

RE newsletter for schools in Devon and Torbay and Exeter Diocese



March 2020

Happy Springtime 2020

In the build-up to Easter, it's a useful time to reflect on the nature of suffering. What do you think the author Isabel Allende means when she says: '**pain is unavoidable, but suffering is optional**'? How would a Buddhist answer this question? In what sense did Jesus' choose to suffer? Did Adam and Eve choose suffering as the price of their freedom or was it inevitable? What do other religious and non-religious traditions teach about suffering? Do we need to suffer in order to grow?

Lent is traditionally a time of giving up (suffering?), but how about taking something up for Lent or practising 'acts of generosity' instead. Use the [40 Acts](#) website which guides schools through a variety of themes, week by week.

For RE support, please contact Ed Pawson at efpawson@gmail.com or ed.pawson@exeter.anglican.org
Church school contact: Tatiana Wilson at tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org



Courses and CPD opportunities

Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE)

<http://ltlre.org/events>

Hubs are free and open to all teachers of RE, primary and secondary. They usually start at 4.00-4.30pm. Contact hub leaders for details:

East Devon hub Woodbury PS

Exeter hub 10th Mar, St Peter's CofE Schl, Exeter

Exploring Understanding Christianity for primary and secondary teachers

North Devon hub

Plymouth hub 4th Mar at Bickleigh Down PS

South Devon hub 12th Mar at Wolborough PS, Newton Abbot

Torbay hub see South Devon hub

Mid Devon hub

Diverse approaches to Easter

A [recent survey](#) discovered that 40% of adults in England did not believe that Jesus was a real historical figure. This makes Holy Week and Easter an important topic for pupils to explore in RE lessons.

In RE we need to help pupils develop skills of interpretation and critical thinking. This can be done by using resources with contrasting approaches to our topics. Here are two very different ways of talking about the events we mark at Easter.

Historian's perspective: useful [video](#) giving a historian's answer to the question: 'Who was Pontius Pilate'?

Believer's perspective: a [passionate message](#) from a Christian pastor, full of joy at the 'truth' of the resurrection of Jesus.

RE Resources

Picturing Islam

This [new picture pack](#) is an exceptional resource for exploring British and global Islam. It offers 24 picture cards as doorways into the diverse global world of Islam and Muslims. Suitable for primary and secondary.



Primary and Secondary

RE Today resources: [Spring Sale](#)

Secondary

[Muslims in Britain](#) (KS3) resources

Useful list of [BBC bitesize revision videos](#)

RE CPD

[Raising the grade in secondary RE](#)

Fri 5th June 2020

Cullompton Community Centre
RE, Ofsted's 3I's and deep dives; interleaving and embedding learning; perfecting evaluative answers; planning learning journeys; subject knowledge at KS4

[Leading RE in the primary school](#)

Wed 10th June

Cullompton Community Centre
RE, Ofsted's 3I's and deep dives; using the new syllabus to plan learning journeys; valuing story in RE; developing subject knowledge

[New syllabus training day](#)

Mon 16th Mar, Tiverton Hotel

Thurs 19th Mar, St John's Prim School, Totnes

[Understanding Christianity training](#)

Mon 8th Jun, Broomhill Art Hotel, Barnstaple

Thurs 18th Jun, Trinity CE Primary Exeter

New RE Agreed Syllabus for Devon, Torbay, Plymouth schools

You can access the new RE Syllabus for schools in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth [here](#)

Devon and Torbay password: [D&TLaunch2019!](#)

Plymouth password: [plylaunch2019!](#)

These resources can also be found on the [LTLRE website](#) homepage (same pw)

Training day on the new syllabus

- Mon 16th Mar, Tiverton Hotel
- Thurs 19th Mar, St John's Primary School, Totnes

Additional teaching units

The syllabus comes with medium term planning. Detailed SoW and lesson plans are available to buy. Find out [here](#).

Understanding Christianity training

The Christianity units in the new syllabus are taught through the Understanding Christianity approach. Cost: £125 (includes full resource and whole day training).

Dates:

- Mon 8th June at Broomhill Art Hotel, Barnstaple
- Thurs 18th June at Trinity CE Primary Exeter

To find out more contact [Ed Pawson](#)

Better Primary RE



A new NATRE project is helping schools that recognise the need to improve their RE provision. The invitation-only project will enable participating schools to offer 'Better RE': thinking, creativity, standards and challenge. If you want to know more, please [email](#)

Primary Survey

Please complete the NATRE [Primary Survey](#)

Global links for schools

Funding is available from the British Council for global learning through [Connecting Classrooms](#). Exeter Diocese is keen to set up partnership links between schools in its linked Diocese in Thika (Kenya). Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

RExChange conference 2020

RExChange 2020, Saturday 3rd October, Birmingham. This [conference](#) brings together teachers and researchers in an exchange of knowledge and expertise. Professor Vivienne Baumfield Professor Bob Bowie, Kate Christopher, Dr Pat Hannam, Stephen Pett, Dr Emma Salter and Martha Shaw. Academics and teachers will jointly share their research showing how it impacts on the classroom, and what we can learn from working together.

Farmington Scholarships



Applications for [Farmington Scholarships](#) for Teachers of Religious Education open. Scholarships available to teachers of religious education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary, and special needs schools. They cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, the salary of a replacement teacher for up to 30 days. Closing date: 26th Jan 2020

Faith/Belief Visitors



Find the local directory of [faith and belief visitors](#) here

Guidance on withdrawal from RE



This document provides guidance and support for head teachers, senior leaders and teachers of RE to manage the right of withdrawal in their school. It clarifies the law and offers suggestions for dealing with specific withdrawal scenarios.

DfE Guidance on RE



This site provides guidance from DfE on the legal expectations for RE and collective worship in academies and free schools.

Cultural Champions



A [Cultural Champion](#) is a Devon resident from another culture or religion who comes into the classroom, to give pupils an authentic personal view of their culture.

SIAMS Hubs for CofE schools

SIAMS hubs are free twilight Q and A sessions (4-6pm) open to anyone involved in the SIAMS process: SLT, teachers, governors, ethos teams etc. Please bring questions or examples of good practice. Please book-in through [Fran Bradley](#). Summer 2020: evidencing impact

23rd April	Ashleigh Primary School, Barnstaple
27th April	Plympton St Mary's Infants, Plym
29th April	St Luke's CofE School, Exeter
5th May	St Johns, Totnes