

# RE newsletter

## Wherever you go, leave a gift

Welcome to the November RE newsletter.

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day [2021](#) is 'Be the Light in the Darkness'. As we move towards Christmas many teachers are feeling tired and worn out; it's been the hardest term! We all need some light in the darkness.

One of the hardest things about Covid has been the enforced distance we have to keep from each other.

Padraig O'Tuama says '[we were made for loving encounter](#)', but how can we feel close to others when we aren't allowed to meet properly?

For me, one of the joys of teaching RE has always been the way that the material we study can also be a catalyst for personal growth. Bill Gent (an inspirational RE adviser who sadly died earlier this year) always liked to say: 'wherever you go, leave a gift'. The gift you give to your pupils, through great RE, is that of inquisitive minds and open hearts!

## Inter Faith Week 2020



Inter Faith Week 2020: 8-15<sup>th</sup> Nov. Find ideas to help celebrate the [diversity of faith and belief](#) in your community. Why not invite someone from our [Faith and Belief visitor list](#) to speak via Zoom?

*When you have friendship you discover the people 'not like us' are people like us. When that happens conversation can begin.* Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

## RE CPD

Courses from Exeter Diocese, suitable for all schools  
Find full details [here](#) [Book here](#) (via Zoom)

### Understanding Christianity full training (KS1-3)

Fri 5th Feb 21 9:30 – 1:00

Thurs 25th Mar 21 1.00 - 4.30

Thurs 22nd Apr 21 1.00 - 4.30

Community schools £20 (inc subsidy); CofE schools £50

### Equality and unconscious bias (KS1-3)

4.00-5.00pm Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (£30)

### Introduction to the new RSHE units (KS1-3)

4.00-5.30pm Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (£30)

### RE subject leaders (KS1-2)

1.00-3.30pm Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2021 (£30)

## November 2020

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



## 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 4.00-4.15pm. Contact hub leaders for details of meetings and support:

[East Devon hub](#)

[Exeter hub](#)

[North Devon hub](#)

[Plymouth hub](#) Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Nov

[South Devon hub](#) Thur 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

[Torbay hub](#) Thur 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

[Mid Devon hub](#)

[Cornwall Hub](#) (primary) Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

## Autumn term LTLRE talks

In place of an Autumn conference this year, LTLRE is organising a set of free Zoom talks/interactive training sessions. [More details](#) [Book here](#)  
See P4 for more details

### Bringing sacred texts to life (KS2/3)

Adam Robertson

4.00-5.15pm Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov

### Revealed: the secrets of RE planning at KS3 (secondary)

David Hampshire

4.00-5.15pm Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

### Connecting RE with new RSHE (cross phase)

Katy Staples

4.00-5.15pm Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Nov

## Church of England schools CPD

### RE updates for CofE schools (primary)

4.00 – 5:15pm Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

### RE updates for CofE schools (secondary)

4.00 – 5:15pm Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Nov

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

HMD takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan every year. Details of local HMD commemoration will be released soon. Holocaust Education Trust materials can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## Strictly RE



Don't miss NATRE's annual [Strictly RE conference](#), which this year has moved online. Great value CPD, with discount for NATRE members. Sat 30<sup>th</sup>/Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021

## RE and Remembrance Day

With Remembrance Day coming up very soon you can find some useful resources on the NATRE website for [RE and remembrance](#)

## Around the world in 80 faiths

Great [film](#) with Peter Owen Jones exploring the wonderful diversity of faith and belief traditions from around the world

## Christmas through art

In Boticelli's [Mystic Nativity](#) the infant Jesus reaches up to the adoring Mary, oblivious of the visitations from angels and Kings

[Adoration of the Magi](#), showing the new born Jesus, representing God's new covenant (Jesus as saviour), in contrast with the ruins in the background, representing the old world

The [nativity at night](#) by 15<sup>th</sup> C Dutch artist Geertgen shows a glowing Jesus, who lights up all those gathered around

Christian children (KS1 age) speaking about [celebrating Christmas](#)

### KS3

Contemporary Art: nativity scene, depicting the holy family as [caged refugees](#)

Mike Frost picture: the [greatest Christmas painting](#) ever?

