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.

**RE Resources – Free Bibles (New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs) and Copies of Discover Magazine (Upper KS2)**

The organisation formerly known as ‘Gideons UK’ has relaunched as ‘GOOD NEWS for Everyone’.  They are offering free Bibles for schools and free copies of an upper KS2 curriculum based workbook, produced in conjunction with NATRE and RE Today, called ‘Discover Magazine’.  I’ve received a copy of ‘Discover Magazine’ in the post and it looks like a great resource which would complement and support the teaching of ‘Understanding Christianity’ very well.  Moreover, Bibles presented to children and young people during collective worship by this organisation over many years have been valued as a very helpful aid for RE and SMSC, and for pastoral support, offering advice, guidance, comfort and hope.  To order free Bibles and / or copies of Discover Magazine for your school, just go to: [Bibles for Education | GOOD NEWS for Everyone! (goodnewsuk.com)](https://goodnewsuk.com/bibles-for/education).

**Collective Worship Resources - Thy Kingdom Come and the Platinum Jubilee**

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, and as part of Thy Kingdom Come 2022, 500,000 free storybooks have been produced for primary school children. The small colourful book has a royal theme and is based on the Fruit of the Spirit - faithfulness.  Faithfulness is like loyalty, trustworthiness and commitment rolled into one, and the Queen has set an excellent example of this.  Schools can order here for free (including free P&P): [https://cheekypandas.com/free-book/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcheekypandas.com%2Ffree-book%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cemma.buchan%40lambethpalace.org.uk%7C861226c63ceb4084e5df08da028b6e42%7C95e2463b3ab047b49ac1587c77ee84f0%7C0%7C0%7C637825096306953430%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=3yAVV7PknG7MIelHboHcY9T9EZJRF9cwUnt5rQy39Ys%3D&reserved=0).

The Church of England Education Office is also providing assembly plans, activity packs, and take-home sheets. The book is linked to one of the 5 animated TV episodes which are being provided to resource children and families this Thy Kingdom Come. These programmes have been produced by BBC animators to help children and families grow in their faith and learn about the Bible in a format that will engage them most at a critical age for faith formation. The TV series and accompanying resources will be released on [www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas) in time for Easter.  We hope that you will find these a helpful resource for your school.

**SLA Training Courses This Week**

***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.

**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)

For information about the School of Contemplative Life and free resources:

[https://schoolofcontemplativelife.com](https://schoolofcontemplativelife.com/).

**A Prayer**

Finally, may I share a prayer with you from this Sunday, Mothering Sunday…

*Heavenly Father, we rejoice with thanks*

*for all those who have mothered us in our lives.*

*In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love,*

*please use us to aid others as you do us,*

*in providing comfort, nurture, protection and support.*

*We ask that you grow us as carers to those who need us,*

*so that we might celebrate your goodness together,*

*even through our own brokenness.*

*Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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

01604 887006 mob 07841032578
Education Office, Bouverie Court, 6 The Lakes, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7YD

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

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