**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy; Deputy Headteachers; RE Coordinators**

(and please forward widely to your contacts & networks)

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               26th January 2022**

**Re           :              Fortnightly bulletin and resources from the Diocesan Education Team : 26th January 2022**

Dear colleagues

Three years I ago I was reaching speeds of up to 125 mph, ‘flying’ 500 feet above a deep blue lake set in a quarry. This was a birthday present! The gift was so welcome and appreciated by this self-confessed adrenalin-junky. We’d watched a TV programme six months previously featuring the world’s fastest, and Europe’s longest zip line set in Snowdonia so the subsequent surprise gift was fantastic. Having climbed Snowdon the day before, four of us enjoyed the exhilarating experience and we’ll do it again.

On the way home friends and family were bemused that I wanted to detour via The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry. They were as impressed and speechless as I when we stood before the 8.5metre statue of an angel, made entirely of knives. I’d seen photographs of The Knife Angel on its first tour around England, and it was back at the Ironworks Centre for maintenance, before touring again.  The angel, made of 100,00 knives that had been anonymously surrendered in 200 secure ‘knife banks’ as well as knives seized by the police. The knife angel’s tour followed part of a knife amnesty led by the police and others, securing a programme of education and awareness raising of the growing incidence of knife crime, and the devastating effect it has on families and communities.

Peace of course can sometimes just be the absence of noise or torment. Unexpectedly, at the highest point on the zip line above the quarry and lake, it was noticeably peaceful and tranquil, despite the speed. However, for Christians, Peace is also about proactively seeking to be Peace-makers. It’s a Christian value and Biblical imperative, incumbent on us all – not just related to wars, but applied to any manifestation of strife and conflict, including in our communities. In Matthew’s Gospel, 5:9 we are reminded that peace-makers are blessed, and are children of God. Equally, we know that we cannot become peace-makers in our own strength, but that it comes from God – and was a gift that Jesus said He left with us even as He contemplated His death.

Between 2014 and 2020 offences involving knives or blades increased by 84% in the UK. Last week the Bill proposing Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs) passing through parliament was not overwhelmingly carried, for a whole host of reasons. What has become clear though, is a further raising of awareness of the significant intentional promotion of fear, violence and death with knives. Perhaps, if nothing else, we can enter the debate with families and communities, if only by enjoying the artistic and sculptural beauty of the Knife Angel – be that online <https://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/show-areas/the-knife-angel-official>  or actually going to see it on its 2022 tour around the UK. Peace-makers and Peace-promoters aren’t just working for the UN or engaged in inter-country conflict resolution : you and I can proactively do our own small bit, in responding to the Gospel challenge and imperative. Alternatively, you might consider a weekend in Snowdonia, mountain climbing or zip wiring – with a detour en route to the Ironworks, when the Knife Angel is in for a spruce-up!

Thank you for all you do, and who you are in our schools and communities.

Best wishes

**Jeff**

Jeff Williams

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**Holocaust Memorial Day is tomorrow: 27th January 2022** – we hope all schools will participate again , even if only using the **HMD Prayer (attached**). Lots of schools will be using the resources from HMD Trust – do take photos so we can share afterwards. A more detailed email has already been shared with schools. Lots of ready-made resources are available on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website <https://www.hmd.org.uk>  **There is still time to register to watch the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day**, **which will be streamed online on Thursday 27 January at 7pm**. **Sandi Toksvig OBE is narrating the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day this year.** Sandi is well known as a broadcaster on TV and radio and as a writer of books and theatre. Sandi’s family have a personal connection to the Holocaust as they hid Jewish people from the Nazis during the war.

**Living Difference IV** The new Hampshire (incl Portsmouth City and Southampton City and the IoW)syllabus is now available to download on the [Hampshire RE website](https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk/) and schools have until September 2022 to implement the changes. With the LA we have updated the guidance to schools for using Understanding Christianity to support Living Difference IV and  put together a sample long term plan (attached).

**Any Questions?** The BCP Agreed Syllabus is also being reviewed – this is something that happens every five years – and the SACRE team are looking at ways to broaden the range of religions taught to include non-religious worldviews, and also how to de-colonise the curriculum, so we don’t assume that a Western, European perspective is the only way of thinking about religion.

