

From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –



⁶Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For this weekly bulletin, I would like to focus on the theme of ‘courage’.

On 14th November, church and school communities across the diocese held Remembrance services to

remember all the courageous men and women who have served their country and sacrificed their lives in wars. We also thanked God for the armed and emergency forces who continue to do very courageous work on a daily basis in this country and abroad to bring about peace in our world.

Thank you to Charlie Hebborn (headteacher of Scampton Church of England Church of England Primary School) for sharing the wonderful photographs and description of the service they participated in at RAF Scampton. The links below take you to the school’s photographs.



<https://scamptonnews2021.wordpress.com/2021/11/14/memories-of-a-special-week/>

<https://scamptonnews2021.wordpress.com/2021/11/11/we-will-remember-them-2/>

It was on Remembrance Sunday this year that we learned of the horrific explosion of a taxi outside the Liverpool’s Women Hospital. As the police investigation continues into this incident, we hear of the great courage and bravery, not only of the taxi driver, David Perry,

who fortunately escaped from the vehicle, but also the courage of the staff at the hospital. The Chief Executive of the hospital, Kathryn Thomson, said she was 'proud' to have 'so many brave and dedicated colleagues' who worked 'during the most upsetting of circumstances to keep patients safe'.

Courage is often about continuing to do what you would normally do even when faced with extraordinary situations. God asks us to offer our skills, talents and abilities in the face of adversity, and promises that he will use that courageousness to achieve great things. The word 'courage' comes from the Latin word *cor* (heart).

I'm sure that every school leader has felt like a swan at times, gliding gracefully above the water whilst paddling like mad underneath - especially during the past couple of years. We know as school leaders that it can be hard to stand firm, be brave, show courage when there is sometimes a high level of anxiety and worry around us. We do it, though!

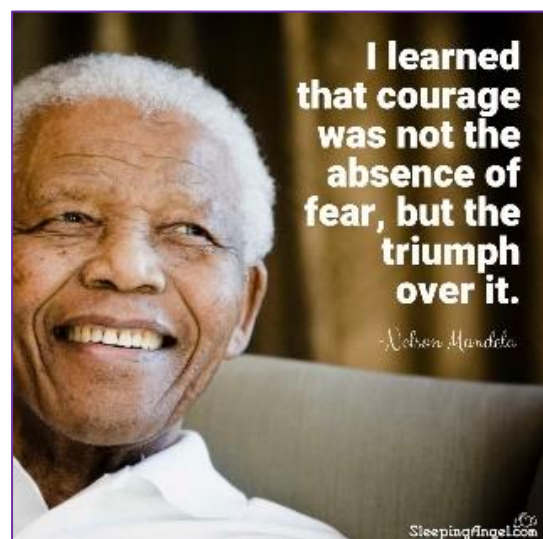
Throughout the Bible, we are told that God will be with us, always, and therefore, we should try to conquer our fears. God commands us to have courage, having faith and confidence in Him.

The story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) exemplifies this for us:

Goliath challenged the Israelites to fight him. He must have been a terrifying sight at nearly 3 metres tall and after almost 40 days of Goliath challenging the Israelites, no one had stepped forward. David was not scared of Goliath, he firmly believed that God would be there with him and keep him safe. As a result of his great courage and faith, David was successful and defeated the giant with just slingshot and a single stone.

Our worries and anxieties can sometimes feel like GIANTS.

It is OK to feel worried or anxious about things. In education, we may worry about the inspection call or the difficult conversation with colleagues or the challenge we sometimes face from parents, but we can take comfort in God's promises to help, guide, strengthen and fill us with courage, just as he did David. If you need some courage to face your giants like David then don't hesitate to find someone you trust to talk to about your giants. You know the Diocesan Education Team is always here to listen and help. It is always better to share your worries with someone else.



We also think about 'courage' when we reflect on the SIAMs expectation of 'courageous advocacy'. There are really some big giants in our society, such as social injustice, climate change and discrimination. In our schools, we have a real opportunity to work with our children and young people to be courageous advocates and tackle these giants. Through

courageous advocacy we can create a long-term legacy - an endowment for future generations. It is about releasing the possibility of the pupils in our schools to serve the common good.

Questions for reflection:

- Do you ever find it difficult to be courageous?
- What or who inspires you and gives you courage to carry on?
- How does it make you feel when you see someone else showing courage?
- How can you encourage others to be courageous, when they are having a hard time?
- What stops you from being courageous? What can help overcome this?

Prayer:

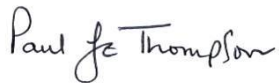
Heavenly Father,

Help us to be courageous people in our homes, communities and schools. Please help us to be people that seek to do good even when no-one is looking. Please help us to show courage even in the most difficult of times.

