



From *Jackie Waters-Dewhurst*, Diocesan Director of Education

Hope and the Power of doing it together

Every single day in the Church of England there is a short general prayer called a collect. There is something comforting about the fact that in churches and cathedrals and individual homes people across the world all say one prayer and in that shared praying are no longer alone. The collect for this Monday (22nd Feb 2021) is as follows:

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

On the face of it not very cheery - fasting, tempting, discipline, weakness - But there is a power in it and a hope.

We have begun Lent - a time of waiting, of reflection, of going without in order to free ourselves up to think more clearly, to experience God more fully, to accept what we are and what we are not, and to recognise our ability to help others and our need to accept help.

This collect reminds us that God's grace is ours for the asking, that God knows our weaknesses and yet still offers us his son, that there is still Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one glorious unity and that there is the certainty that there always will be. This collect talks not only of fasting, tempting,

discipline, weakness...but also of – grace, power, salvation, of a God who understands us implicitly and still cares (was tempted as we are).

It is easy to feel somewhat helpless as we await the government's announcement about the route out of lockdown. I don't know what the announcements on schools will be (although it would appear that this morning's papers do). I don't know if you will be relieved at what we will be asked to do or angry, or frustrated, or energised or weary. I suspect that different people will feel differently and some will feel a combination of all of those things.

But, as we wait through the long journey of Lent (a journey that will take us to the horrors of the crucifixion but will not leave us there, a journey that will take us on to the glories of Easter and resurrection – new life, new beginnings) let us hold strong to the knowledge that we are not alone. We can call on God's grace and power. We can take comfort and strength in the shared experiences across the schools in the diocese. In the same way that there is a comfort in the shared prayer of the collect there is a strength in knowing that there are 141 diocesan schools all facing the same news and having to act upon it. In the sharing we are clearly, actually, wonderfully not alone.

Please do get in touch if we can help you in any way.

God bless,

Jackie

Covid and your admissions criteria

On the 9th August 2020 we wrote to you letting you know what you would need to do if your admissions policy relied on any faith criteria (church attendance) as part of the oversubscription criteria. We wrote again on the 21st August 2020.

The OSA have been doing spot checks and note that no church school in the diocese of Lincoln has made any of the necessary variances. Some of you, those who do not use church criteria as advised by the DBE, do not need to, but for others not having made a variance could make the handling of appeals this year more difficult.

There is a short window of opportunity to put in a mid-year variance for 2022 and to put in variances for 2023. Please do have a look at the attached paperwork.

The OSA also noted a number of schools within the diocese who did not have their Admissions Policy on their website. Please could I remind you that this is a statutory requirement.

We will continue to pass on updates to you as and when we get them but please do not delay in addressing this issue.

Please contact Ellen (ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org) if you need any support with this.

Smile Spot

It's good to hear when work with our school communities brings huge benefits to children and young people. This is certainly true for Canon Peter Hall Church of England Primary school in Immingham – part of the LAAT family.

Phillips 66 Humber Refinery on 21st January announced it has donated £45,000 of laptops and software to local schools in support of pupil's home learning.

The donation – 100 laptops in total – will go toward helping to close the digital divide impacting young people whose education during the current pandemic is suffering from a lack of access of devices or the internet.

The laptops will be distributed among 14 primary/secondary schools in the Humber area.

Darren Cunningham, UK Director & General Manager of the Phillips 66 Humber, said: "Children having access to devices at home for distanced-based learning is a national problem. With many households without access to a laptop, tablet or PC, many of our children are missing out on vital education. We are proud to be able to support some of our schools and help some children who otherwise would not be able to learn. Everyone has the right to an education."

Nina Stobart, Phillips 66 Public Affairs Lead, added: "The Refinery Education and Charity team chose to support local students with their learning. These laptops will not just do that but also give those students back a feeling of belonging – being able to stay in touch with their friends and teachers – which will also benefit their wellbeing. When this pandemic is over, we do not want a generation of children who, through no fault of their own, find themselves left behind. We are honoured to be able to support them."



Sandra Fawn, Head Teacher, Canon Peter Hall Church of England, Immingham, said: "Our overwhelming thanks go to Phillips 66 for their generous donation of laptops to further support our pupils and families at Canon Peter Hall CofE primary school. This will enable

more of our children to engage in their remote learning at home during the lockdown period and beyond. In addition, it can never be overestimated how this will also support their well-being through online communication with their friends and staff in school. Thank you again on behalf of all our families at Cannon Peter Hall!"

Resources and Information

School Effectiveness Advisor – Vacancy

The Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to join our dedicated and talented team which inspires our family of church schools and academies across the Diocese of Lincoln. This is an exciting and challenging role, in the context of an organisation which places Christian vision and values at the centre of all that we do.

Please see the link below for more information:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/vacancies>

Prayer & Reflection – Video

There is a new video up on our website – this week it's Andy Housman of The Joy Foundation:

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

Conference for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chairs of Governors and Clergy

POSITIVE LEADERSHIP

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FOR HEADTEACHERS,
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
& CLERGY**

We are delighted to announce this year we are running our Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Clergy conference virtually on the theme of 'Positive Leadership'. We are excited to deliver a conference with excellent key note speakers and workshops to support

you in all you do in your schools and for the children.

Click [here](#) for more information and to book!

Lent & Easter Resources

We have introduced a dedicated section of our website for Lent and Easter resources – this can be found at:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/lent-easter>

Conversations about Religious Literacy: Creativity and the Classroom

This event is part of the bigger REConnecting Lincolnshire project and is due to take place on the 23rd February (the first Tuesday after half term); it is open to all and free to attend. You can find the invitation [here](#) and the agenda [here](#). Anyone who would like to book a place just needs to email David Lambert at david@culturalsolutions.co.uk or dml246@btinternet.com

Clerk to Governors Network Meeting

This FREE meeting will be an opportunity to hear Diocesan updates relevant to your role, meet members of the diocesan team and other clerks, and also come with questions you may have. We'd love to support you in the role you do and this will give us an opportunity to find out how we can do this.

Click [here](#) to book.