**RE Network Meetings** These are a great way to connect with other RE subject leaders and share your stresses and wow moments, encourage each other and pick one another’s brains. This term we will be focussing on how to implement the New Living Difference IV RE syllabus (There will be a separate meeting for BCP Schools, although you are welcome to attend any of the sessions.)All the meetings this term will be held on Microsoft Teams and run from 4:00 to 5:30, they will not be geographical two dates remain for this series : Thursday 27th January or Friday 28th January (this one is from **1:30 – 3:00)** where we will look at Living Difference IV and Monday 31st January for schools that use the BCP syllabus. Please get in touch with Jane.kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org  if you would like the link (Specifying which date!).

**Understanding Christianity: Salvation** This popular session is being repeated, on how to use the Salvation units to teach about Easter, hopefully getting beyond Easter eggs and baby chickens to think about theological concepts such as sacrifice and resurrection. We will also look at how to teach younger children about Easter in a sensitive, age-appropriate way. We will focus on teaching these units using the cycle of enquiry in Living Difference IV, but the session will also be relevant to schools using Any Questions? You might like to offer this training to colleagues who are new to teaching RE, or new to teaching in a church school, or to anyone who would like their RE subject knowledge boosted. Please contact Jane.kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org if you would like the Teams link for either Tuesday 8th or Thursday 10th February, from 4:00 – 5:30. Or training as a bespoke staff meeting, at a time to suit your school.

**Understanding Christianity: God** Training on these units on Tuesday 29th or Thursday 31st March, from 4:00 – 5:30. Please let Jane know if you would like the Teams link (specifying which date you are interested in attending) The session will look at creative ways of engaging with these units and how to develop children’s thinking, including interactive ideas for debates and discussion.

**Developing Thinking Skills in RE** Wednesday 2nd or Thursday 3rd March, from 4:00 – 5:30,  on how to promote deeper thinking in RE, including P4C strategies, encouraging high quality writing and using creative ideas to help children unpack complex ideas. Again, please contact Jane if you would like the Teams link.All of these sessions can also be delivered as a school staff meeting or INSET

**Free Zoom about World Religions**Gill Vaisey, who wrote the Puddles the Cat resources, has written a series of books about children from different religions for children in EYFS and KS1,  Belonging and Believing. She is offering a free Zoom webinar about using these resources on Wednesday 26th  January at 4:15, you can book a place by clicking [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1n80SR-000CEw-4d&i=57e1b682&c=3w6hEOBxgQ3CiokupK0OLCGm06ZRXkCgQ776h3mtlb3bjgEZvNUIP8RtYyrT-h0PwaT0WQvJ7oJGo37_KYwn7fY4i1BKieoH7Xj42BS7tdCCojDA0Law3TuT6hx3ukXOXETQtuEEYwUcX-swFmowVI4PARld1dN1Hqw0MXTyXRmEvHLvpfQbZzm1407fFs3pYj9vegJlc5q-9CdbOEyNQpIXJFqzMX7gV1gcCahdmJTlCkPAWtTa6od0bzoGROeTD8yyc48m7fKzDcGDkm25EYWqfDAHNMMaykw9gWjaDLvun5fYh5c1pJck724u-Y-BAhMmUEPom0N3x48Km9BswA). You can find out more about her RE resources for young children on the [Books at Press website.](http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/)

**Nobody Stands Nowhere** There is a lot of discussion in RE at the moment about teaching worldviews, rather than the big six religions. This is the idea that we all have a particular perspective on life, whether it’s a religious or non-religious viewpoint and whether it’s conscious or unconscious. **Theos Think Tank** have produced an interesting short video about this, called [Nobody Stands Nowhere.](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=nobody+stands+nowhere&view=detail&mid=DD67E6C784762C6D3C67DD67E6C784762C6D3C67&FORM=VIRE) It would make an interesting discussion starter in a staff meeting, or with older children.

**RE Online Festivals Calendar** This [online calendar](https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/?filters=%7B%22january%22%3A%7B%22term_id%22%3A%2249%22%2C%22taxonomy%22%3A%22months%22%7D%7D) is a great source of information about religious festivals around the world, for example 16th January is World Religions Day in the Baha’i faith, which might be a good excuse to promote RE in your school! 17th January is Tu B’Shevat, the Jewish tree festival, which would link well with any work you’re doing on the environment.

**Cbeebies, What’s on your Head?** This new [BBC series](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000scc9/whats-on-your-head) looks at a range of people who wear different headgear, from firefighters and racing drivers’ helmets, to the Muslim hijab, Sikh turban, a Bishop’s mitre and Jewish kippah. A gentle introduction to world religions for young children. (See if you can recognise the narrator’s voice!)