Amen

Thank you for all that you do in schools.

Kindest Regards



Paul Thompson

Your News

Scampton CofE Primary School – Remembrance

On 11th November, children from Scampton CofE Primary School had the privilege to take part in an act of remembrance at RAF Scampton where we joined with our friends at Scampton Pollyplatt School for a service to remember those who have served our country and lost their lives in wars. The service was a





poignant occasion where pupils, the church, community members and RAF personnel joined together. Children sang and signed a beautiful song and also presented artwork made as part of a joint project with Pollyplatt School and Scampton Church.

This week's remembrance events have felt very special for many reasons but mostly for the special feeling there has been through the school in all age groups. Some things are measured by test results but often, the more important things are measured through strength of feeling. Our pupils have shown such respect and honour this week for which we are proud of them all.



St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School - Plastic Free Schools

In the summer of 2020 we were very proud to achieve our Plastic Free Schools award from the organisation Surfers Against Sewage.



It all started because we wanted to reduce the use of single use plastics in school and educate the children further in why we need to reduce these plastics. I worked with the School Council to drive the project. We also met with a local councillor and the Lincoln based organisation, Plastic Free Lincoln along the way.

We had an action plan and there were a range of objectives we needed to achieve e.g. form a Trash Mob for a litter pick and contact organisations (of the litter we found e.g. Cadbury's) to ask that they are doing about the litter on the streets; contact our local MP for their comments and of course reduce *our* use of single use plastics. We thought about all of the ways we could do this, and actually many were quite easy! There was a small investment in some areas and we did have to rely on our families in others, but we are so pleased with the changes we made.

Here is a list of some of things we have done:

- We have glass bottles for milk, rather than cartons. We don't use straws.
- We have a party set that children and families (and the community) can borrow for parties, instead of buying throwaway plates, cups etc.
- We have pottery mugs for parent events, rather than plastic cups that are thrown away.
- We ask that all water bottles are reusable bottles and no children have single use water bottles. We bought our own bottles with our logo that can be bought at a reduced cost – and are free to some families.
- Fruit and vegetable snacks should be bought in reusable containers.
- When we have events in school like our Reading Breakfast, we don't buy disposable plates, bowls and cups.
- We have re-usable ice packs
- We are *trying* to reduce our laminating (not always easy!)

In addition to the above, we recycle paper and have a composting system that we use in school, which parents can also contribute to.

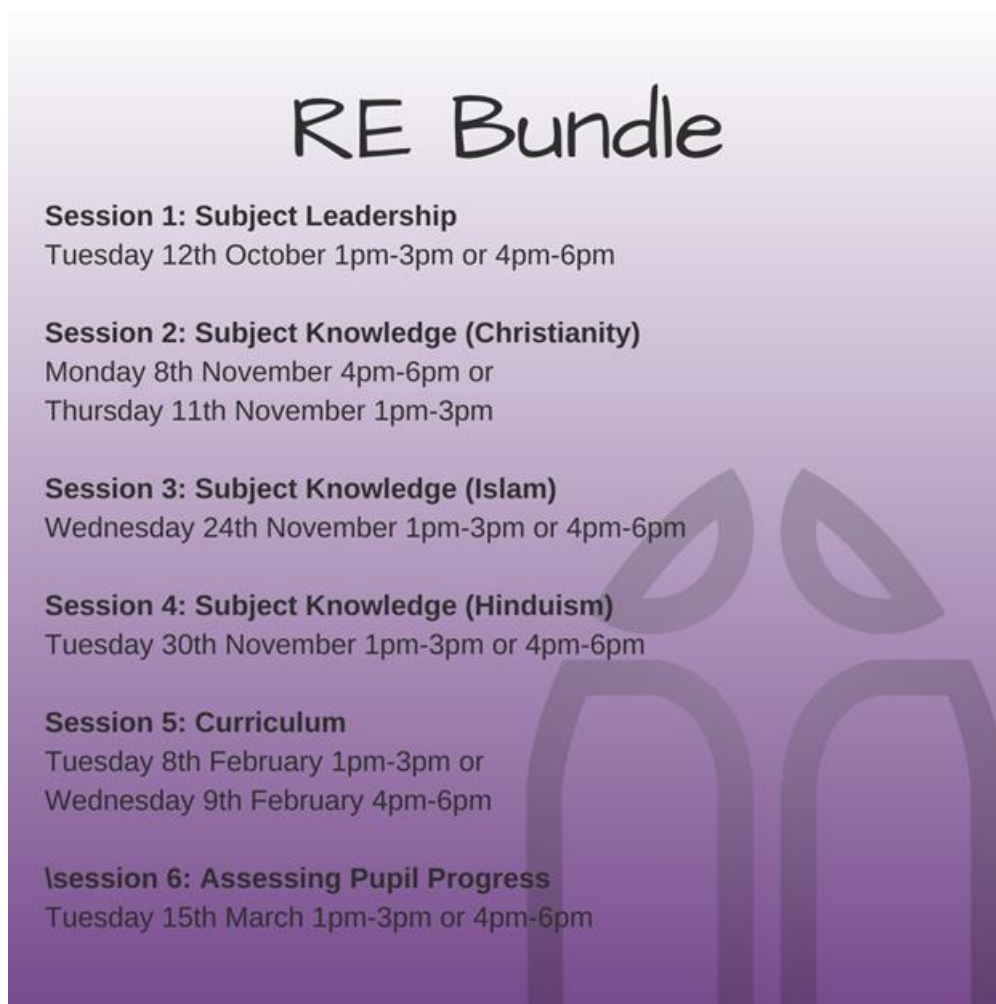
We have now received an expansion pack from Surfers Against Sewage, to continue the work we started – which we are very eager to do!

