



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education –

Dear Colleagues,

But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. [Matthew 5:39](#)

One of the best things about working in an inter-generational organisation over lockdown has been my musical education. The work Team chat room is full of ‘banging tunes’ and ‘something for a Monday morning’ all by artists I’ve never heard of or never got around to listening to.

I must admit I was surprised when one of the younger members of the team said they were a fan of Frank Turner “Frank Turner” I thought to myself “him of room 101 and the ukulele? Surely not!?” Absolutely not as it turns out because that’s Frank Skinner.....Frank Turner, on the other hand is a singer who makes you think. He makes me feel that I’m not alone in my anger and fear of a future that I thought belonged in the past. He also gives a simple, mind-blowingly powerful antidote – be more kind:

*History's been leaning on me lately
I can feel the future breathing down my neck
And all the things I thought were true
When I was young, and you were too
Turned out to be broken
And I don't know what comes next*

*In a world that has decided
That it's going to lose its mind
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind*

(Frank Turner – Be More kind)

It’s like Michelle Obama says - “when they go low, we go high”.

It’s like turning the other cheek – continuing to do what you know is right no matter what the others are doing. Avoiding fighting fire with fire. It’s about being true to who you are...

"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind." - Henry James

And it's powerful:

"You can accomplish by kindness what you cannot by force." - Publilius Syrus –

So, as the world seems to collapse into a morally bankrupt mire, as all the values we held to be true seem not to apply to those who, across the globe, lead; what have we got left to do than to stand tall, stand strong and be who we are – kind and generous and loving, shaped in the image of God and growing more like him.

*And when you're out there floundering
Like a lighthouse I will shine
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind*

*Like a beacon reaching out
To you and yours from me and mine
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind*

*In a world that has decided
That it's going to lose its mind
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind*

(Frank Turner –Be More kind)

Let us, in our schools, lead the way in making sure that those in our care are shining like a light house reaching out to all who are floundering. And that starts with us.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love -[1 Corinthians 13:13](#)

If you need a lighthouse – don't forget we're here for you just shout.

God bless

Jackie

Resources/News from the Team

Called, Connected, Committed

Click [here](#) to access the latest Called, Connected, Committed newsletter from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.



Reflection

Our EDO Lynsey Norris continues her series of reflections – these can be found [here](#), and attached to this email.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidelines

Please also find attached to this email, the above.