

Schools newsletter

February 2015

Dear Colleagues

February. Not really much better than January; but at least it's shorter: and it does contain half-term! And at least the weather has been relatively kind this year. I tend to think this is the make or break term for KS2 SATs, GCSE and even A Levels. Many say it's the Autumn term, but for me this is when the hard yards really count and show up in pupils' outcomes. Across both Dioceses this term we've seen some very pleasing reports, both Ofsted and SIAMS, and this I am sure augurs well for the future.

But for us in and around Church schools much more important is that this is when we help each other and the children in our care with the challenges of Lent – and not just the chocolate. We also of course want to help you with this, and with much more, and I hope you will find some of the opportunities we showcase in this Newsletter helpful.

I am really pleased that my new colleagues here, Paul Rickeard and Liane Atkin, have hit the ground running and have already started to take on the mantles of Suzanne and Rowan. Do keep sending me your good news stories and information about big events in your school's life so that we can share them with colleagues.

Have a good break next week.

Jeremy Fitt

Leavers' Services 2015

Just a quick reminder about our annual Leavers' Services in Durham and Newcastle Cathedrals. Our fame spreads - other Dioceses have asked how it's done!



The services for Durham Diocesan Schools will be held on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th June. The service for Newcastle Diocesan Schools will be held on Wednesday 17th June.

All services promise to be real celebrations. Booking forms have been issued to all schools via email. Please send replies by Friday 27th February to:

conferencesandevents@drmnewcanglican.org

Disqualification by Association Safeguarding Update

As many of you will already be aware, the Department for Education has recently published new supplementary guidance to help schools understand childcare legislation and in particular the concept of 'disqualification by association'. The new guidance can be found at [DFE Supplementary guidance](#). Your Local Education Authority will no doubt have issued its own guidance on this controversial issue and will be able to support you on this. However, we are also keen to ensure all of our schools are fully aware of the implications of this guidance. Key points all schools should be aware of are:-



- **Who does the guidance apply to?**

The guidance applies to people working with children under 8. This guidance will therefore cover all staff working in first and primary schools and staff in secondary schools where services are provided for under 8s (e.g. after school clubs, childcare or visits from younger children). It will also cover those directly involved in the management of such childcare and those who visit different schools as part of their work (for example inspectors)

- **When is a person 'disqualified'?**

A person will be disqualified from working with children under 8 if they have been cautioned for, or convicted of, certain violent or sexual criminal offences against adults and any offences against children. They will also be disqualified if they are the subject of certain Orders in respect of childcare (including in respect of their own children) More detail on the relevant offences can be found in the schedules to the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009.

- **What does 'disqualification by association' mean?**

An individual will be disqualified 'by association' from working with children under 8 where they live in the same household where another person who is disqualified lives or works. The guidance suggests the intention behind this is to guard against an individual working with young children where they may be under the influence of a person who poses a risk to children.

- **What should Schools do?**

Schools are responsible for ensuring that all staff that they employ have had the appropriate checks. The guidance suggests asking staff to complete and sign a declaration about themselves and any person who lives or works in the same household as them providing details of any ground for disqualification under the Regulations.

- **What if someone completes a positive declaration?**

Schools should seek advice from their Local Education Authority in the first instance. In the event that a member of staff is disqualified by association they are not permitted to continue to work with children under 8 but they can apply to OFSTED for a waiver of disqualification.

- **What about new staff?**

Remember when recruiting new staff that you should now require completion of a declaration before they start work, alongside the usual DBS checks.

Recruitment update, Voluntary Aided Schools

The National Society no longer provide standard application forms for use when recruiting Head Teachers or Teaching staff in Voluntary Aided Schools although standard employment contracts are still available for use.



In the event that you need an application form our advice is that you use the standard Local Authority forms but adapt these with guidance from the Joint Education Team to ensure the form is tailored to a Voluntary Aided School. We can then help you ensure that applicants are aware of the terms of the National Society staff contracts regarding the Christian character of the school and collective worship requirements.

If you need further guidance on this area please contact liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org

Head Teacher Movements Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle

Name of School	Outgoing Headteacher	New Headteacher	Start Date	Local Authority
St Hild's CofE Comprehensive	Colin Reid	Acting HT: Penny Barker	Apr '14	Hartlepool
Embleton CofE First School	Julie Harris	Belinda Athey - Executive Headteacher	Nov '14	Northumberland
St Hild's College CofE Primary School	Suzanne Lithgow	Alex Ryder	Nov '14	Durham
Blue Coat CofE Junior School	Lynn Scott	Acting HT: Emma Roffe	Jan '15	Durham
St Aidan's CofE Memorial Primary School	AHT: Charlotte Haylock (Andy Brown)	Lynn Scott	Jan '15	Hartlepool
Tritlington CofE First School	Liz Donaldson	Exec HT: Kath Halliday Senior Teacher in Charge: Katherine Stephenson	Jan '15	Northumberland
Belmont CofE Primary School	N/A	Jan Winn	Jan '15	Durham
Chester-le-Street CofE Primary School	N/A	Jane Proud	Jan '15	Durham
Cockerton CofE Primary School	Chris Metcalf	Exec: HT Wendy Aitken	Feb '15	Darlington

Engage with the RRC...



