

RE Newsletter

Edition 2

Spring Term 2020



Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and New Year. Let us hope that 2020 is a positive year for education. Perhaps we can look ahead to a period of stability and consolidation as the government focuses on other things– or am I just dreaming?

As always, the Diocesan Education team is here to support you as you navigate your way through the Ofsted framework, SIAMS Evaluation Schedule, preparation for RSE and the whole host of ongoing issues. As many of you will be aware, the funding for our DEPS came to end at Christmas. Support for schools is now back 'in house'. Angela Smith will continue in her role supporting RE in our secondary schools until the end of the Spring term.

With these changes in mind, I would be pleased to hear from you about your ongoing RE needs and priorities and any suggestions about how you would like us to support you most effectively over the coming year.

Following on from my last newsletter you may be interested to read more about 'Balanced RE' written by my colleagues in other Dioceses. There is a very useful document which is available via the REonline website:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/leading-re/re-in-a-broad-and-balanced-curriculum-a-practical-tool/>

On page 3 of this edition is information about Chichester Cathedral's Young Ambassadors For Social Action (YASA) group and the project they undertook in the run-up to Christmas. As social action and courageous advocacy are elements of the SIAMS schedule, you might be interested and inspired by the work of this group and plans for future projects.

Rosemary Black, RE, SIAMS and
Christian Distinctiveness Manager

rosemary.black@chichester.anglican.org
01273 425687

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Dates for Your Diary

Holocaust Memorial Day – January 27th 2020

'Don't be content in your life just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try to do some good'
Sir Nicholas Winton who rescued 669 children from Nazi Germany

The theme 'Stand Together' has been chosen for Holocaust Memorial Day this year which marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and also the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. Resources for schools and further information can be found on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/>

Secondary colleagues might also be interested in two travelling exhibitions which can be borrowed from the UK Office of the International Christians Embassy in Jerusalem. One, entitled 'No Child's Play' focuses on toys, games, artwork, diaries and poems that were an important part of the lives of children during the Holocaust. The other, 'Besa – A code of Honour' explores the way Albanian Muslims hid and protected Jewish people. For further information please visit the website. If you are then interested in hosting the travelling exhibition please contact Russell Bowles, the exhibition coordinator, at the UK office by ringing 01744 894374 or emailing russell.bowles@uk.icej.org. The exhibition materials consist of 16 panels on roll up banners and do require quite a bit of space! There is no charge for borrowing the exhibitions but they do ask for a donation towards the cost of transport.

I was disappointed to have to cancel our training session 'Enquire Into World Faith – Judaism' delivered by the Jewish Museum of London scheduled for November 27th 2019. Earlier in the year I had attended one of their training sessions in London at the museum and found it to be very engaging and very informative. If there is sufficient interest from schools, I would be keen to invite the Jewish Museum of London to deliver this training later in the year, so it would be helpful if you could let me know if you would be interested in attending.

As part of our commitment to support teachers with their RE subject knowledge we have training on Islam scheduled for later this year (see below for details). I have guest speakers booked to deliver this training which is designed to support teachers with knowledge about beliefs and practice in Islam. Also look out for our training to support class teachers using Understanding Christianity effectively and you might be interested in our Spiritual Development training day.

Up-coming Training:

Spiritual Development

This course explores what we might mean by spiritual development, how to plan opportunities across the curriculum, look at some activities and think about evaluating impact.

5 March 2020

Using Understanding Christianity to Deliver High Quality RE

This course is designed for class teachers who may be new to schools, have not had much in-school training on the resource or would like to develop their confidence. The days are phase specific:

17 March 2020 - EYFS/KS2

21 May 2020 - KS2

Enquire into World Faiths: Islam

Guest speakers will be leading this training designed to support teachers with deepening their subject knowledge.

23 April 2020

There are two SIAMS related courses being offered this term. The training on **24 January 2020 (now Full)** provides an overview of the new SIAMS Evaluation Schedule. The training on **9 March 2020 (now Full)** is designed to support schools preparing for a SIAMS inspection. **If your school is due to be inspected this academic year or academic year 2020-2021 you should make sure that you book a place on the 'Preparing For SIAMS' training.**

For further details please visit our website and the Diocese of Chichester training brochure which was sent to all schools at the start of the academic year.

