

# Schools newsletter

November 2014

Dear Colleagues

Since you were not all able to attend one of our two recent conferences at Wynyard Hall in the Durham Diocese and Slaley Hall in the Newcastle Diocese, may I take this opportunity of repeating the announcements which I made there in relation to your Joint Education Team?

First, Colleen Miller, the last remaining member of the original joint team (other than Eileen Bell and me) has been appointed to a post as Manager for the newly-established Prince Bishops Teaching School Alliance, an exciting initiative by a group of Church of England academies and schools in the North-East of the Durham Diocese. We shall really miss Colleen when she leaves us in mid-November, but our sadness in seeing a loyal and committed colleague go is mitigated by the knowledge that she is staying in the family of Church of England schools.

Secondly, at Christmas we shall also be saying good bye to Suzanne Lithgow, who's been filling an Assistant Director role with us on secondment from her headship in Durham City. During her brief spell on the team Suzanne has made a huge impact, visited and advised an unbelievable number of schools and led us in our forensic interrogation of RAISEonline data for all our schools in order to maintain our monitoring obligations and to help us to focus our support more objectively. From January Suzanne will be an HMI; given the calibre of her professional judgement this is another case of "our loss, their gain". The bad news is I'm afraid she will not be able to inspect your school – at least for a while – because of Ofsted's rules about "connection"!

As you will recall, Suzanne's full-time secondment has been skilfully complemented by the part-time contributions to the Team of two of our other serving CE Head Teachers, Paul Rickeard from St Peter's Wallsend and Andrew Farnell from Shildon St John's: we're very grateful to them and of course to their governors for lending them to us. Given other forthcoming team changes (see below) I'm pleased to tell you it's been agreed that Paul will come to us full-time for a while as Assistant Director starting in January; again, thanks to his Governing Body for this. As part of his remit Paul will take over the management of our SIAMS programme from Brian Hedley, who has nobly carried that baton for us over the last year.

Now it's my turn to come clean. As I'd hinted to some of you, it has long been my intention to retire sometime during this school year. In the event my maritime and medical adventures in Greece back in July have crystallised my plans, and I shall retire from my substantive post as Diocesan Director at Christmas. You will therefore not be surprised when you see an advert for my post appearing in the next few days. God willing however, I shall stay "on the books" here through to the Spring on an interim part-time basis to help manage the transition period until a new Director is up and running.

All of which gives me the cue, finally, to thank so many of you for your good wishes and cards during my lengthy recuperation from peritonitis over the Summer. They were greatly appreciated and most welcome. My sincere thanks too to all the team here, and especially to Rowan and Suzanne, who have gone more than the extra mile in keeping the wheels on in my absence, not least in planning and managing the two recent successful conferences.

With all good wishes to you and your colleagues for the long but rewarding slog that is the second half of the Autumn term.

Yours very sincerely

**Jeremy Fitt**  
Diocesan Director of Education



# Chair of Governors of one of our Durham City schools shares a success story...

## 'St Oswald's Church of England Aided Primary and Nursery School'

That's our new name and we are up and running. We opened our doors at the beginning of this term as a primary school. What an achievement! So many people have worked so hard and so well to make it happen, and it's good. Very good.

On 20th September 2013 I wrote the first Parish Mag article about the proposals to become an all-through primary school and called it "CE1300934/FPA-St Oswald's School", which was the number of the Planning Application. In less than a year, it has all (well almost all!) been done. We have the first 7+ children in the school for about 40 years and have admitted 15 children into Reception, instead of 30. They will be able to stay until they are eleven.

From the outside you see the new part of the building, as obviously new, no pastiche here. It adds a new classroom on top of the 60s addition and extends it into the original building with a corridor which will even be useful for small breakout groups. From the playground side you see a new staircase and a lift. At last the school is DDA Compliant. Inside you see much more. One staircase has been removed and the upstairs part of it makes some of another new classroom to replace the old year 2 one. That space has become the new, improved staffroom. The old one and the meeting room/study make up the rest of that second new classroom. There are more loos now and there have been other reorderings of space, including a new and better, bigger office. All that has been done with the School and the Sunshine Club running as well as usual. And being ranked "Outstanding" again by OFSTED

The Diocesan Buildings manager was a wonderful support and so knowledgeable. The architect was clearly brilliant in how she could see the space we had, not much, what we needed, a lot, and how stylishly she's achieved it. The builders were excellent and worked considerately round the needs of the working school and have given us a building we are proud of. Our Quantity Surveyor did a skilled value engineering job. The staff, as you would expect, have been outstanding in getting ready for the new classes/year groups they are now teaching and getting everything in place to start the beginning of this term organised and calm. The school's building manager worked alongside everyone so helpfully.