You spoke and we listened!

We have Forums on our website tailored to supporting the individual Units on the Diocesan Syllabuses for Secondary and Primary Schools. You told us that accessing these was difficult and so we have opened them up!

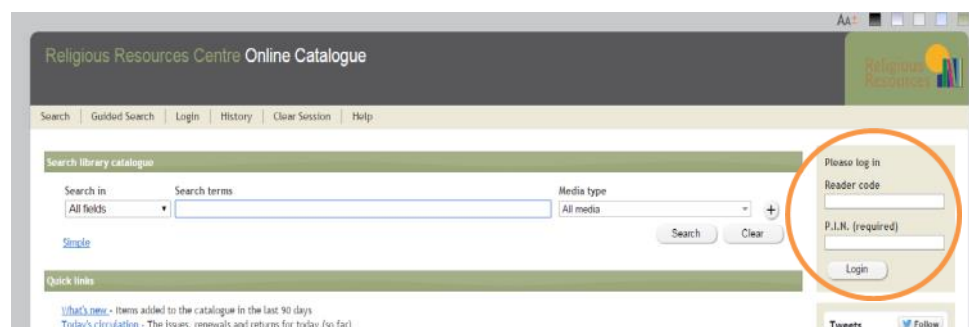
To view, contribute to (or just have a peek at) the forums please go to: <http://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/engage/> and have a look.



Looking for places of worship or speakers from other faiths?

The RRC has a wealth of partners from the Christian community and other faiths across the region. They have given us permission to share their contact details and services with our members. We used to keep this on an area of the main website but now you can search for them by faith like you can any other resource!

Simply LOG IN to the catalogue:



Using your membership number and 4 digit pin and type 'People and Places' into the search terms box.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact us on 0191 3750586 or via enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Reconstitution Reminder



Just a reminder that the governing bodies of all schools which have not reconstituted their instruments of governance since 2012 are required to reconstitute by September 2015.

Academies are not required to reconstitute although they can do so if they wish.

Many of our schools have already done this or are in the process of doing so but please do not leave this until the last minute.

We sent out some guidance on the reconstitution process last term but if you have any queries, would like to see a model

reconstituted document or wish to discuss the process further please contact liane.atkin@drmnewcanglican.org

BACS/Cheque payments to the Diocese

We kindly urge all schools when paying their Partnering Agreement this year, making any payments for conferences/ training events or for governors contributions towards projects, to please ensure that payments are made to the correct bank account as specified on the invoice. Thank you.



We want to hear from you!



We like to celebrate the achievements of our schools. If you would like us to showcase any award-winning projects (particularly those with regional or national significance), or if there are any events you think we should mention, please let us know and we will endeavour to include them in our next newsletter.

Email: lisa.padgett@drmnewcanglican.org



Apprentices hired to support school



Keith Blundy
Bishop Paul opens newly refurbished early years outdoor area.

A recently-formed Anglican church primary school has taken on five apprentices to help with the education of its 500 pupils in a project supported by the Bishop of Durham the Right Revd Paul Butler. Northern Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School in Sunderland was created after an agreement between the Diocese of Durham and Sunderland City Council. Its formation brought together Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School to create the city's largest primary school.

The Apprentices project is being run as part of a partnership with Sunderland College and three of the people taken on are working with Early Years children, one is assisting with site supervisory duties and the fifth is a business administration assistant. Northern Saints school headteacher Steve

Williamson said: "This is a way of supporting people who want to train whilst they work and we see it as a way of raising our Apprentices' aspirations. As a church school we wanted to put something back into the community. Our Apprentices have aspirations and seeing what they are doing also raises our pupils' aspirations as well. They will inspire our young people. This is very much a long-term project." During his visit, the Bishop met the Apprentices and also opened a newly refurbished part of the school for Early Years pupils.

Site Supervisory Apprentice Michael Leonard (aged 19), whose work includes building maintenance and health and safety, said: "Being an Apprentice gives you experience of a wide range of jobs. It gives you a good grounding."

Michaela Dodds, one of the education support apprentices in Early Years, said: "Being an Apprentice you get the best of both worlds. You work at the school and one day a week at College. You get a lot of experience. Ideally, I would like it to lead to a job. Learning everything as an Apprentice will allow me go on to apply for jobs as a teaching assistant."

