



## Thought for the Week

Like many teachers who are also Christians, I am often encouraged to help out with the children's ministry at my church. I don't *have* to do this, but it is recognised by my community that I, like many teachers, have certain gifts when it comes to listening to, communicating with and meeting the needs of children and young people. And for the most part, I love it – the children I work with at church are brilliant: full of fun and energy and really, really difficult questions, which is just as it should be.

Often, the children have their own services – a space tailored to them, with a quick visit to join the rest of the congregation at the end to share what they have been doing. This week, we were all in church together – our regular family service. This is an incredibly valuable thing for the rest of the congregation, who get to spend a longer time with our young people and watch them grow and flourish.

However, it is also fair to say that sometimes members of the congregation find it hard to draw in the younger members of the church, who are not so good at being quiet or sitting still or understanding when really significant moments in the liturgy are taking place. This is something I also recognise from my own teaching practice and the familiar internal cry of every parent on the planet, 'Why won't they just listen and do what I've asked them to do?'

In these moments, I am always reminded of Jesus' words to his followers when they asked him who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven:

Jesus called a little child to him. He stood the child before the followers. <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "I tell you the truth. You must change and become like little children. If you don't do this, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who makes himself humble like this child. <sup>5</sup>Whoever accepts a little child in my name accepts me."

### Matthew 18:2-5 (International Children's Bible)

Churches – like schools – can feel quite hierarchical. Power matters, as do questions about who wields it and how responsibly and compassionately they do so. Sometimes, it can feel that the children are at the very bottom of the pile in the power structures of our world. We

only have to look at the disruption that is taking place across the world to children's education and flourishing because of the power struggles of grown-ups.

And this is why Jesus is so very radical: he turns our usual power structures upside down and asks us to consider what difference it would make if the world were organised in entirely different ways – if the voices that are usually unheard were heard; if the hopes and aspirations of those at the bottom became the drivers of change.

Lent is a time for honest and clear-sighted reflection. Christians use this period of preparation to work out where they have gone wrong and what they could do to put things right. It is, of all the seasons of the Christian year, a season about listening.

This week, I hope you get the chance to listen to the pupils in your school to better understand their challenges and their hopes. In spite of the power struggles we see around us – locally, nationally and globally, - I have hope for the future because I know that these pupils will be the ones to carry us all forwards.

As ever, thank you so much for everything you do to enable the flourishing of all members of your school communities, for being an ear that listens to everyone and a voice that challenges injustice.

*Gillian Georgiou – RE & SIAMS Adviser*

## Important Updates and Messages

### Welcome to the Team

We officially welcome June Richardson to our team today. June has started in her role as Diocesan School Effectiveness Adviser.

If you require support relating to developing church school effectiveness, including supporting SEND and disadvantaged pupils, and promoting diversity and inclusion, please contact June at [June.richardson@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:June.richardson@lincoln.anglican.org)



## Office Move

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – LDBE is on the move! We are moving from 103 Newport – our new operating address will be –

- Edward King House, Minster Yard, Lincoln, LN2 1PU

Our phone number remains the same – 01522 504010, as do our emails.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> March, and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – communications may be not be as swift as usual, please bear with us.

## Courses and Conferences

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

The banner features the Diocese of Lincoln Board of Education logo on the left. The central text reads 'LEADING WITH OPTIMISM'. Below this are three circular portraits of the speakers: The Rt Revd Stephen Conway (Acting Bishop of Lincoln), Dr Margaret James (National Director of SIAMS), and Katrina Gueli (Ofsted Regional Director, East Midlands). On the right, the event details are listed: '30TH MARCH 2022 10 AM - 3:30PM' at 'BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY, LONGDALES RD, LINCOLN, LN1 3DY'. A small image of a speaker at a podium is visible in the top right corner.

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:

LDBE TFTW – 07-03-22

School Staff: £175

Governor: £135

Clergy £75

To book use the link below –

<https://data.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/civicrm/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](mailto:ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org)