So huge congratulations and thanks to everyone for a remarkable achievement.

The new classroom is really beautiful and will be a wonderful space for everyone to work in. The replacement classroom (made from the reordering of space) is spacious and flexible. It's really good that the school's office staff have a bigger better room and that the new staffroom is an improvement. We wouldn't be an outstanding school if we didn't care about all that. What makes St Oswald's School a good school is not, and never has been, its building. It is good because everyone in the school matters and is respected and valued. The school tries to live out, in practice, every day, its belief that we are all children of God. Long may that continue.

With thanks to everyone who has contributed to an amazing year,

Sue Pitts

Chair of Governors

## Homelessness Prevention

The Depaul UK Nightstop Team, volunteers and young people are delivering homelessness prevention sessions to school aged children who are taking part in the National Citizen Service programme. They are hoping to speak to school-aged children about what being homeless is really like.

The charity has already started going into schools, and a number of Nightstop volunteers have indicated that they wish to be involved in delivering this service to schools and young people.

If you wish to be involved, or if you know of a school that you think would benefit from such a session, please contact Joe Kirwin, Volunteer Coordinator at Depaul UK in Whitley Bay:

Tel: 0191 253 6161 / 6171

Email: [Joe.Kirwin@depauluk.org](mailto:Joe.Kirwin@depauluk.org)

Website: [www.depauluk.org](http://www.depauluk.org)

Twitter: [@DepaulUK\\_NE](https://twitter.com/DepaulUK_NE)



Depaul UK is part of Depaul International, a group of charities working to support homeless and marginalised people around the world.

## Leavers' Services 2015

Plans are now underway for our annual Leavers' Services in Durham and Newcastle Cathedrals. We received some very positive feedback from schools about the 2014 services and we are looking forward to some excellent services in 2015.

Durham & Newcastle  
Leavers' Services  
2015



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 will be issued to all schools in the New Year.



'Voices of Faith'  
invite you to a *day* of  
interfaith dialogue

# ENCOUNTERING PRAYER: HOW & WHY



The programme includes opportunities for 'speed faithing' when participants engage directly with representatives of differing traditions: Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Roman Catholic and Coptic Christian

9.30am for 10.00am – 3.00pm  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Church House, St John's Terrace,  
Percy Main, North Shields, NE29 6HS

Refreshments including lunch provided  
There is no charge but spaces are limited

**For more information or to book a place**, contact Josie Pinnegar:

Tel.: 0191 270 4142

Email: [j.pinnegar@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:j.pinnegar@newcastle.anglican.org)

## **Sessions in 2015:**

28<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September & 18<sup>th</sup> November

All 6.00pm-8.30pm

Venues to be confirmed

# New Resources for Primary Schools



We're delighted to announce the new Topic Boxes that have just arrived in stock.

They include 'The Parable of the Lost Sheep' (pictured) featuring figures made by Palestinians in Bethlehem, 'The Story of Joseph' and 'Vocation: Catholic Priest'.

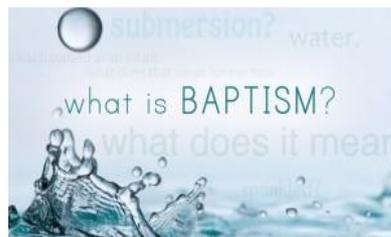


We have lots more Topic Boxes in stock.

For full details, search 'Topic Box' on our online catalogue or visit us at either of our sites.

## We're Thinking About...

This part of the Engage section of our website is where we discuss and debate a range of different topics. You'll find thought-provoking questions, forums for discussion and a huge range of recommended resources - fantastic for teachers (and really interesting and thought-provoking for everybody else!)



This autumn our topic is **BAPTISM** and questions we've considered so far include:

What does it mean to belong to Christianity?

How is religious identity and belonging expressed through baptism?