RE Network Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended the RE Network meetings in the Autumn term. We had a record attendance at these meetings which is great. If you could not make the autumn term meetings but want to come along to the spring and summer meetings the dates and venues are listed below. Anyone can come along – this is not just a meeting for RE subject leaders. I hope that secondary colleagues will be able to join us at these meetings in future, as I am very keen to strengthen the networks between primary and secondary.

REN meetings are free for all schools, but it is essential that you book via Eventbrite in order to register a place. All schools have been sent a flyer with a link to Eventbrite and all details can be found on our website. Please note that if there are insufficient bookings meetings may be cancelled.

The focus for our autumn term meetings was using SOLO taxonomy as a way of helping pupils demonstrate 'greater depth' of knowledge and understanding. At the meeting we explored a SOLO taxonomy activity which participants were planning to try out in their classes. At the Spring meetings we hope to review these activities, look at pupils' responses and share our thoughts and ideas about the usefulness of this approach. There will also be updates on RE and SIAMS.

All meetings are held from 4.15 – 5.45

REPN Central

Spring Monday 3rd February 2020

St Andrew's CE Primary (Nuthurst)

Summer Monday 8th June 2020

St Peter's CE Primary (Henfield)

REPN East

Spring Thursday 13th February 2020
Summer Thursday 11th June 2020

Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary (tbc)
Christchurch CE Primary Academy (St Leonards)

REPN West

Spring Wednesday 5th February 2020
Summer Thursday 25th June 2020

St Margaret's CE School (Angmering)
Arundel CE Primary School

I look forward to seeing you all in February.

Social Action and Courageous Advocacy

As many of you are already aware Strand 3 of the SIAMS schedule focuses on character development. One of the key questions for schools' to evaluate is the extent to which their Christian vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities. So, I thought you might be interested to read about the project that the Young Ambassadors for Social Action (YASA) group at Chichester Cathedral undertook before Christmas.

Young Ambassadors for Social Action (YASA) wanted to engage with the local community on how people could enjoy a more ethical and eco-friendly Christmas, offering tips on how to create decorations, gifts and dinner menu ideas. In early November, local printmaker Cath Bristow led a workshop where the YASA group learned how to make beautiful table runners printed on sustainable fabric. Two other workshops later in the month focused on hand-crafted gifts and decorations including upcycled jam jars to make lanterns.

The YASA members also held a celebratory dinner for the West Sussex Young Adult Carers group 'My Future', assisted by food rescue organisation 'UK Harvest'. Under the guidance of chef Simon Thresher, during the day they planned, cooked and served a three- course vegan dinner that was accompanied with their hand-made gifts.



If you click on the image you can open the link to the Chichester Cathedral website where you can watch this video.

Chichester Cathedral's YASA group (Young Ambassadors for Social Action) develops locally rooted projects that involve young people in learning about and raising awareness of contemporary issues that matter to them and to their communities. YASA are currently focusing on sustainable

living and are now planning an eco-fashion project. YASA aim to roll out opportunities to more young people across Sussex, giving them access to resources and a supportive peer network. If you would like to find out more about how YASA develop their inspiring social action projects or would like to arrange a visit to your school, contact Luna Russell, Families and Young People's Officer at Chichester Cathedral. Tel: 01243 812998 Email: luna.russell@chichestercathedral.org.uk

REquest

As the above video demonstrates it is inspiring to see the work of other schools and organizations. I would still love to hear from you if you have work or projects that you would like to share with colleagues. In particular, I am very keen to hear from schools who have undertaken, or are currently working on, the REQM or 'Global Neighbours' accreditation schemes. Other schools would find it very interesting to hear about your experiences and see some of the work/projects you have undertaken as part of these schemes, so please do get in touch. Of course, all schools are welcome to send me photos, videos or a short piece to share the RE work you are doing.