Business Administration Apprentice Dionne Hall is the oldest of the five, having been made redundant from her factory job, which she had held for thirteen years. The mother-of-two said: "I wanted to make the best of myself. I had opportunities when I was younger but did not have the confidence to grasp them. I am determined to grasp; them now. I see it as my last chance. Apprenticeships allow you to learn practical skills and look ahead. For me, it's the best option."



Keith Blundy
Bishop Paul with the Northern Saints School Apprentices Mykaela Dodds, Michael Leonard, Victoria Linsley, Dionne Hall and Danielle Lathan



Keith Blundy
Bishop Paul meets excited early years children.

Bishop Paul said: "This is a very encouraging scheme having apprentices of all ages in our schools learning whilst they earn is a benefit to the School, the Children and the Apprentices. I would encourage wider creation of apprenticeships – in fact we are suggesting that churches look at how they might get involved when there is an appropriate need. Seeing what has been achieved here and opening the newly refurbished early years outdoor area was a delight. This feels like a very good place to learn and that is clearly happening across the years with Children and Adults alike."

Bishops' Blessing on new twin Church Schools

Pupils celebrated the official opening of their brand new £6.45 million primary school campus in North Tyneside on 3rd December 2014. The Longbenton Voluntary Aided Schools campus houses two schools - St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School and St Stephen's Roman Catholic Primary School.

Children and staff from both joined together to celebrate the official opening ceremony which was performed by Bishop Frank White, Assistant Bishop of the Church of England Diocese of Newcastle, and Bishop Seamus Cunningham, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The event included the unveiling of two special commemorative plaques at each school, and performances by the school choirs.

The state-of-the-art campus is located on Goathland Avenue in Longbenton - on the former site of Goathland Primary School - and the schools opened for learning in September 2014. The new campus brings the two schools together on one bespoke site, but both have retained their individual identities and remain as two distinct and separate schools with their own registration, curriculum, faith and ethos. Facilities include bright and modern classrooms, a community learning centre and impressive and extensive outdoor facilities. Each school also has its own special 'teaching hall' which all classrooms open onto. The schools share some areas including the main hall, dining hall, computing suite, staff room, playing fields, community building and an outdoor multi-use games area.

Elected Mayor for North Tyneside, Norma Redfearn said: "This impressive primary campus is a real first for North Tyneside. We have created two fantastic new primary schools in one cutting-edge building with spacious classrooms, a community building and extensive outdoor facilities. These fantastic facilities will encourage and support our children's learning and enable our teachers to deliver the first class educational opportunities our children deserve."

Cllr Ian Grayson, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Learning added: "Today's event officially marks the start of a very exciting future for these two schools and this fantastic new facility will benefit generations of North Tyneside pupils."

Richard Restall, Headteacher at St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School, said: "It is a real privilege to be in such an exciting place. The children love the new building and very quickly made it their own. It provides a unique opportunity for our both school communities to work alongside and support each other in delivering a great learning experience, set firmly within a Christian context. We are looking forward to building on our school's long heritage and equipping our young people for their 21st Century future."

Stephen Fallon, Headteacher at St Stephen's Roman Catholic Primary School, added: "We are absolutely thrilled with our new setting. The configuration of the learning spaces provides great flexibility and maximises opportunities for creating high quality learning experiences. The unique design and shared facilities are allowing us to explore a wider range of collaborative working practices with our colleagues at St Bartholomew's. It's all extremely exciting for everyone connected to our school communities. I am grateful to the design teams and everyone involved in the construction who worked so hard in providing this wonderful place of learning."

The work was funded by North Tyneside Council as part of its Primary Capital Investment Programme, with contributions from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the Newcastle Education Board. The building project was delivered by Kier North East and the scheme was designed by Space Architects and Kier North Tyneside.



From left: a pupil of St Bartholomew's Church of England School, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle, the Rt Revd Seamus Cunningham, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle the Rt Revd Frank White, a pupil of St Stephen's Roman Catholic Primary School



Making a Difference: Religious Education in Church of England Schools

**ONE DAY CONFERENCE FOR
SUBJECT LEADERS OF RE**

Thursday 25 JUNE 2015

Keynote sessions:

Alan Brine: the Church of England's *Teaching and Learning Review*

Mary Myatt: The Non-negotiables in RE

Deborah Weston: GCSE and A Level examination reform

Workshops:

Effective Teaching of Christianity

Achieving an 'Outstanding' RE judgement in SIAMS

Effective hub working across the sectors

Improving standards in RE through the RE Quality Mark, primary

Improving standards in RE through the RE Quality Mark, secondary

Thursday 25 June 2015

The Hallam Conference Centre

44 Hallam Street, WIW 6JJ

<http://www.cavendishconferencevenues.co.uk/marylebone-euston-conference-venues/>

Speakers:

