Emmanuel, came to be God With Us anyway. In Jesus God chose to step into the suffering world; to burn, yes, and to cast incredible light into our darkness.

So as we travel through Advent and towards Christmas once again, we give thanks for you and for all the ways you have brought light to others this year. We know it has burned and we pray you know that Jesus is near. Our Emmanuel: God in the mess, for the mess and in spite of the mess. We are not alone in the darkness. God in his infinite mercy and grace has come. Glory Alleluia, He has come, *"And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*.

Vanessa, on behalf of the DBE and the entire Education team

[The Disaster Emergency Committee's Afghanistan Crisis Appeal](#)  
[Another In The Fire \(Live\) - Hillsong UNITED - Bing video](#)  
[Matt Redman - His Name Shall Be \(Lyrics And Chords\) - Bing video](#)

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## 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).

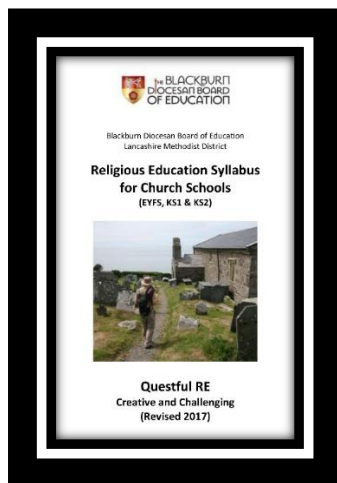
We are adding a brand-new SIAMS course to our programme for the Spring Term. We will be delivering a session on **Spiritual Development on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 4pm**. We will be exploring what we mean by Spiritual Development, how we plan for it across the school and how we can tell whether our provision is enabling spiritual development in our pupils as they progress through our school (and evidence this in an inspection).

And, watch this space for another brand new session, **RE Leadership for those new to leading RE or new to the role of Headteacher in a Church School**. In this course, I and our RE Consultant, Laura Watson will be unpacking curriculum expectations (ensuring a balance of theology, sociology and philosophy), how we ensure that RE lessons enable pupils' spiritual development and reflect our school's vision and possible ways to monitor progress across the school. Date TBC, First half of Summer Term.

Simply email [education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto: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](#).

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## RE Syllabus, Scheme of Work & Assessment

Ten more schools have expressed an interest in taking up the offer we have agreed with Blackburn Diocese to use their RE resources.

Schools already using it have sent very positive feedback.

If you would like to purchase this for your school, it's not too late.

There will be a training morning (on zoom) early in the Spring term, led by Lisa Fenton @ Blackburn Diocese (who has written the scheme now in its fourth edition and about to move online ready for September 2022).

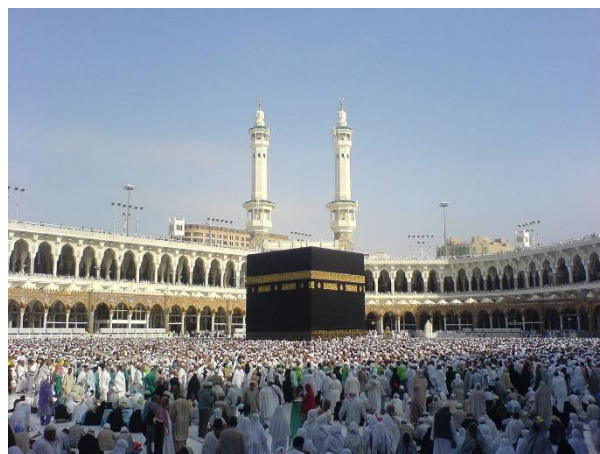
Please get in touch if you are interested.

## Support for teaching Islam

### A message from Imran Kotwal

"I recently delivered a number of Islam CPD courses virtually to Primary RE teachers - the recordings are now available to help teachers develop their subject knowledge and confidence in teaching Islam.

If you would like a live virtual session on any of the topics below just for Primary RE leads I'm happy to facilitate.



### There are 5 Teaching and Learning about Islam courses:

1. **The 5 Pillars of Islam**
2. **The 6 Articles of Faith**
3. **What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain Today? Includes Islamophobia**
4. **Islamic Artefacts / Special Objects in Islam**
5. **How to use the Qur'an in your planning and teaching.**

Please see the attached flyer for more information about the content and how to access the recordings or [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the booking form.

