



From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:6-7)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Can you believe we are half way through the academic year and it is February half term next week? Where does the time go? For some people though, January will have felt a very long month with a lot of waiting – waiting for the first pay day after Christmas or waiting for early dark nights to start drawing out again.



In this week’s bulletin, I would like to think about patience.

Patience is required in a variety of situations.

Firstly, we need to be patient with ourselves, cope with our frustrations and think how to resolve the situation we find ourselves. I really tested my patience this week when I tried to change a holiday booking (again) that I had made pre-pandemic. You may know how it feels when you are listening to annoying music whilst on hold in a telephone queue for more an hour waiting for the next available assistant - only to be disconnected when the assistant answers the phone. Arrgh!!

We require patience with others - recognising everyone is different, learning to make allowances for others, giving time to people, walking at another's pace and not rushing them. This may be a familiar experience for you in school when you are working with children. There are times when children simply can't grasp a concept in maths, for example, despite the teacher trying lots of different way to teach it.

We also need patience with circumstances - 'Rome wasn't built in a day', doing something worthwhile can take time, taking the long view will eventually lead to something more precious. One great example of this is the making of the Wallace and Gromit animations. Did you know it took 6 weeks to make a one minute of film?



Visit this clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3CEE9xKKZc> to view the patience needed to make the animation.

The picture shows a model of Durham Cathedral constructed from over 2000 matchsticks!



Would you have the patience to tackle this task?

The more complex the problem is, the more time and attention it needs before a positive outcome is realised.

If I said you would have to wait 8 years for something, you would think that is a long time to wait for anything. However, the Church of England has set itself the target of reducing its carbon emissions to zero within the next 8 years – and some will say this target date of 2030 is very ambitious. It will take a united effort, a change of habits, the development of sustainable resources, alternative ways of working and a great degree of patience to achieve this crucial outcome.



Patience is about waiting for the right time, being patient with each other and being patient to wait on God when things seem to be taking so long to sort themselves out. The Bible is filled with stories of people like Mary, David, Moses and Noah who had to wait for the right time, for God's time.

'...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'
(Colossians 3:1)

Whilst the story of Noah began with judgement, it's important to focus on how God was with Noah, helped him to be patient, and gave the rainbow as a sign of his covenant promise.

For Christians, patience is often about waiting - waiting for God to do things in the time that is right. It is a confidence that God is faithful and a trust in God. Sometimes it is hard to

understand why God takes so long, but there is an acceptance that God is in control and that sometimes even miracles take time.

It is worth reflecting on this when your patience is tested this week at school or at home.

Reflection:

What you will do to increase your levels of patience this week?

How might you help someone else who is feeling frustrated this week?

As I always say, you are part of the church school family and together we can support each other during such times when we feel our patience is being pushed to the limit.

Prayer:

Dear God, we pray for the virtue of patience, in our hearts, homes and our lives. We want to wait patiently for your will to enfold in our lives. May we learn to wait patiently for You to bring Your answers to our prayers. We want to cooperate and wait on your plans for us.

Amen.

I hope you have a restful and relaxing half term break.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'T'.

Paul Thompson

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Conferences

Leading with Optimism - Conference for head teachers, chairs of governors, senior leaders, clergy

We are excited this year to be back in person for our annual Headteacher, Senior Leader, Chair of Governor and Clergy conference.

Joining us as our keynote speakers are:

- The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Acting Bishop of Lincoln
- Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS
- Katrina Gueli, Ofsted Regional Director, East Midlands

There will also be practical workshops on the day to support you in role as a leader.

Date: Wednesday 30th March 2022

Venue: Bishop Grosseteste University

Longdales Rd, Lincoln, LN1 3DY

Cost:

School Staff: £175

Governor: £135

Clergy: £75

To book use the link below –

<https://data.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/civCRM/event/info?id=5565&reset=1>

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