Jeremy Taylor, RE Consultant and Christianity Project lead, The National Society

Alan Brine HMI
National responsibility for RE at Ofsted

Mary Myatt

Deborah Weston
RE teacher and adviser
Secretary of RE Council

**Cost (including lunch):
£145.00**

For booking details contact:
Jemma Adams, National Society and Education Division, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ

jemma.adams@churchofengland.org

020 7898 1491

Education Division & National Society: Day or Residential Booking Form

Day or Residential Conference Details:

Conference Title	Head of Department Conference
Start & End Day / Date / Time of Conference	25 th June 2015 09:30 arrival for 10:00 start-16:00
Venue	The Hallam Conference Centre- 44 Hallam Street, London, W1W 6JJ
Delegate Fee (inc VAT)	£145

Delegate Details

1. Please complete one form per delegate.
2. **Do not send any payment with this form** – an invoice will be raised and sent to the person/school/diocese etc. identified below on receipt of this completed booking form
3. Please return this form by **1st June 2015** to jemma.adams@churchofengland.org – **a confirmation email will be sent on receipt of the booking and an invoice will follow.**
4. **Cancellation charges will be incurred for late cancellation of the booked place.**

Delegate Name	
School Name/Diocese	
Address	
Mobile / Phone	
Email for all correspondence	
Name / diocese address, for invoice, if not being paid by Delegate	

Please indicate any special dietary or other requirements

Workshop choices- please rank choices from 1 (workshop I would most like to attend) **to 5** (workshop I would least like to attend)- we will try to accommodate your choices but due to number restrictions you may not be able to attend both your preferences.

	Morning workshop	Afternoon workshop
Effective Teaching of Christianity		
Achieving an 'Outstanding' RE judgement in SIAMS		
Effective hub working across the sectors (implementing the Christianity materials)		
Improving standards in RE through the RE Quality Mark, primary		
Improving standards in RE through the RE Quality Mark, secondary		

For Office use only

Booking form received: _____ Invoice requested _____
 Details recorded: _____ Payment Received _____



The Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle
Joint Education Team
Church House St John's Terrace North Shields NE29 6HS



5th February 2015

Educational Trip to Auschwitz 26th – 29th June 2015

Dear Colleague

We are writing to invite you on an organised trip to Auschwitz, near Krakow in Poland. This visit is to be led by the Revd. Gavin Wort and similarly to last year, is being organised by Lesley Hillary (Bishop of Newcastle Inter-Faith and Ethnic Relations Advisor) and Natalie Chapman (RE Consultant). It will include tours of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz - Birkenau, a visit to the Jewish Cultural Centre in Oswiecim and a tour of the Kazimierz district of Krakow. It is also hoped that workshops on the Christian Response to the Holocaust, the Sacrifice of Maximillian Kolbe and the Holocaust from the Jewish Perspective shall be offered. The aim of the visit is to gain further insights into what happened during the holocaust and how this has affected the Jewish and Christian communities – both then and now.

The cost of this trip is £480.00 per person (based on a group of 20). This price includes flights, transfers, accommodation for three nights on a dinner, bed & buffet breakfast basis staying at the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer and admission costs to Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenau with a work shop taking place at Auschwitz 1 which will be led by a curator from Auschwitz. There will also be an opportunity for participants to meet before the visit and hear from a Holocaust Survivor about his experiences of Auschwitz. There are up to twenty places, open to all teachers, school chaplains, and clergy, which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The feedback following the visit was overwhelming positive, with many teachers and clergy and students expressing how useful the trip had been and was going to be when teaching about the Holocaust in RE.

The trip is designed to support the teaching and learning of the units of study included within the syllabuses and opportunity to discuss curriculum links and future planning of RE and the holocaust shall be organised before, during and after the visit. In particular the units to be looked at, whilst in Krakow shall be People of Faith (Questful RE, Primary Syllabus unit 6.7) and 'Should we commemorate the Holocaust?' (Illuminating Pathways, Secondary and Middle schools, unit 8.5); there are other opportunities to study the Holocaust within the RE syllabus, in both the primary and secondary planning, but these units shall be the primary focus.

If you or your colleagues are interested in this visit to Auschwitz and require further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Lesley Hillary (l.hillary@newcastle.anglican.org) or Natalie Chapman (nrchapman76@gmail.com). In order to ensure that the trip takes place a non-refundable deposit of £200.00 plus a copy of your passport which would need to be made by Friday 27th March, with final payments being made by Friday 24th April 2015.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Fitt
Director of Education
Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle

Lesley Hillary
Inter-Faith and Ethnic
Relations Advisor

Natalie Chapman
RE Consultant

Tel: 0191 270 4164



The Church
of England

Fax: 0191 270 4101

A letter of thanks from Durham Lesotho Diocesan Link



Revs Margaret & Rob Bianchi
Executive Officers
Durham Lesotho Diocesan LINK



December 1st 2014

Dear Rowan,

We returned from Lesotho this weekend and there, waiting on the door mat, was the BACS notification of the collection raised at the School Leavers Services. Thank you so much for the donation of £432.10. We were most impressed that so much was raised and would love to be able to thank all those staff and children who contributed.

