



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education –

What do I care about incense from Sheba
or sweet calamus from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;
your sacrifices do not please me.'

Jeremiah 6:20

Dear colleagues -

Diversity and equality are high on the DBE agenda and I am now part of two groups- one is the group which I promised to start in one of my bulletins a few months back. It's looking at a how we can change the curriculum to make sure that all of our children, from all ethnic backgrounds feel fully represented. The second group is a UK/US diversity and inclusion network set up by the Church of England Education Office. You will hear more about the work of both of these groups in the coming weeks including a collection of materials which will help you with diversity during the remembrance period.

I've also been working with the team on a series of suggestions as to how we can do little things that will help and support you. The first of these is a weekly videoed prayer. You can use these in collective worships in the hall or classrooms, in your staff meetings, put them on your website for your community or use them as part of your home learning provision if you have children self-isolating. They will all be kept as a library on the new prayer page of our website. This week is the first week, and the prayer can be found here:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/prayer-videos>

The prayers will be read by diocesan staff, local clergy, Bishop's and Bishop's Visitors we hope that you will find them useful. If any of you want to contribute with your own prayer (staff or student) please do get in touch.

This week I was alerted to the fact that the Sunday Service, broadcast each week by the Church of England was being hosted by Sarah Spencer. Sarah works for the diocese of Lincoln as **Discipleship in the World Officer** and the service was filmed all around the diocese with **contributions from local people.** (if you want to watch the link is here -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/celebrating-forgotten-heroes-covid>).

The reading was from Micah 6

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

For me it chimed with a passage that someone had shared with me in connection with the diversity work:

White Christianity suffers from a bad case of Disney Princess theology. As each individual reads Scripture they see themselves as the princess in every story. They are Esther, never Xerxes or Haman. They are Peter, but never Judas. They are the woman anointing Jesus, never the Pharisees. They are the Jews escaping slavery, never Egypt.

For citizens of the most powerful country in the world, who enslaved both Native and Black people, to see itself as Israel and not Egypt, is a perfect example of Disney Princess Theology. And it means that as a people of power, they have no lens for locating themselves in scripture or society – and it has made them ill-equipped to engage in issues of power and injustice. It is some very weak Bible work.

Erna Kim Hackett

We spend most of our time believing that our actions and our belief structures about who we are and what we are doing are right – we are always on the right side doing the right thing..... but history is littered with people who did appalling things in the belief that they were right...

Just sometimes it's good to stand back and check that out. Even those things which we may be doing for all the right reasons.

What are your burnt offerings for which God is not pleased?

How can we get past them to deliver to our children that which will please God. That which will meet their individual needs. That which will help them flourish as fully rounded human beings? How can we make sure that we are acting justly and walking humbly with our God?

You, as ever, are in our prayers as we do this most important and difficult work.

God bless

Jackie

Resources/News from the Team

Reflection

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

Reserved Teachers

The Diocesan Board of Education would like to remind Governing Boards of VC/Foundation Schools and academies of their legal responsibility for appointing Reserved Teachers. The guidance attached to this email explains the role of the Reserved Teachers and the requirements and processes for appointing Reserved Teachers. We understand that the Governing Boards' key priority at this difficult time is to support the school community through the current pandemic but it is important that Governing Boards continue to act in accordance to the Trust Deed for the school. We hope this guidance is helpful to you. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to e-mail Paul Thompson at paul.thompson@lincoln.anglican.org

DfE Governance Update

Welcome to the October 2020 edition of the DfE's school governance update, where you will find key announcements and information to support you in your governance role.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-october-2020>

For this edition we have created one version to cover both maintained schools and academy trusts– the articles are listed below for information.

Introduction

- 1) New school and trust governance role descriptors
- 2) Publication of the governance handbook (2020 edition)
- 3) Governing and trust boards role and meetings during coronavirus (COVID-19)
- 4) Cyber-security for schools
- 5) Funded training and development programmes
- 6) National Leaders of Governance reform recommendations
- 7) National Foundation for Education Research (NFER): report on school and trust governance
- 8) Provide or update contact details

If you would like to provide us with any further feedback on the content or format of this update please email: schoolgovernance.update@education.gov.uk.

Thank you,

School Governance Unit,

Department for Education