

Romans 15 v13

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you have managed to have a break over the half term period. It has been unusual for us at Church House as our local authorities have set different half terms but we hope that you have been able to access support and advice easily and efficiently. A similar situation is likely to arise at Easter but we are planning for that. I am aware that the weather will have presented challenges to many of you and I hope these issues are now settled and school is beginning to find a stable rhythm of life. We continue to be aware of the challenges you all face and as ever please do not hesitate to contact us if you need our support.

On that basis I would like to re-emphasise the resource offered in our Peer-to-Peer Headteacher Mentorship Programme. This has been a very successful and valued programme by those who have taken part in recent years. We are fully aware of the pressure that our school leaders have been under and we see this as a valuable and proven way of being able to offer support. The value of this programme is that there is no hierarchical relationship and support is offered on the basis of equality from headteacher to headteacher. It is the essence of this that has proved to be particularly popular with those that have taken part in previous years. The Diocese has fully funded this project for all Headteachers that would like to participate. If you have any queries, please contact [Jon Gilbert](#) as soon as possible.

We have several other opportunities we would like to remind you of. On 17th March we have a Webinar for clergy regarding our Growing Partnerships initiative. Please do encourage your clergy to attend as we think this will be of particular value to those who might not have had a lot of experience in this field.

Coming up in May the Diocese is organising a Growing Faith Conference at the Cathedral. This is open to anybody who would like to attend. Growing Faith is the initiative planned by the wider church to support families, churches and schools in helping our young children to grow in the Christian faith. There is a wide range of speakers and both Nigel Genders and I will be taking part throughout the day. There will be a range of things for you to engage with. It will be an interesting day and all will be welcome. You can find more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another unusual opportunity we have been offered is the chance to join the Guildford Diocesan Church School Leadership Conference. This takes place on 24th March at Sandown Park. Alex Tear, the Director of Education for Guildford, is very experienced in the organising of events like this and we are keen to see dioceses working in close partnership in the years ahead. If you would like further details, information is elsewhere in this e-news but please do feel free to contact us. We do think this will be an excellent event and some members of our team will also be attending.

I will write again just before Easter. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need us in any way.

With best wishes

Trevor Cristin
March 2022