I can assure you that this donation will be used directly to support some of the children in the Child Headed Household project. Whilst we were in Lesotho we were very encouraged to hear stories of how the LINK has been providing respite care holidays for some of these desperately poor and vulnerable youngsters. But further than that it was great to hear how many of these little family units have been taught, and helped, by the staff to build their own simple keyhole gardens in the land around their rondavels. This technique is proving to be a very successful method in Africa. The LINK has also provided them with tools and seeds and hopefully they will now have fresh vegetables for most of the year - an extremely valuable addition to their diets. Obviously the more funding we raise the more families we can help. We were so pleased to learn that the LINK in Lesotho is committed to providing on-going support and mentoring to these youngsters.

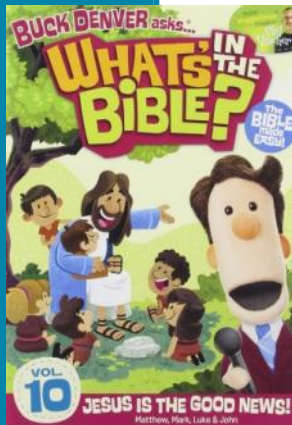
If it is at all possible I would be grateful if you could pass on our thanks, on behalf of all those youngsters who will directly benefit, to all the schools who contributed.

Yours in Christ,

Margaret Bianchi (Executive Officer)

8 LINDISFARNE • WASHINGTON • TYNE & WEAR NE38 7JR
PHONE: 0191 4170852 • EMAIL: DLEO.BIANCHI@TISCALI.CO.UK

What's in the Bible?



This is a funny and easy to understand DVD, going through the Bible. It goes through every book of the Bible, explaining everything in a form which you can understand.

They use puppets, to either ask or answer questions. They are lots of fun, with songs that are easy to learn and join in with, lots of cartoons, and stories to explain everything.

It does teach lots and is good for most ages, older and younger. Heaps of laughter and fun. Brilliant.

Reviewed by Anna-Grace, age 10.

The series of 'What's in the Bible?' DVD's are available to borrow **FREE** by RRC members. Children under 12 can join our children's club, ARK, **FREE** if they are sponsored by an adult who is a member of the RRC.

If a pupil in your school would like to review an item we have in stock, we would be delighted to receive and publish it. Reviews can be emailed to enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk



Spend less on energy

We all know about the pressure on school budgets these days, and one of the best ways to make any budget go that little further is to reduce energy usage and hence cost. St Aidan's Academy in Darlington recently brought in Axion Energy Solutions (www.axionenergysolutions.co.uk) to carry out an energy management programme, producing a 21% reduction in energy consumption.

Having reduced the amount of energy used by a variety of school facilities and systems, Axion then enhanced this by also negotiating fixed prices with their gas and electricity suppliers. Gas prices were fixed for 3 years, producing a further substantial reduction; and electricity prices were also renegotiated to a lower tariff and fixed for two years.

The savings that St Aidan's achieved were by 'easy wins' - focusing on how plant is operated and controlled; they have not involved spending on major projects. The Academy's Carbon Footprint has been calculated as 16% lower as a result of the activities over the last year. Those that are seeking to carry out larger projects, for example installing more efficient lighting can get help from Salix Finance - a government funded 0% loan for energy efficiency projects in government funded organisations. Anyone who would like further details on any of this can contact Axion at info@axionenergysolutions.co.uk or on 01325 469495



Being the change

The Year 5 pupils at Richard Coates Church of England Middle School, Ponteland, received Young Leaders' Awards from the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust (ABYYT) at the end of 2014. The Trust was founded by Dr John Sentamu to encourage young people to engage with their communities and 'be the change you want to see'.



Gathered at St Mary's Church, Ponteland, to receive their awards from Bishop Frank White, some of the young people told their own stories:



"Year 5 led our harvest festival. We thought about the meaning of harvest and how we could help those who are less fortunate than ourselves; we collected food for The People's Kitchen, who provide hot meals and food for homeless people in Newcastle, decorated baskets and wrote harvest poems and prayers."

"We were invited to wear a tie for a day at school, to raise awareness about mental health and raise money for a charity called Young Minds. George, a student at Ponteland High School, is wearing a different tie for every day of the school year, to raise awareness about mental health. We enjoyed wearing our ties and raising money."

"Miss Henderson and our Year 5 gardening club work very hard to keep our school gardens tidy. The whole of Year 5 have become involved with the 'Mini pots of Care' scheme. We each planted daffodil bulbs and took these home to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. We will care for our bulbs and we have asked family and friends to sponsor us to raise money for the charity."

