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.

**Headteachers’ Conference – Every Dimension of Every Life Matters, 24th March, 9.15am – 3.00pm**

The programme for the conference is as follows:

*8.45am – Zoom login and opening worship songs.*

***9.15am Opening worship – Reflections On ‘Every Dimension of Every Life Matters’***

*Peter Cantley, Diocesan Director of Education, will lead us in worship with Archdeacon Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, Peter French, Deputy Diocesan Director of Education, and Jane Lewis, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education.*

***9.45am – The Earth’s Life Matters***

Dr Ruth Valerio will address important themes about the environment, climate change, courageous advocacy and ways to help children and young people look after God’s world and love their global neighbours.

*10.45am MORNING BREAK*

***11.00am – Black Lives Matter***

Allana Gay will speak about ‘Black Lives Matter’, addressing important BAME, UKME and decolonising the curriculum themes.

***12.00pm – Cathedral Life Matters***

Alex Carton, Head of Learning & Engagement at Peterborough Cathedral, will speak about the life of Peterborough Cathedral over the centuries and the place of cathedrals in our history, whilst sharing all the educational opportunities that a visit to Peterborough Cathedral offers.

*12.15pm LUNCH BREAK*

***1.00pm – 1.55pm – Religious Lives Matter***

Lat Blaylock from RE Today, will address the theme of ‘Religious Lives Matter’, illustrating the importance of religion in our world, with 80% of all people on our planet practising some form of religion today, and will consider RE teaching and curriculum design, referencing resources and training courses that would be helpful for teachers, especially for colleagues in the primary school sector.

*1.55pm AFTERNOON BREAK*

***2.05pm – 3.00pm – Spiritual Lives Matter***

Dr Anne Lumb will present on ‘Spiritual Lives Matter’, considering afresh the spiritual dimension of pupils’ lives and how Church of England school leaders can most effectively support children’s and young people’s spiritual development.

*3.00pm CLOSE*

Bookings can be made via [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk).

**Ofsted East of England Webinar**

Please find attached a copy of the slides from the recent Ofsted East of England webinar.

**SLA Training Courses Coming Up Soon**

***Asking Challenging Questions, Wednesday 23 March 6.30pm – 8.30pm, led by Peter French, via Zoom***

What is the best way for governors to ensure the right level of challenge and support for school leaders to ensure high quality provision?  Your questions answered and more.

***How can Governors support their school with an Ofsted Inspection?  Tuesday 29 March 6.30pm – 7.15pm, led by Andrew Lakatos, via Zoom***

Insights into the Ofsted inspection process and how Governors can support schools most effectively will be explored in depth.

***RE Network Meeting:  Understanding Christianity, where are we now? Tuesday 29 March 3.45pm – 5.45pm, led by Lesley Pollard, via Zoom***

Sharing ideas and good practice for those who have completed the 3 day Understanding Christianity Programme.

***Understanding Christianity: Focus on Incarnation, Wednesday 30 March 1.00pm – 4.00pm, led by Adam Robertson, via Zoom***

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

***Roles & Responsibilities of Church School Governors, Wednesday 30 March 6.30pm - 8.30pm, led by Peter French, via Zoom***

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.

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).

**Webinars Open to All Coming Up Soon**

***Primary Essentials***

May I highlight for you a series of innovative online CPD sessions, specially designed by ASCL for colleagues leading in primary education, with complimentary access for all primary leaders regardless of ASCL membership:

***Raising writing standards***Pie Corbett, education trainer, writer and author, Talk for Writing***Primary Ofsted Inspection with a focus on reading and literacy***Phil Minns, HMI Specialist Adviser - Early Years and Primary, Ofsted***EYFS: A focus on the question of assessment***Dr Julian Grenier, Headteacher, Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre***Effective primary curriculum planning*** *​*Mary Myatt, education adviser and writer***A focus on governance in primary trusts***Emma Knights OBE, Chief Executive, National Governance Association***A focus on disadvantaged pupils in primary***Marc Rowland, adviser for improving outcomes for disadvantaged learners, Unity Schools Partnership***Effective strategic thinking for successful primary leadership***Rob Carpenter, CEO, Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust***Effective teaching of languages in primary***Suzanne O'Farrell, ASCL MFL Consultant and former headteacher***DfE/Standards Testing Agency: primary assessments update***Colin Watson, Deputy Director, Research and Assessment Development, Department for Education***Supporting you as a leader***Rachel Bertenshaw, ASCL Deputy Director of Member Support, and former headteacher***Six tricks for successful financial leadership***Julia Harnden, ASCL Funding Specialist, and former school leader***Governance in a single maintained school***Sam Henson, Director of Policy and Information, National Governance Association

All sessions will be hosted by ASCL Primary Leadership Specialist, Tiffnie Harris, who will be joined by an excellent line-up of speakers.

To take part in any or all of the above Primary Essentials online CPD sessions, simply register via <https://www.ascl.org.uk/primaryessentials>. You will then receive links to join the sessions and access the recordings.

