



## From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we approach the end of a very busy term, I know you may well be feeling exhausted by the challenges you've faced over the year and overwhelmed by what you've planned to squeeze in before we break up for Christmas. Christmas in schools is always a busy time but it seems busier than ever at the moment as we cover staff absence and review plans in light of the new Covid variant.

Not only are our diaries full but our expectations for the advent season are high. We want everything to be just right. We want the nativity play to go without a hitch, we want the Christmas dinner to be perfect, we want everybody to have a Happy Christmas.

In all the rushing to create the perfect Christmas for our school community and family, we often forget the reason for the season. Rather than feeling merry, we may feel stressed and frustrated. Instead of peace on earth, there's sometimes tension, anxiety and worry.

Christmas reminds us that we need someone to rescue us from ourselves!

*“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the*

*Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:8-14)

A miraculous, amazing, and fantastic thing took place over two thousand years ago. The Son of God came to live among us. Jesus didn't come just to live among us, he came to do something. He came to redeem and restore what was broken. He came to bring peace on earth - the peace that comes from knowing God and being known by him.

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).*

We must think and wonder on what it means that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus was born into a time of tumult, a small child living in an occupied land who would soon have to flee and live as a refugee in Egypt. Jesus knew what it is to live without peace, and yet the Bible assures us that he came to meet us where we are – in our busyness, in the frenetic pace of our lives, in our worry and anxiety – and to offer us the peace that passes all understanding.

Let us not go through the whole Christmas season and miss the opportunity to wonder at the Christ-child. Let's take time to treasure and ponder what it means that God became man. Rather than rushing from one thing to the next this Christmas, let us seek to know the One who **is** our Christmas peace.

### **Prayer**

Dear Father, thank you that despite circumstances around us are hearts don't need to be troubled because you have left your peace with us. Help us carve out time to spend with you to help us face each day with peace.

Amen

I hope the end of term is peaceful and joyful one for your school community.

Best wishes

Paul J Thompson

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## Other News

### Commissioning Service

Last Tuesday evening, the Commissioning Service for recently appointed headteachers and for the recently appointed Diocesan Director and Assistant Director for Education was held at Lincoln Cathedral.

The Dean of Lincoln, the Bishop of Grantham and the Diocesan Director of Education welcomed the new Heads and their friends, family and colleagues to the special service.

The Commissioning Service enabled Bishop Nicholas (Chair of the Board of Education) to formally commission the school leaders to their new important leadership roles in church schools. The service provided us with the opportunity to give thanks to God for our new school leaders and for us to seek His support and care as they commit to lead their schools and provide a climate to enable all adults and pupils to flourish. The Heads were presented with a Bible which included a special inscription from the Diocesan Board of Education.

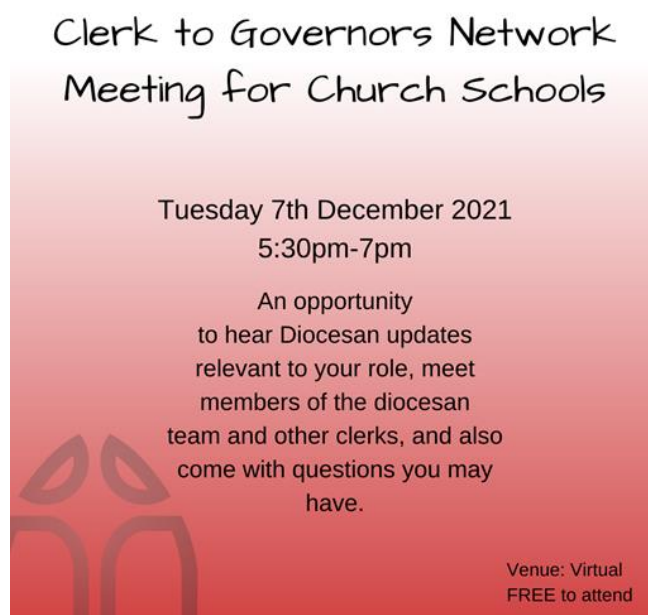
It was lovely that nine headteachers were able to attend the event with their families. The following day, the DBE team received this wonderful message from a headteacher and her daughter Ella:

*I wanted to say thank you for the invite to the beautiful service yesterday. My daughter thoroughly enjoyed her visit to the Cathedral too and I wanted to share the picture she drew whilst we had our tea. It does feature our Labrador Marshall as she would like him to come next time apparently!*



## Important Updates and Messages

### Courses and Conferences



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.

To book your place, please click on the link below:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=184>

### Belonging and Believing

Attached to this email, information about 'Belonging and Believing': a series of books and resources that are the culmination of a three-year project undertaken by Gill Vaisey working with eight families. They will help enable young children to engage with the lives of a five/six-year-old child from eight different religions and worldviews. In line with the Commission on RE's recommendations, the books focus on the 'lived experience' of children, their families and communities, bringing real lives into the classroom. The Belonging and Believing resources aim to inform, inspire, engage and excite children, teachers, and everyone interested in understanding and respecting diversity of religion and worldviews.

**Save the Date!**

30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Conference for head teachers, chairs of governors, senior leader, clergy.  
In person event at Bishop Grosseteste University.

More details to follow.

**Schools!** – If you have any articles you would like included in the weekly DBE bulletin, to share good practice in our schools then please email [ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org)