

Luke 24:6

“He is not here: He is risen!”

Dear Colleagues

My memories of last Easter remain vivid. Like many of you, I found that part of life very challenging. Not only were we facing the unknown, the wider news throughout the world seemed very bleak. We were also approaching the most important and joyful time of the Christian year and yet we knew we were not going to be able to come together in person as the family of God. Whilst there was still hope it was harder to access and grasp. This year those words “He is not here: He has risen” resonate with that little bit of extra joy and hope. We will be coming together in our churches, we will be meeting together in person with gradually increasing levels of freedom and the sense of hope for many is that little bit stronger than it was twelve months ago.

The time of challenge and problem is not yet over and in addition you will still be battling with tiredness and for many, a sense of personal loss. However, with Easter comes a reminder of the hope that a faith in God gives us. It is a hope based on his love, proved by his willingness to sacrifice his own Son so that we could be with God forever. It is the kind of hope that does see us through challenge and adversity and is the type of hope that is a gift freely given to those that have faith in Jesus. With that important truth, I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter.

I will be writing to you early in the summer term to outline the programme we have prepared for the launching of the [Growing Partnerships document](#). Many of you will have seen this document as it is on our website and we have circulated it to those who requested it. It is a document designed to be helpful and supportive – to give ideas, energy and creativity to the relationship that exists between schools and their local churches. At the same time, we do think about those of you who are working alongside parishes that are in vacancy and on a number of occasions we have managed to secure some support for those that are challenged by this. However, there is always work to be done. In the term ahead we will be developing a film, presenting webinars and using it as the document as the key theme at our Headteachers’ Conference.

We informed you recently of adaptations being made to our Leavers’ Celebrations. Once again we will be providing an online resource but I would like to remind you that a team of clergy are available to come to your schools to help lead the service should you choose to ask for it. The team we have got lined up is very experienced and capable. As I mentioned in my last letter it includes both Bishop Will and Bishop Ruth who are particularly keen to come and visit our schools. If you would like to be able to access that support please do contact Vanessa vanessa.vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org

There are a handful of places left for the Headteachers' Conference on Wednesday 7 July at Ashdown Park Hotel. To book please contact Yasmin educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org.

Following the recent information from Ofsted about inspections, I would like to reiterate the statement from Nigel Genders that confirms that SIAMS will not be restarted until Autumn 2021. SIAMS will also be inspected in a slightly different way. Whilst the framework will remain consistent, the inspection process will be led by the national team. They will be responsible for scheduling and for carrying out the inspections. We are here very much in a supportive role with Rosie Black leading on the work that we do in this area. We believe that this will be an improved system and will offer a greater consistency to the way SIAMS inspections are carried out.

Lastly, we have been working on developing wider resources to support the welfare and mental health of our headteachers. After Easter we will write to you to outline several opportunities we will be offering should you want to take part. This comes at the same time as we will be launching our Peer to Peer Mentoring Programme. We hope you will find something within the projects we are outlining that will be of use to you.

I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and restful Easter break and that you will know the hope that Easter brings.

Trevor Cristin
April 2021

Learning with meaning and purpose: to know God and shape the world