To find out more and to join in the conversation, head to:  
<http://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/were-thinking-about/>

Like us on  or follow us on 

# Barnabas RE Days - Where Pupils Ask the Big Questions!

In October 2013, Ofsted said that 'schools should make sure that the provision for religious education deepens pupils' understanding of the nature, diversity and impact of religion and belief in the world today.' Our Barnabas RE days have prompted the following responses from local community school staff in the last academic year:

*'Brilliant, children were able to act out the story gaining good understanding. A fabulous way to engage children in the Christian message.'*

**Chester-le-Street CE Junior School**

*'A thoroughly enjoyable day, which challenged the children and motivated them to think and question ideas and concepts. A great, useful activity! Thank you.'*

**Shincliffe CE Primary School**

*'Fantastic delivery and content. The session was active and really got the children using higher order thinking skills. Very useful for teachers as well. I shall be borrowing some techniques for RE sessions in the future.'*

**Staindrop CE Primary School**

*'A lovely engaging session for my Year 1 class. The session encouraged the children to generate questions and appropriately challenge them.'*

**St Oswald's CE Nursery/Infant School**

Barnabas RE Days enable pupils to engage with the key beliefs of Christianity, our world's largest, most widespread and diverse faith - in a variety of ways that captivate, engage, and challenge children of all ages and backgrounds. Many teachers use these sessions as informal assessments to note down the quality of individual child responses, and some school management teams even use them as an opportunity for staff training in delivering creative RE.

In the North-East, our specialist team is led by Chris Hudson, an experienced teacher who has produced 20 books for schools and written for a variety of publications including The Times Educational Supplement. Each Barnabas RE Day in the North-East costs only **£195 per day** (£100 less than our national rate, thanks to generous local donors), so our diary for the Spring & Summer Term 2015 is beginning to fill already. If you are interested in hosting a workshop for a certain date or week in the academic year, please contact us early to avoid disappointment.

## The Barnabas RE Day Approach

We value the spiritual life of children, so we embrace an open-ended and exploratory approach when exploring Christian values and Bible stories through the creative arts. No assumptions are made about prior knowledge or expectations concerning personal belief; instead, children are encouraged to use the imagination to immerse themselves in key faith stories to ask questions, suggest possible answers to dilemmas - and engage with Christian beliefs in a non-confrontational and frequently light-hearted way that supports RE, PSE and SMSC provision. Appropriate differentiation is made in style and content to allow for pupil age and ability, and support materials are also provided.

## How to Book

For more details about Barnabas RE Days in general, or to make a booking, please visit [www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk) or contact the Barnabas Team Administrator. Tel: 01865 319704 or Email: [jenny.smith@brf.org.uk](mailto:jenny.smith@brf.org.uk)

You can also contact Chris Hudson, our local team member. Tel: 07739 348386 or Email: [chris.hudson@brf.org.uk](mailto:chris.hudson@brf.org.uk) He is also available to lead specialist INSET/CPD sessions for primary teaching staff of all faiths and none.



# Holocaust Resources for Secondary Schools

With Holocaust Memorial Day approaching, you may be looking for some new resources to use when teaching about this difficult topic. At the Resources Centre, we have many diverse resources on the Holocaust allowing learners with very different styles to begin to engage with this huge and sensitive historical event. Depending on your own needs and interests you may wish to borrow any of the following types of resource from us:

## Historical and analytic works on how the Holocaust came about and was imposed on the Jewish people:

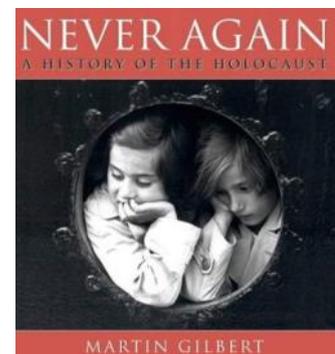
Browning, Christopher R. - The Path to Genocide  
Gilbert, Martin - Never Again: A History of the Holocaust

## Personal survivor testimony:

Pankiewicz, Tadeusz – The Cracow Ghetto Pharmacy  
Wiesel, Elie - Night

## Photographic resources illustrating the communities before the Holocaust, during and after:

Henryk, Ross – Lodz Ghetto Album  
Yad Vashem - The Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority: The Story of the Lodz Ghetto  
Wiesel, Marion – To Give Them Light



## Artistic and poetic responses to the Holocaust from both adults and children:

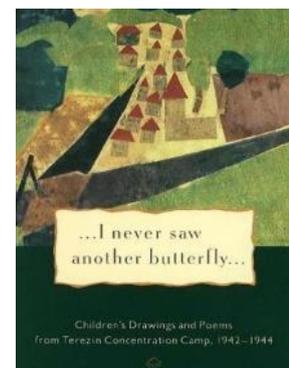
Brown, Paul – Witness exhibitions  
Schiff, Hilda – Holocaust Poetry  
Volavkova, Hana – I Never Saw Another Butterfly