REsource Bank

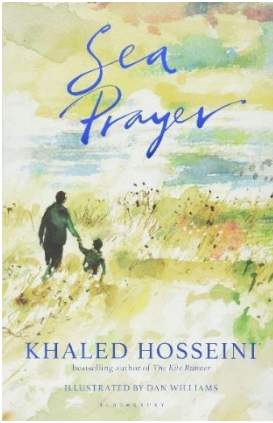
A reminder that we have around 50 boxes of RE resources in our REsource Bank housed here at Church House, Hove. These boxes can be loaned for a 6 week period and are free for all Partnership Agreement Church CE schools and all community schools in Brighton and Hove. A full list of the boxes and their contents, as well as the loan request form and other important documents, can be found on our website [<https://schools.chichester.anglican.org>].

Resources

www.Mayflower400uk.org - This year marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to America. The Mayflower website includes a number of educational resources for schools exploring the complex story of the pilgrims and their journey, an interactive passenger list and profiles of the pilgrims.



For those who attended our training day on Curriculum Design led by Mary Myatt you will know about the power of stories and the importance of reading aloud. So here are a number of book titles that I hope will spark your interest.

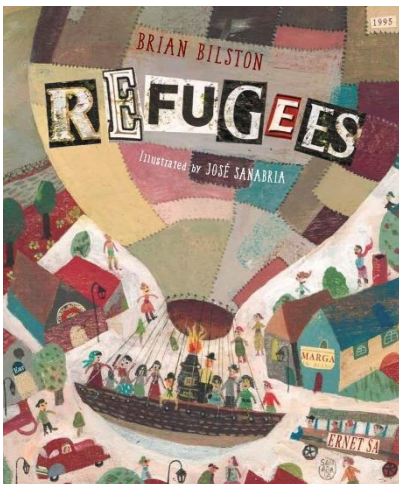
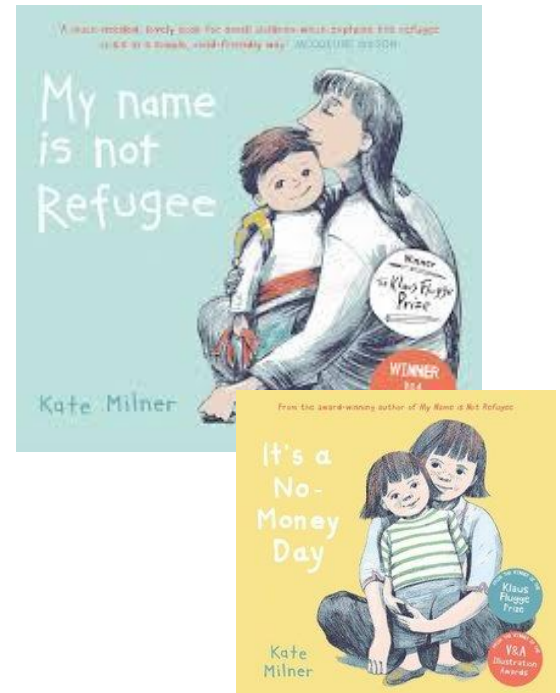


Sea Prayer – Khaled Hosseini (author of The Kite Runner)

Khaled Hosseini is a goodwill ambassador for UNHCR and the founder of a not-for-profit organization providing humanitarian assistance to people in Afghanistan. Sea Prayer was inspired by the story of Alan Kurdi, the 3 year old Syrian refugee who was drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach safety in September 2015.

My Name is not Refugee - Kate Milner

This is a lovely book for younger children which explores the refugee crisis in a child-friendly way. The story is about a small boy and his mother who are about to embark on a long journey, leaving their home and friends behind them. There are downloadable materials available for teachers using this book in class, which I accessed via the Barrington Stoke website. If you like this book you might also be interested in 'It's a No Money Day'.