"In November there was an exhibition in Ponteland Memorial Hall to recognise those who fought in the World Wars. The Mayor asked us to produce some artwork and we did this to show our respect for those in our community who fought for us. Ponteland Town Council asked us if they could display it for a performance of 'Oh what a lovely war'."

"We thought about justice in the world and the Christian response to helping others. We played the paper bag game, to help us understand how children in Calcutta get the things they need. We worked as families to make paper bags and earn Rupees. We found this very difficult and it made us understand how unfair life can be for Children in other countries."

"As BBC Children in Need approached, we decided to hold a fundraising fair and invited our parents and the community along to support it. We planned and ran Pudsey-themed stalls, from apple bobbing to cakes. The afternoon was a huge success and we raised £362!"

"In November, Vicky Hopley who is part of the congregation at St Mary's Church came to talk to us about the fantastic work she does at Mandritsara Hospital in Madagascar. We had lots of interesting questions to ask her."

"Throughout the award a character called Archie has set us individual challenges. We have really enjoyed The Young Leaders Award and we feel we have made a positive change to the community around us."



"Some of the children in Year 5 have also been involved in a 'Wilderness School Programme' at the same time as our ABYYT Award. We have thought carefully about the environment around us and have developed our Literacy, Numeracy and Science skills in an outdoor classroom. We had a fantastic time and really enjoyed the sessions at Wallington Hall."

"We used the story of the Good Samaritan to help us think about how Inspirational Leaders and how we can help others and be the change we want to see."

Contract review for schools

Parish Buying, the national buying service run by The Church of England, is currently offering a free contract review to help Church schools reduce their costs in key spending areas such as energy, office products, telecoms and photocopying.

Their aim is to see Church organisations (schools, cathedrals, diocesan offices and parishes) reduce the amount spent on key contracts in order that the money saved can be spent on the purpose of that organisation rather than on running costs. They do this by pooling the bulk buying power of The Church of England in order to negotiate lower prices and ensure excellent quality of service, tailored to the needs of the Church.

Parish Buying currently manage around £15m of spend per annum and have over 200 CofE schools registered with the service and using a range of contracts that Parish Buying offers.

The contract review is a simple yet effective way of finding out exactly how much Parish Buying could save your school. It covers a range of contracts including IT. All that's needed is for a school to complete the Overview Sheet ([click here](#)) with details of the contracts used, along with copies of invoices received over the last three months. The procurement team at Parish Buying will then provide the school with detailed quotes and savings on those products and services, along with independent advice from the procurement experts within the team.

In meeting with various Diocesan Education staff in the last few months, Parish Buying have received a very positive response to the contract review analysis, with education officers keen to see how much schools could be saving. Several schools in Ipswich and Derby are currently taking advantage of this free contract review following endorsement by their DBE.

Schools can send their completed documents, along with copies of their invoices, to procurement@parishbuying.org.uk. If you or they have any questions, please get in touch with Parish Buying by emailing procurement@parishbuying.org.uk or calling 0800 368 0887 and asking to speak with a member of the procurement team.

www.parishbuying.org.uk/



Buying & Saving
Together

Taught Masters Programmes Theology Department

Postgraduate Study Theology & Religious Studies

MA Contemporary Religion
MA Theology & Ministry
MA Chaplaincy Studies
MA Theology & Religious Studies



A message from the Head of Programme

York St John has a long history of delivering courses in theology and in the study of religion. Our undergraduate programmes cover areas such as Religious Studies, Christian Theology, Philosophy and Religion, and Christian Ministry. Our Masters programmes in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies offer you the chance to benefit from the research and teaching excellence of our academic staff.

Our students study for different reasons and in different ways. For some, doing a postgraduate course is mostly about feeding their interests and exploring the subject in real depth. Others see a Masters as primarily a way of developing their careers. Some students want to complete a programme within a year of full-time study, and others want to study part-time over several years.

My job is to help you choose the programme that meets your own particular aims and needs, so that you leave the course both inspired and equipped. If you want to chat about options do please get in touch.

The Revd Dr Andrew Village, Head of Programme

What will I study?

The **MA Contemporary Religion** has two routes, one offering specialist training for those looking to prepare for doctoral-level research, and one for those interested in developing their knowledge and professional skills. Both routes require you to take three or four taught modules, one of which will be related to your chosen route. The others will be drawn from the following list (with four being offered each year).

- Religion in the Public Sphere
- Religion & Philosophy in Contemporary Life
- Religion & Popular Culture
- Religion & Psychology
- Religion & Peace-building
- Religion in Contemporary Practice

For the research route you will take three taught modules plus an 18,000 word dissertation.

