Dear Headteachers, Executive Headteachers, CEOs, Consultants, Chaplains, Directors, Chairs of Governors, Vice Chairs of Governors and Foundation Governors

**Academy & School News Update and Safeguarding Briefing**

Please find attached the most recent academy and school news summary from educational consultant Tony Stephens and a copy of the latest safeguarding briefing from Andrew Hall.

**Rural Teaching Partnership - a collaboration between Teach First, the Chartered College of Teaching and Peterborough Diocese**

I’ve been delighted to share Zoom calls recently with Rhian Harris and Louise Hinton from Teach First re. Teach First’s collaboration with the Chartered College of Teaching and the Church of England – the Rural Teaching Partnership.  As we know all too well, rural school leaders often face greater difficulties with staff recruitment and retention compared to urban schools. The Rural Teaching Partnership enables Church of England primary schools to access high quality trainee teachers: recruited, trained and supported by Teach First (an Ofsted - Outstanding ITT Provider and Early Career Framework Lead Provider).

In a fortnight’s time, there will be two significant webinars with Teach First about the Rural Teaching Partnership, one for headteachers and one for MAT CEOs, in Peterborough Diocese.  I will forward email invitations from Teach First later today.  I very much hope you will be able to attend one of these webinars, to find out how you can access high quality trainee teachers: recruited, trained and supported by Teach First, for teaching posts beginning this September, and for teaching positions in the coming years.

**Headteachers’ Conference – Happiness, Wellbeing, Resilience, Growing and Flourishing, 16th June, 9.15am – 3.00pm**

Our keynote speaker will be Dr Bill Mitchell, who is a consultant clinical psychologist, educator and author.   Bill’s focuses on building resilience, helping his clients develop a sustainable balance to life regardless of the pressures.  Bill and his team run sessions with corporate clients at the leadership and senior manager level and graduate recruits in professional services firms.  The comprehensive client base includes regulators, banking, education, media, the utility sector, and supporting HR professionals, Occupational Health doctors, health & safety advisors, all of which enable Bill and his colleagues to create positive change in the workplace.  Bill teaches at Judge and London Business Schools, King’s College London and more widely in research communities, including Wellcome Trust and the Sanger Institute. Bill is a regular contributor to The City Mental Health Alliance.  Bill’s book *Time to Breathe* was published last year and is available from Bloomsbury and Amazon.

**SLA Training Courses Coming Up Soon**

***Developing Children’s Spirituality Tuesday 26 April 2022 10.00am – 3.00pm led by Jane Lewis, via Zoom***

What does it mean to experience life in all its fullness?  We will explore some answers and consider how Ofsted and SIAMS evaluate spiritual development.

***Understanding Christianity:  Focus on Salvation Tuesday 10 May 9.00am – 12.00pm led by Adam Robertson, via Zoom***

This session will focus in greater depth on the theme of Salvation using Understanding Christianity. Adam helped to write the Diocese of Peterborough RE Syllabus.

***Roles & Responsibilities of Church School Governors Wednesday 12 May 6.30pm - 8.30pm led by Peter French, at Bouverie Court***

What are the special features of church school governance?  A session for new governors and those who have previously been governors looking at experiences and how you can develop your role.

***RE: Assessment / Ofsted Research Monday 16 May 1.00pm – 4.00pm led by Lat Blaylock, via Zoom***

How can school RE use the directions set by HIM’s RE report?

***Implementing the Understanding Christianity Resource Tuesday 17 May 9.30am – 3.30pm led by Lesley Pollard at Hayfield Cross CE Primary School, Kettering***

Specifically for primary teachers who are new to using the Understanding Christianity resource, but whose school is already trained in this programme.

***Termly Headteachers’ SIAMS Briefing Thursday 26 May 1.30pm – 3.00pm led by Jane Lewis, via Zoom***

Updates and feedback on inspections so far; a workshop to look at different self-evaluation approaches and to ensure your school is well prepared.

***Governor Briefing Session:  Tips on Recruiting Governors Thursday 19 May 6.30pm – 7.15pm led by Peter French, via Zoom***

To book a place on any of the above SLA training courses, please email: [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk).

**Evening Online Christian Meditation Course - Establishing Peace in ourselves: becoming Places of Peace for the World** - **4th, 11th and 18th of May *–* 7:30pm *–* 9:00pm**

This series of online meditation events is a partnership between the School of Contemplative Life and Glastonbury Abbey.  As a direct, practical response to the need for peace in our lives, our communities and world, each of us can commit to the quiet, steady work of establishing peace in ourselves. This is perhaps the most important thing we can do. Everyone around us will benefit from this peace.  So, in this three-week series of evening online workshops, the School of Contemplative Life and Glastonbury Abbey will explore meditation in the Christian tradition as a simple, but radically effective, path to establishing greater peace, well-being and community.

Through a series of short talks, meditation practice and conversation participants will explore:

* forming a new relationship with life characterised by greater compassion, freedom and wellbeing
* how meditation establishes peace in us and dissolves the illusion that we are separate from each other and God
* becoming places of peace in the world.

For further information and booking details:

[https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theschoolofcontemplativelife/656117#](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theschoolofcontemplativelife/656117)

**A Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer for our world today, written by the famous American author Philip Yancey …

*I pray first for the 40 million Ukrainians left behind, struggling to survive as missiles scream overhead and tanks target their homes and hospitals.*

*I pray for the refugees streaming into Poland, Hungary, Moldova, and Romania, as well as the thousands lucky enough to escape to faraway places such as the U.K., France, Canada, and the U.S. And for the husbands and fathers who remain in their homeland, risking their lives to repel invaders. And for the host families who meet refugees at border crossings and train stations with offers of free lodging.*

*I pray for Christian ministries [in Ukraine] … One of the leaders recently reported, “We’ve learned to love and to hate on a whole new level. We’ve discovered what it means to hate evil to the very core of our being. And we learned to love the truth. The truth that sets us free.…Many of us just don’t have any tears left. Now we all are just so angry about all the injustices done to us, and we ask the Lord of Hosts to display His righteous judgment.”*

*I pray for the Russian soldiers. British intelligence has intercepted some of their panicky phone calls home. They expected to be welcomed with flowers, as liberators, and instead find themselves in the midst of a bloody war against Ukrainians determined to resist. The New York Times reports that some demoralized Russian units have laid down their weapons and surrendered, or sabotaged their vehicles, to avoid a fight.*

*I pray for the Russian people, who hear an entirely different version of events. It’s a limited military operation, they’re told, with few civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the hostile West is trying to strangle their country economically. Any who protest against the war are arrested, and merely using the word war on social media risks possible jail time.*

*I pray for my own country, that we would not grow weary of higher gas prices and a falling stock market and fail to support those who stand up for freedom and justice.*

*Yes, I also pray for Vladimir Putin. Did not Jesus tell us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us? It would take a colossal miracle for a dictator with such ego-driven determination to experience a change of heart - the kind of miracle the exiled Hebrews witnessed in Nebuchadnezzar’s day (Daniel 4).*

*Taken from Philip Yancey, Blog post: NO MORE TEARS LEFT*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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