Any problems, please email [Imran@muslimlearnerservices.org](mailto:Imran@muslimlearnerservices.org)



## Church of England NPQs

This short video answers many of the questions we are regularly asked about NPQs – which one is right for teachers and leaders at different stages of their career and with different responsibilities? Who is delivering the courses in our Area? Do have a look. Even if you aren't thinking of a qualification for yourself right now, you may be struck by one of them which might be relevant for a colleague or a friend.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Chris Boucetla:  
[siochrisb@thegoodshepherdmat.co.uk](mailto:siochrisb@thegoodshepherdmat.co.uk)

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## 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>

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## Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

**Tiredness:** was unsurprisingly the overwhelming theme of this week. The last week of the Autumn term is always one of the most tiring in the school year and 2021 has been even more exhausting than ever. We discussed the exhaustion that comes with micromanagement – putting on plays, concerts, church services is draining enough but the huge extra burden of thinking through and planning how to mitigate every possible COVID related risk adds a whole new dimension. We also discussed the exhaustion that comes with being slightly ‘on edge’ having made those decisions which are ‘at the Headteacher’s Discretion’ – it can be scary and it is certainly tiring living on tenterhooks and hoping nothing will go wrong.

**When it’s gone, it’s gone:** seeing our pupils being able to take part in productions this year has really brought home that having to cancel just one show or change just one week of school can be the difference between Year 6 pupils getting to enjoy their final ‘rite of passage’ at primary school or missing out altogether. At one of the schools joining us this week, there is a long-established tradition of a Year 5&6 Christmas Pantomime as the opportunity for the oldest pupils in the school to have lots of fun and shine! Seeing her current Year 6 pupils strutting their stuff last week, made that Headteacher realise what last year’s Year 6 had missed.

However, although difficult and requiring a huge amount of extra planning and work, most of you have managed to go ahead with some kind of production or celebration this Christmas. Well done indeed!



We very much enjoyed hearing about the window decorating competition at Montreal School.

Congratulations to all the winning Christmas Carrots in this picture!





## Wellbeing Corner:



Click for our full  
Wellbeing Strategy



You may recall that, last week, Pam shared some of the health benefits to journaling that are only just beginning to make themselves more publicly known. For example, journaling can help you make sense of how you are feeling and prioritise things you need to work through. Likewise, journaling raises self-awareness and helps bring to conscious awareness the things that can trigger us, cause our wellbeing to slip or challenge our values as well as raise our spirits. Journaling can help to prevent burnout, manage anxiety and most importantly, arm people with the tools to explain to others how they are thinking and feeling because there has been a process of writing it all down first.

Whether or not you decide to give journaling a go, do make sure you find some time and some ways to rest and reflect this Christmas time, to fully recharge your batteries before the new term.

[83 Benefits of Journaling for Depression, Anxiety and Stress](#)

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## Inclusion Corner:



I have very much been enjoying Anti Racist Cumbria's Advent Calendar. If you haven't seen it, do take a [look](#).

Here are a couple of examples from recent days.



## SIAMS Update



- 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](#).
- We are also noting some suggestions for how to improve our Spiritual Development offer for our pupils as well as how to help with their character development, giving them plenty of opportunities to develop as global citizens and advocates for change. **We will be providing some additional training sessions to help those of you who would like it to explore these themes.**
- 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, DON'T FORGET ...

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 a vacancy you would like to advertise here, don't hesitate to send it to [charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk). I aim to send out the weekly communication each Thursday so any 'copy' would need to be with me by Wednesday evening (or early Thursday morning) to make it into that week's edition.



# CALLING ALL CLERKS



We currently have a number of schools looking for a Clerk to Governors. If you know anyone who might be prepared to take on this crucial role or to add another school to their portfolio, please contact Morven: [education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)

## HEADTEACHER VACANCIES

The following Church of England Schools are currently advertising for a new Headteacher:

- ❖ Hayton Primary School, Brampton
- ❖ Lanercost Primary School, Brampton
- ❖ Threlkeld Academy, Keswick

You can see all their adverts on the Cumbria County Council Jobs and Careers page [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](mailto:charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)  
[www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education](http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education)  
07917 993659





## 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 10<sup>th</sup> January –  
Church House, Penrith 9:30am-  
3:30pm

### West Cumbria

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April –  
location TBC, 9:30am-3:30pm

### Follow up sessions:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 4-5:30pm online  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 4-5.30pm online  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 4-5.30pm online

**Trainer:** Laura Watson – RE Consultant, Carlisle Diocese

**Cost:** £195 to include the resource folder  
£125 without the folder; ideal for new staff in school

For further details or to book a place please contact:

[education@carlislediocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlislediocese.org.uk) or [laura.watson@carlislediocese.org.uk](mailto:laura.watson@carlislediocese.org.uk)

**RE Today**  
Services