**Primary RE Teachers Facebook Page** If you want to link up with other RE teachers, to share ideas and resources or ask questions, try the ‘Primary RE – for everyone teaching RE in primary schools’ [Facebook page.](https://www.facebook.com/groups/primaryre/) There is also a more general group, try [Respect: the subject community for RE professionals.](https://www.facebook.com/groups/212329012138235)

**Training and meetings** : Diocesan staff are following updated government guidance and therefore are working from home. This means that any training or meetings that have been booked can still go ahead, but will need to take place via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. We will review the situation as and when government guidance is updated. If you would like bespoke training for your SLT, Governors or Staff, please contact my PA Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org Meanwhile a reminder that these Governor training sessions are running this term – places can be booked via Sam :

Clerking in a Church of England School – Monday 28th Feb 6.30

The Role of Foundation Governors (*for new governors*) – Monday 7th March 6.30

Collective Worship in a Church of England School – Wednesday 16th March 6.30

The Role of Foundation Governors – Wednesday 30th March 6.30

Collective worship in a Church of England School – Monday 4th April 6.30

**Model documents :** The Church of England Education Office provides template model employment documents to support **Foundation, VA schools and academies** to fulfil their responsibilities as an employer. Work was undertaken last year to revise the suite of model employment documentation and the updated documents have been published on the CofE website for use – subject to local consultation requirements. Here is the link to the documents for your information: [Staff Contracts for Schools and Academies | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/staff-contracts-schools-and-academies). A link to the TUC Academies Model Agreement has also been added for information.

**Worship Resources – Spring 2 :** next half-term’s resources will be shared next Wednesday. They are on the theme of **Justice.**

**Farmington Scholarships :** **deadline approaching**  As previously mentioned, the opportunity to carry out some **funded** practical research in RE or values education, facilitated through a [Farmington scholarship.](http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/) The Farmington Institute offers support to Headteachers and teachers of RE, including tutorials at a local university and funding for supply cover. A number of teachers from both dioceses have taken up scholarships in recent years, researching topics such as child-led collective worship, teaching the Trinity at Key Stage 2,  HeartSmart at home and  Christian values in coaching**. The deadline is** **January 30th2022**, and you can download an application form [here.](http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/application-form-2022-23/) Please speak to one of the Diocesan team if you would like to be put in touch with someone who has recently completed a Farmington scholarship, or if you’d like to talk through your application

**Free training session by the DfE on estate management.**  Numerous dates in February and March on how to run school sites effectively ensuring sustainability**.** The training session can be booked via  [www.schoolresourcemanagement.co.uk](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1n6rjD-0006SS-69&i=57e1b682&c=3qSRq-3Dj7Vwpu_A-FyPyGOVU0-GcOA8GUMr228dSZKg76WX3rjNH0VzSjpPB4vgGw2o2UhYFNCTgs_hRlK3oKNU2HTtkp0Tc8EK4x05bwzgPl2yl5tLHEjptzF2CCBd5sK4m-sE4Qh2sO17KVR6aCUBfHNtFz6W1PZHceaENaBAcHKhilB--XBvNiUViQmvTQam6nvxNJydQls1Dvw73BUhMzbHAOapj4pASc_GPCQsYil6E4aqTul6gTj-Z81s4lAXV6jT70a_VTNd0OfXDh0hmF4g7DDPwd22fn8cKYEZlTu3TW90-dIahi8ZRVGkh5tGFIgg50f-o4pEv3P8Ffh2K6Wbc1req4lNr0IXHEkGBGfAcXEu4EueM66TKxHD7IqKKgnwCA07iz0m2Qs3NmTni0eZhtd2ZN_--th_MInltIWTh_QB5Yzfm-twTXbz2hgQcm7dSSxTbxHqD7ZKlhTxsVbFTHj5fvKIzVTO7Mxch6qFW3sblQw6Yo2qvHAAJCQJxLoB7DAJ1WeOHalNTMGGam3U_oD4d2Cw7rwJoEZ1F_X2cOtTsqTwn023TwpuX-L2NNQzBYyuQrNyqKLAh1CNHuUcxKTwHeUy3ilqSX0E6EaU5TdHA4Tji-vTZbMAfx9qR2MhS2KA0YtUN8Zg_onphtlzfpJXoYV8KBQ_DJhk4aC20WPGioN1niSoWcFq8Io124yP-stnV1w0E76o8o3Gy1by6L1zDG2VKtz-7-kHyqOWgqvRhrn-VOsgsdSl)

**Net Zero Schools Webinar** 9 May 4-5.30pm <https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2OiX7VqVQzmsbGV78LPOoQ> **Specifically for CofE schools** with demonstrations, ideas and resources.

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