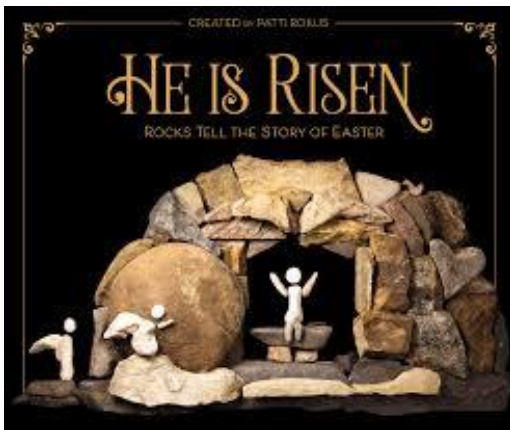
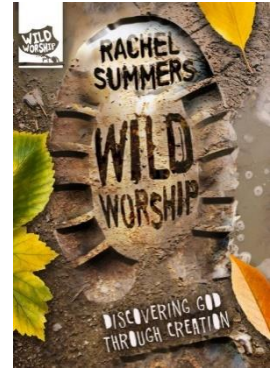
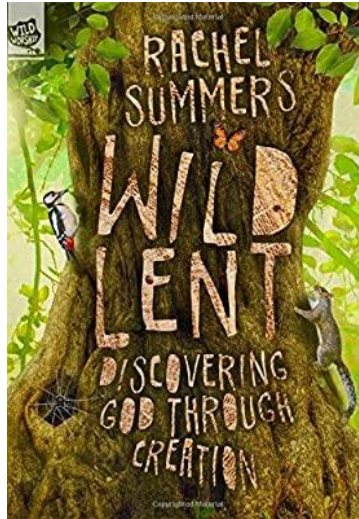


Refugees – Brian Bilston

This is a book which can be read two ways. Brian Bilston's poem has two very different voices. When read from the start the first voice speaks of fear and suspicion of refugees fleeing war and persecution. When read the opposite way a second voice emerges. This book therefore explores both sides of the refugee situation in a thought provoking and engaging way.

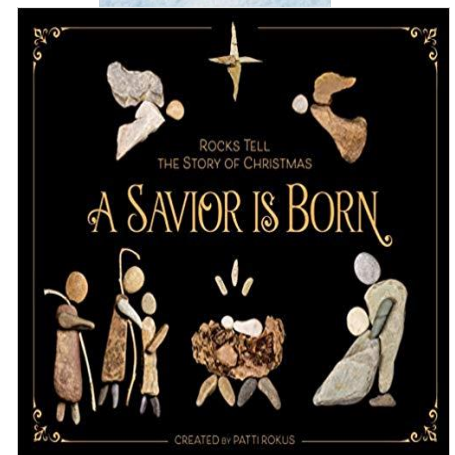
Wild Lent Discovering God Through Creation - Rachel Summers

The book is organized thematically with ideas for things to do and make with short reflections to help you 'listen to what God might be sharing with you through the world he created' (Rachel Summers). The book is loosely structured around the idea of journey, reflecting the experiences of the Hebrew people journeying in the desert and Jesus in the wilderness. If you enjoy using Wild Lent, you might also be interested in Wild Worship and Wild Advent.



He is Risen – Patti Rokus

Patti Rokus creates unusual and beautiful depictions of stories using rocks and stones. He and Risen tells the story of Easter with stunning natural images and Biblical text. You might also be interested in her depiction of the Christmas story 'A Saviour is Born'



Wintershall Education – The Life of Christ

A reminder about Wintershall Education whose amazing outdoor production of the Life of Christ runs from Thursday 23rd to Saturday 27th June 2020. More information about this event and educational resources and materials can be found at www.wintershall-education.com



Collective Worship Resources

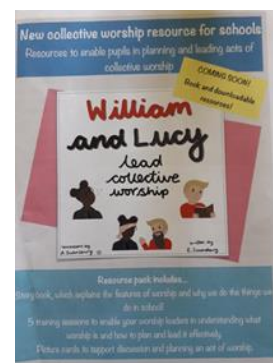
‘William and Lucy Lead Collective Worship’

This new resource focuses on William and Lucy who are worship leaders in their primary school as they explore how to plan, prepare and present different ways of everyone getting involved.

The resource includes

- a story book illustrating the different elements within an act of collective worship
- support materials for teachers to ‘train up’ their collective worship leaders

This resource can be purchased from the Diocese of Canterbury. Details



Diocese of Chichester Education Contact Details:

Yasmin Heasman Schools Administrator

email: educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org

website: <https://schools.chichester.anglican.org>

Rosemary Black

Christian Distinctiveness, SIAMs & RE
Manager

rosemary.black@chichester.anglican.org

Tel: 07467 958 125

Education Department

Diocese of Chichester

Diocesan Church House

211 New Church Road

Hove

BN3 4ED

Tel: 01273 425687