Amanda Konrath

Headteacher

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Conferences



RE Bundle

Session 1: Subject Leadership
Tuesday 12th October 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

Session 2: Subject Knowledge (Christianity)
Monday 8th November 4pm-6pm or
Thursday 11th November 1pm-3pm

Session 3: Subject Knowledge (Islam)
Wednesday 24th November 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

Session 4: Subject Knowledge (Hinduism)
Tuesday 30th November 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

Session 5: Curriculum
Tuesday 8th February 1pm-3pm or
Wednesday 9th February 4pm-6pm

Session 6: Assessing Pupil Progress
Tuesday 15th March 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

This course will provide your RE leads with ongoing support and training throughout the year, each session will build upon the next to help provide maximum impact for your school.

Session 4 - RE Subject Knowledge

This session explores the significance of confident Subject knowledge when delivering effective RE. It will focus in particular on subject knowledge of Hinduism **£300 for all 6 session (buy 5, get one free)**

£60 per individual session (outside SLA £139 per session)

(£700 if not in SLA)

We are holding two sessions on the 30th November:

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm - to book your place for this session, please use this

link: <https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=181>

4.00 pm to 6.00 pm – to book your place for this session, please use this

link: <https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=182>

Governor Bundle Course

Session 1: Governor Roles and Responsibilities

Tuesday 28th September 2021 4pm-6pm

Session 2: Setting a Distinctive Christian Vision in a Church school

Thursday 2nd December 2021 4pm-6pm

Session 3 'Flourishing for All' - SEND and Disadvantage

Wednesday 12th January 2022 4pm-6pm

Session 4: 'Flourishing for All' - Monitoring, Support and Challenge

Tuesday 22nd March 2022 4pm-6pm



Session 2 Strategic Vision

This session will scrutinise the responsibility of governors to set the strategic direction of the school. It will consider what it means to have a 'distinctively Christian' strategic vision, as well as considering practical approaches to monitoring the effectiveness of the school as a church school.

Book in for all 4 for £200 pp per session or £60 pp per session for SLA schools.

Clergy £35 pp session

Please use this link to book your

place: <https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=183>

Our website is a 'one stop shop' for more details and the place to book on these courses - our booking form may look a little different this year for you, however this should still be as easy to book

as before. In addition to this, make sure you look out for emails sent each week highlighting upcoming courses.

Any questions please do get in touch - patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org

To book your place on any of our courses, please click on the link below:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=Diary+of+Central+Events&pid=53>

Save the Date!

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

More details to follow.

Bishop's Visitors

The Diocese of Lincoln operates a system of Bishop's Visitors. These are volunteers who provide another link between the Diocese and its Church Schools. Bishop's Visitors take an interest in the life of the school, provide pastoral support and act as an advocate for the school in the community; as such they are an important part of the support network for the family of Church Schools.

What is a Bishop's Visitor?

- A friend to the school and a listening ear
- A link between the Bishop of Lincoln, the Diocesan Education Team and the school
- A Christian presence supporting and enhancing the distinctive nature of the school through:
 - Sharing the Bishop's letter each term with the whole school community
 - Attending and supporting worship in school or church
 - Offering individual skills and talents to enrich the life of the school

Each visitor has individual strengths and skills through which, in close cooperation with the school, they will develop their own valued contribution to school life.

If you would like more information on becoming a Bishop's Visitor or know someone that might be interested in this role, please get in contact with patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org

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