**Wilbarston Church of England Primary School**

Last Tuesday I was delighted to be able to visit Wilbarston Church of England Primary School, which had a successful SIAMS inspection last half-term.  Andrea Green, the Headteacher, has kindly written a few words to introduce her school…

*‘We are a small, rural school at the top of the Welland Valley between Corby and Market Harborough. We have a mixed intake from both town and villages. At Wilbarston we reviewed our Christian values last year and the school community decided on honesty, respect and care as our main drivers.*

*Our vision is based around John 10:10 "life in all its' fullness" and all we do is focused on delivering a well-developed curriculum experience that builds a love of learning, allows children to reach their full potential whilst making fun memories of life at our school.*

*Throughout the pandemic children benefitted from class based worship and one of our main findings from our evaluation of what went well/even better if was that children really valued this style of worship and how much it had developed children. So, we have maintained 2 sessions of class based worship a week. Each class have a reflection scrap book that is filled by children each session showing their journey through the worship themes and the impact of it. This was identified as a strength in our recent SIAMS inspection.*

*We had our SIAMS inspection at the end of last year and were delighted that the inspection process allowed us to celebrate all we do and have done over recent years. We recognised our school from the report and were proud of the outcomes. "Pupils delight in learning", "all are embraced and personally known", "collective worship is a joyous expression of the school's vision" and "deep levels of care underpin all relationships".*

*We are part of the Pathfinders Multi Academy Trust based in the Rothwell / Desborough area who have as one of our values, humanity. We benefit greatly from the opportunities this brings pupils and staff, the autonomy we enjoy to still be and develop as our own Church of England school and from the support of the central team of the Trust, especially our CEO, Ann Davey.*

*Staff and children also benefit greatly from our work with the Diocese, from the support offered to leaders via the DSC programme to the termly conferences, to the recent Children's Worship Conference. Pupils enjoyed meeting children from other Diocese schools and developing ideas for worship in our school.’*

**St Peter’s Church of England Academy**

A couple of weeks before visiting Wilbarston, I visited St Peter’s Church of England Academy in Raunds.  Julie Casswell is the Headteacher there and has also kindly written a few words to introduce her school, highlighting some of the school’s distinctive features and their recent work on climate change…

*‘St Peter’s CE Academy is a junior school, tucked away on the outskirts of the rural market town of Raunds, in East Northamptonshire.  We are part of the Nene Education Trust, a group of 8 schools – 2 of which are faith schools.  In the last few years, under a change in Principal, our school has gone through a period of change (not least due to COVID); we have reshaped our Christian vision and revised our school values to reflect the community we serve.*

*The school was founded in 1704 by Catherine Pepys – wife of Samuel Pepys – who left £100 in her will to start a school for the poor.  It was originally known as the Charity School based in the vestry of the local church with a small group of under privileged children.  Our Christian vision, ‘Let Your Let Shine’ from Matthew 5:16, reflects our founders’ wishes to enable all children to flourish and grow.*

*Although we are deemed an ‘average’ school based on our demographic, we aim for excellence in all that we offer and do.  In recent months we have been developing our children’s knowledge and understanding about climate change.  Through our connections with* [*NTFC*](https://www.ntfc.co.uk/news/2022/january/schoolsvclimatechange/)*, we took part in* [*Planet Super League’s*](https://www.planetsuperleague.com/) *national competition, Schools vs. Climate Change campaign, completing activities to score green goals to help save the planet.  After a fierce competition, we came 2nd overall, scoring 8255 green goals, saving 11156 KG CO2 which is equivalent to planting 636 trees.  An achievement we are really proud of!  Keep an eye for the next national competition in October to help save our planet.’*

**Easter Collective Worship Resources**

Andy Silver, Director of PopUK, has been in touch to say: *‘As Easter approaches, we would like as many diocesan primary schools to access our FREE Easter resources.  We have created a new link to send to schools as we believe it is essential for children to understand the complete Easter story. Each resource unpacks the historical detail, giving children an understanding of the meaning of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.*

*This is the link -* [*Access all Easter songs and lesson videos*](https://55bcfff2-e9b0-44ef-9ec5-36be650b91b7.mailbutler.link/p2/15cbd830-6e25-4c83-a583-7c80c83b72ec/0b102bcb-f129-4b0f-91be-af317e4e2d48)*.’*

### **National Institute for Christian Education Research - Jubilee Celebration Event 4th July**

The National Institute for Christian Education Research will be holding a Jubilee Celebration event on 4th July.  In addition to presentations from Professor Bob Bowie, Professor Emeritus Trevor Cooling, Dr Ann Casson and others, there will be an opportunity for researchers (including school-based, doctoral students, early career researchers and those with more experience) to present a paper (15-20 minutes) on topics related to:

• religion, education and the common good

• worldviews education

• spiritual flourishing.

If you would like to present a paper for the research component, please submit your title and abstract of no more than 350 words (including references) by 10th April.  Further details are attached.

### **Priest arrested for anti-war sermon in Russia, whilst 270 Russian priests appeal for an immediate ceasefire**

Mon 07 Mar 2022by Donna

It's been reported that a priest who gave an anti-war sermon in Russia has been arrested and is due to appear in court later this week.  Father Ioann Burdin is said to have been detained shortly after giving the sermon to a small congregation in the town of Karabanovo.  He's believed to have also shared anti-war images and a petition on the parish's website.

According to the Telegraph, Father Burdin, of the Resurrection Church in Russia’s western Kostroma region, faces charges of “discrediting” the Russian army.  A police report quoted by Media Zona said he had told parishioners about “Russian troops in Ukraine shelling the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv, Odessa, Kharkiv and killing citizens of Ukraine - brothers and sisters in Christ.”  A message on the parish’s website read:  “We, Christians, cannot stand idly by when a brother kills brother, a Christian kills a Christian…  Let’s not repeat the crimes of those who hailed Hitler’s deeds on Sept 1, 1939.”

Last week more than 270 Russian Orthodox priests and deacons signed an open letter appealing for reconciliation and an immediate ceasefire in the war in Ukraine.

**A Prayer for Ukraine and the Whole World**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer for Ukraine and the whole world, which you might like to say together with your school as you listen to this moving video, violinists from 29 countries around the world coming together to accompany violinists in Ukraine, some in basement shelters, in a Ukrainian folk song: [Violinists Across the World Play for Ukraine - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQSIeD-x6dQ)…

*Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.*

*May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.*

*Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

**Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Peterborough**

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