



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

A tweet appeared on my Twitter feed last week:

“If you ever wondered how you would have behaved in the 1930s rise of fascism, you’re doing it now.”

Strong stuff, challenging stuff. But an overreaction?

On that we may all have differing views.

It did hit me though.

I was an overly imaginative child. I often did wonder (still do if I’m honest) what I would have done, how I would have behaved if I were in 1930s mainland Europe. Would I have kept my head down, refused to see, been too scared to engage or acknowledge what was going on around me? Would I have joined a political movement, hidden Jewish children, smuggled food parcels to those in hiding? Would I have stood up for what I believed was right or would I have been slowly misled (like so many) and accepted what was happening? Can I condemn those who did succumb to the bombardment of propaganda?

I’m in the middle of a really enjoyable but challenging book at the moment – *Human Kind A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman. (I can really recommend it).

The author re looks at all of the decades of research that has set out to prove that human beings are all just one step away from being mass killers. The author is quite clear, and offers compelling evidence, that, in fact the matter is quite the opposite. “...evil doesn’t live just below the surface, it takes immense effort to draw it out. And most importantly evil has to be disguised as doing good (*in order for people to do it*)” He goes on to quote Hannah Arendt who argues “....that our need for love and friendship is more human than any inclination towards hate and violence. And when we do choose the path of evil, we feel compelled to

hide behind lies and clichés that give us a semblance of virtue.” Those who succeed in resisting the evil did so with “communication and confrontation, compassion and resistance.....the good news is these are trainable skills. Resistance just takes practice.....a teachable competency at resisting questionable authority.”

So in these difficult political and social times, when we are encountering racism in our communities as many of us have done even in Lincolnshire, when we see Nazi salutes in the centre of our cities, when, across the world in so many places leaders seem to be becoming less concerned about truth, less attached to the ideals of looking after the weakest of us; what should we be teaching in our schools?

I would argue that we already teach what is needed:

Communication – to be able to communicate well, confidently reasoning and thoughtfully respecting those we communicate with.

Confrontation – our quest for social justice – the ability to confront what is wrong and to seek to change it in the words of the SIAMs Framework – to be “courageous advocates.”

Compassion – for those who need it – to love our neighbours, ourselves and even our enemies. (44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, Matthew 5: 44)

Resilience – in all things not just in our learning. To keep on seeking what is right, to keep on questioning what does not seem right and, if in doubt, to use those things that we have learned about God as a measure to judge things by. In easy parlance “What would Jesus do?”

I don’t know what I’d have done in 1930s Europe. But I do know that right now I can hold all that I hear and all that I see up to those standards which we teach in our schools and I can pray that, when needed, I have the courage and resilience to speak out.

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’^[e] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^[f] ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’^[g] There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31

Thank you again for all that you are doing in schools across Greater Lincolnshire.

God bless,

Jackie

Resources and Information

Called, Connected, Committed

Click [here](#) to view the latest from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.



HTPM and School Improvement Partner Service

More information about our Headteacher Performance Management and School Improvement Partner services can be found on our website, [here](#).

Booking forms should be returned to Tracy, tracy.smith@lincoln.anglican.org

Diocesan Central Training Events – Autumn Term 2020

These will take place via Zoom. Please note the timings listed below are the most recent times and they have been updated since the publication of the Service Agreement Booklet.

For more details of the courses below and to book your places, please visit the diocesan education website www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com or e-mail Tracy.Smith@lincoln.anglican.org

Date	Course title	Times	Costs per person (if school is in SLA)
15/09/20	RE Cluster Meeting with Gillian Georgiou	1.30pm – 2.30pm	FREE
15/09/20 Repeated on 16 th and 17 th Sept	Effective RE for a Broad and Balanced Curriculum Bundle Session 1: Context of RE and Roles and Responsibilities	15 Sept - 9am to 11am 16 Sept - 1pm to 3pm 17 Sept - 4pm to 6pm These sessions are repeated.	Early Bird £280 (for all 4 sessions in the bundle this year) £315 if booked after 17 th July 2020 (£500 if not in SLA)
29/09/20	Governor Roles and Responsibilities	9.30am to 12.30pm	£70 for governors £35 for clergy (£110 for governors if not in SLA)
06/10/20	OfSTED Toolkit for Headteachers	9.30am to 12.30pm	£87.50 (£139 if not in SLA)
07/10/20	Learning the Language of SIAMs Morning input with an optional follow up bespoke meeting with SIAMs adviser	9.30am to 12.30pm	£87.50 +£87.50 for optional follow up meeting (£139 per meeting if not in SLA)
08/10/20 and 22/10/20 2 half day sessions	Headteacher Development Days Sessions 1 and 2 (This will be the equivalent of 1 day per big term. In the autumn, it will be two morning virtual sessions covering different content).	9.30am to 12.30pm	£175 for the two autumn sessions. (£280 if not in SLA) £330 for equivalent of 2 days (Autumn and Spring) £500 if not in SLA £475 for equivalent of 3 days (each big term) £790 if not in SLA
14/10/20	RE Cluster Meeting with Gillian Georgiou	1.30pm to 2.30pm	FREE
5/11/20 Now 2 half days instead of a full day	Developing Senior Leaders in Church Schools and Academies (Session 1 of 2) Session 2 will follow in the Spring term	9.30am to 12.30pm	£175 for sessions 1 and 2 together (£280 if not in SLA)
TBC	Bishop's Visitor Conference	Timings to be confirmed	FREE
12/11/20	Autumn RE Surgery (45 minute slot)	9.00am to 9.45am 9.50am to 10.35am 10.40am to 11.25am 1.00pm to 1.45pm 1.50pm to 2.35pm	FREE

		2.40pm to 3.25pm	
17/11/20 Repeated on 18 th and 19 th November	Effective RE for a Broad and Balanced Curriculum Bundle Session 2: RE Subject Knowledge	17 Nov - 9am to 11am 18 Nov - 1pm to 3pm 19 Nov - 4pm to 6pm These sessions are repeated.	Early Bird £280 (for all 4 sessions in the bundle this year) £315 if booked after 17 th July 2020. (£500 if not in SLA)
18/11/20	RE Cluster meeting	9.00am to 10.30am	FREE
25/11/20	Learning the Language of SIAMs Morning input with an optional follow up bespoke meeting with SIAMs adviser	9.30am to 12.30pm	£87.50 +£87.50 for optional follow up meeting (£139 per meeting if not in SLA)
10/12/20	Church School's Carol Service	Hold the date – more details to follow	TBC

If you have requests for further training or any questions about the training listed above, please e-mail Tracy.Smith@lincoln.anglican.org

We look forward to receiving your requests for training!