## DVD's:

Amorim, Vicente (dir.) - Good  
Dornhelm, Robert (dir.) – Anne Frank  
Nelson, Tim Blake (dir.) - Grey Zone

## Children's resources:

McEwan, Ian – Rose Blanche  
Morpurgo, Michael – The Mozart Question  
Vander Zee, Ruth – Eli Remembers



Please note: this is only a selection of the resources on the Holocaust available to be borrowed from the Resources Centre and is designed to give you an idea of the range of resources we have to offer. To find out the other resources we have in our stock, search our online catalogue or visit either one of our sites.

Now open to Secondary and Primary School teachers, teachers of RE to children with Special Educational Needs, and Headteachers



## The Farmington Institute

The aim of the Farmington Institute is to support and encourage teachers of Religious Education in schools, and Headteachers working on values and standards. It is financed by the Farmington Trust.

The Institute awards Fellowships to UK teachers of Religious Education in schools and Headteachers, publishes discussion papers and arranges conferences.

### What types of Fellowships are available?

Fellowships are divided into two types: university-based and school/home-based. Teachers who live within a reasonable distance of one of the selected universities or colleges, may be awarded a university-based Fellowship.

Our selected universities/colleges are:

**Bath**, Bath Spa University (Study of Religions Department); **Belfast**, St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College; **Cambridge**, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education/ Homerton College; **Durham**, St Chad's College, University of Durham; **Exeter**, University of Exeter (School of Education);

**Glasgow**, University of Strathclyde (Faculty of Education); **Lampeter/Carmarthen**, University of Wales Trinity Saint David; **Liverpool**, Liverpool Hope University; **Norwich**, University of East Anglia; **Oxford**, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford; **Warwick**, University of Warwick (Religions and Education Research Unit); **York**, York St John University.

University-based Fellowships awarded may be taken as a block of up to eight weeks or in the form of day release up to 30 days. The Fellowships to be taken within university terms. The academic facilities of the universities/colleges are available for Fellows.

Teachers awarded school/home-based Fellowships will be appointed a Farmington Tutor. The Fellowship may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days.

### Who is eligible?

The Fellowships are for teachers of Religious Education in UK secondary schools, primary school RE Co-ordinators or other primary school teachers involved in teaching RE, and teachers of children with Special Educational Needs who are involved with RE. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply. Applicants should have had at least two years in their present post.

# Farmington Fellowships

for Teachers of Religious Education and Headteachers

Academic Year 2015-2016



The Farmington Institute

### What subjects may be studied?

Fellows are free to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. Occasionally, the Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may advertise for an RE teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to RE.

### How much will it cost?

The Fellowship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

### What is required of Fellows?

All Fellows are expected to produce an outline study plan of their project, which must be sent to the Director of the Farmington Institute before the start of the Fellowship. Towards the end of the Fellowship, the Fellow will give a presentation on their work at the university/school and again at our 2016 conference. All Fellows are expected to produce a written report on the work they have undertaken, which must be sent to the Farmington Institute on completion of the Fellowship.

During the period of the Fellowship, there will be regular tutorials and at least one visit to the Farmington Institute.

Fellows are required to attend the Fellows' Conference *before* their Fellowship and the Conference *after* their Fellowship. Fellows who are still actively involved with RE will be invited to all subsequent conferences. The 2015 Conference will take place from 7.00pm on Friday, 26 June, to 2.30pm on Sunday, 28 June 2015. The 2016 Conference will take place from 24 - 26 June, 2016.

### Applications

Application forms can be downloaded from the Farmington website, [www.farmington.ac.uk](http://www.farmington.ac.uk), available under 'Farmington Fellowships'.

Alternatively, application forms are available from the address below. The closing date for applications for the academic year 2015-2016 is 26 January 2015.

Applicants may be asked to come for interview by the Selection Board. Interviews for Fellowships will take place in February-April 2015.

### Enquiries

Further information about the Farmington Institute, its Fellowships and the work of previous Fellows is to be found on the Farmington website, [www.farmington.ac.uk](http://www.farmington.ac.uk)

Other enquiries should be addressed to:

The Revd Dr Ralph Waller, The Director  
The Farmington Institute  
Harris Manchester College  
Mansfield Road  
Oxford OX1 3TD

Telephone: 01865 271965  
Fax: 01865 271969  
E-mail: [farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk)



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Website: <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/>