## Virtual RE visits



Find the local directory of [faith and belief visitors](#) here. Some visitors are happy to do a 'virtual' visit for your school. It also contains weblinks for some excellent virtual RE visit sites.

Muslim visitor: [Neomi Alam](#)

Jewish Education workshops: [Jane Silver-Coren](#)

Judaism with [Jeremy Michelson](#)

Humanism with [Keith Denby](#)

## Amazing Muslims who changed the world



From global icons like Muhammad Ali and Malala Yousafzai, to lesser known pioneers such as Sultan Razia and Noor Inayat Khan, [Amazing Muslims Who Changed the World](#) highlights the incalculable achievements of Muslims throughout history.

## Islam Resources KS3

[Discovering Muslims in Britain](#) is a ten-lesson scheme of work taking a sociological look at Islam and Muslims in Britain. Organised around the big research question: 'what does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?'

## Significant days

[World Kindness Day](#) 13<sup>th</sup> November

[Philosophy Day](#) 19<sup>th</sup> November

## Collective Worship updates

### New guidance for community schools

New guidance on Collective Worship for community schools has been published, entitled **Time to Breathe**: [Devon](#), [Torbay](#) and [Plymouth](#). It offers clarity on the legal expectations for CW and also detailed practical support to deliver what continues to be a daily requirement for all schools.

### CW resources

[Simply Collective Worship](#) provides a 4 year set of assemblies. Their [Multi-faith Prayer Room](#) resource is a great RE stand-alone project

Useful guidance form [Bristol SACRE](#) on primary school CW in line with current regulations.

There are some useful resources for Collective Worship on the [Exeter Diocese](#) website. These have mainly been written for Church schools, but many can easily be adapted for community schools too:

[Planning for Bubble worship](#)

[Resources for Bubble Worship](#)

[Black Lives Matter assembly](#) ('who needs help')

# Autumn term LTLRE talks



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[More details](#)   [Book here](#)

## **Decolonising the RE curriculum (secondary)**

Ed Pawson and Anthony Nderitu

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> October

Whether we are aware of it, or not, we have all absorbed a cultural philosophy that is built on the experience of colonialism. What is colonialism as a worldview, how does it affect what we teach and the way we teach it? What can RE teachers learn from the BLM movement? What does anti-racist RE look like?

## **Bringing sacred texts to life (KS2/3)**

Adam Robertson

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov

Adam will look at ways of bringing sacred texts to life in the Primary classroom with a view to opening up conversations about interpretation and meaning. Expect some inspiring ideas to take away.

## **Revealed: the secrets of RE planning at KS3 (secondary)**

David Hampshire

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

As a part of his PhD research, David conducted in depth interviews into KS3 RE planning in five schools, including research into the impact of teachers' academic backgrounds on their teaching of RE. The session will cover:

How planning is shaped by teachers' views of the purposes of RE

The role of teacher specialism in planning

The impact of Agreed Syllabuses on planning in RE

The relationship between what schools advertise about RE and what happens in the classroom

## **Connecting RE with new RSHE (cross phase)**

Katy Staples

Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Nov

Katy Staples is the RE adviser to Bristol SACRE; she also wrote the RSHE guidance materials for Church of England schools. So, Katy is uniquely placed to explain (a) what the new guidance on RSHE says and (b) how this can link to good RE.

Much of the new RSHE guidance is quite functional; adding an RE focus can provide opportunities for a deeper, more philosophical understanding of the 'Why'. An RE perspective also brings a number of different worldviews into play when exploring sex and relationships topics, moving beyond some of the narrow secular assumptions that the official guidance may embed.