For the professional route you will take four taught modules plus a 12,000 word dissertation

The **MA Theology & Ministry** requires four taught modules and a 12,000 word dissertation. There are six taught modules delivered in a two-year cycle.

- Contemporary Christian Theology
- Contemporary Biblical Studies
- Ordinary Theology
- The Bible & the Church
- Church, Culture & Mission
- Contemporary Christian Ministry

The **MA Theology & Religious Studies** is an award offered to those who may want to study modules from both of the above programmes, and to do a dissertation that is related to neither.

The **MA Chaplaincy Studies** has four taught modules, delivered in a two-year cycle, and a 12,000 word dissertation:

- Chaplaincy within the Mission of the Church
- The Chaplain in the Institutional Context
- Chaplaincy in the Multi-Faith Environment
- The Theology & Spirituality of Chaplaincy

How are the programmes delivered?

• The MA Contemporary Religion is mainly aimed at full-time students (though a part-time route is available), and modules are delivered during the day over two semesters at the University campus.

Full-time 12 months | Part-time 2 to 3 years

• The MA Theology & Ministry and MA Theology & Religious Studies are mainly aimed at part-time students (though a full-time route is possible) and modules are delivered on one evening a week (ten sessions) in terms 1 and 2, and over three Saturdays in term 3.

Full-time 12 months | Part-time 2 to 4 years

• The MA Chaplaincy Studies is a part-time programme, and delivery is at block residentials which may be held on the campus or elsewhere in the region.

The programme runs on a two-year cycle, with taught modules delivered in residential blocks over three days.

Part-time 2 to 4 years

There is some scope for studying some modules across programmes, which allows you to tailor what you do to suit your interests. More details are on the website, and you can talk with the Head of Programme about what might be possible in any given year.

What resources will I have access to?

- A well-stocked library at York
- The David Hope RE Centre in York, based within the Library, housing the best single resource for RE in the north of England
- York Minster Library, the largest cathedral library in the country
- University IT facilities

Entry requirements

Direct Entry

In addition to the University's general entry criteria for postgraduate study, you must have an upper second-class or first class honours degree (or equivalent). This can be in any subject, though priority will be given to students with degrees in humanities and especially in theology or religious studies.

Applicants with a lower second-class degree and knowledge of theology and/or religious studies may be accepted onto the programme following an interview. This includes applicants who may have a lower second-class degree in another subject area and who have evidence of having studied theology or religious studies at certificate or diploma level (for example as part of ministry training).

For international applicants

If English is not your first language, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University. You must pass at 6.5 or higher in all four aspects of the test (listening, reading, speaking and writing).

Associate Student entry route

If you do not qualify for direct entry to the programme you might be offered enrolment as an associate student on a single module taught over one semester. This depends on your qualifications and experience, and an interview. Associate students can only register for a single module, and therefore this is not a suitable entry for full-time students, including international students. Please contact us for more information.

How do I apply?

Online application forms and guidelines are available on our website www.yorks.ac.uk/theology/postgrad

Please contact the Theology office if you require the form in a different format. E: theology@yorks.ac.uk T: +44 (0)1904 876462

How much will it cost?

Details of fees, which are revised annually, can be found on our website at www.yorks.ac.uk/theology/postgrad

Financial support may be available from other sources and you are advised to discuss this with the University's Student Funding Advice team.

E: fundingadvice@yorks.ac.uk | T: +44 (0)1904 876939

International Student Scholarships

York St John University is offering overseas fee paying students the opportunity to apply for full tuition fee waiver scholarships. Eligible students will be starting Masters programmes in September. Successful students will pay no tuition fee for the programme on which they are accepted.

For more information about what scholarships are available in a given academic year, terms of the scholarships, an application form and a copy of the regulations please go to York St John University website www.yorks.ac.uk/international or contact the International Office.
E: ysjinternational@yorks.ac.uk

International Student Bursaries

The Faculty of Education & Theology offers up to two bursaries per year to international students. For details, please contact the Theology Office:

E: theology@yorks.ac.uk | T: +44 (0)1904 876462

How can I find out more about the programmes?

For more information about the programmes in general and an application form visit: www.yorks.ac.uk/theology/postgrad

Or contact the Postgraduate Programme Administrators in the Theology Office at York St John University

E: theology@yorks.ac.uk | T: +44 (0)1904 876462

Comments on the programme

From recent postgraduates in the department:

"The flexibility of the programme, overseas student bursary, the structure of the modules and quality of studies were exceptional with well qualified tutors who take an interest in making sure you are well taught and understand the course."

"It was a fantastic and very worthwhile experience and one that I feel I can take many transferable skills away from. ... I have always found everyone very helpful, and YSJ very student-orientated."

"The degree gave me the opportunity to explore my own faith perspective and to compare this to the faith of others."

From external examiners

"I have no hesitation in commending this programme, and the excellent support offered by its teachers and administrators, which thoroughly deserves to flourish in the years ahead."
Dr Chris Deacy, External Examiner, the University of Kent at Canterbury (2009-2012)

"All the work I saw demonstrated a lively curriculum and engaged students."
Dr Heather Walton, External Examiner, the University of Glasgow, (2012-present)



York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX
T: 01904 876598 | www.yorks.ac.uk

This leaflet gives information about York St John programmes and is intended only for the general guidance of prospective students. It does not form part of any contract. Changing circumstances may oblige York St John to add, modify or cancel its programmes or services at any time. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, the University cannot accept responsibility for errors. This leaflet is also available in other formats, for example large print or audio tape. Please contact the Marketing Department on 01904 876960 or E: marketing@yorks.ac.uk for details.

For further details please visit: www.yorks.ac.uk/theology/postgrad

Springs Dance Company

Easter Project

SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY specialises in RE through dance and helps young people learn about and learn from the Christian faith.



The Springs Easter Project leads pupils through a series of dance workshops that help them engage with the Easter story.

Children will learn and create movement in response to the story. They can explore their own spirituality as the workshops link Jesus' relationship with his disciples to Jesus' presence today. The workshops culminate in a performance of the Easter story by the pupils, which can be shown to school and parents alike.



'... insightful and inspirational ... The students moved not only their bodies but their minds and their hearts. Expert teaching and thought provoking choreography. Just brilliant!'

Laura, R.E. teacher, Bexleyheath



The project is most often delivered over six workshop sessions followed by a performance day. The story is shared between the classes involved, divided into the following sections:

- o Washing of the feet
- o Last supper
- o Garden of Gethsemane
- o Trial
- o Crucifixion
- o Rolling away of the stone
- o Mary weeping
- o Resurrection

The project can be adapted to suit the school.



Springs are flexible as to how they can fit into the school timetable.

Many schools choose to use the company a day a week leading up to Easter. Some schools prefer to fit the workshops into an intensive week or another format.

Please call us to discuss the best option for your school.

To book for 2015, or for a friendly chat about what we do, please call us on 07775 628 442: or email: info@springsdancecompany.org.uk

The company also offers tailor made workshops and projects. Popular themes include: *Creation, Exodus, Light of the World, Narnia, The Selfish Giant, Waterbugs and Dragonflies, The Wemmick Story—You Are Special* and *Advent*.

'Probably the best dance I've seen in any school, ever!'

School Inspector talking about a children's performance as part of a six week project by Springs Dance Company.

www.springsdancecompany.org.uk





SEAHOUSES FOR SCHOOLS

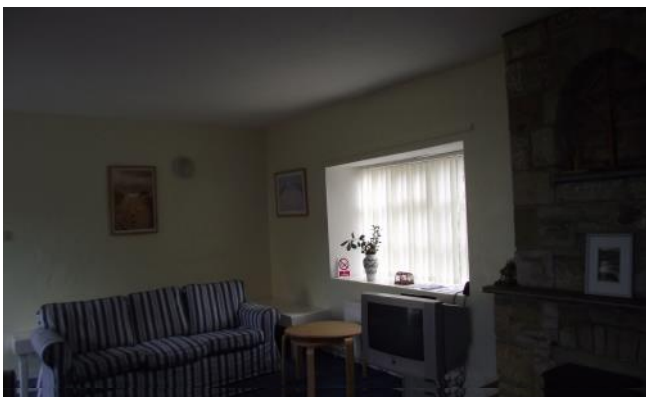
North Northumberland has a coastal region that is unsurpassed for natural beauty and places of historic interest.

Add to that cosy, spacious accommodation that's just right for school groups.

We can accommodate up to 34 visitors, with exclusive use of the hostel facilities including 2 living areas, laundry, secure paddock and garden for leisure, and access to the church hall.



The hostel is a short walk from Seahouses Village and harbour, the Farne Islands are a boat ride away. Bamburgh Castle and the Grace Darling Museum are just along the beach.....



For details of our special offers for schools including our 3 for 2 nights off-peak prices, contact the warden on 07531305206 or send an email to: seahouseshostel@outlook.com

THE WORD ON WOOD

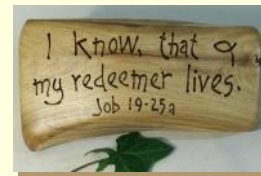
By Allan J Paterson, Locally based craftsman

T. 01228 523528 • M. 07989 148803



For over thirty years I have loved working with wood. All my work is hand crafted from selected English hard woods, sourced locally from forests in the North of England. The wood I use is reclaimed fallen timber forest seasoned.

Scripture text of your choice can be added to most pieces



Commissions taken for larger crosses, prayer trees and pedestals



www.thewordonwood.co.uk