



## Thought for the Week

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.”

Psalm 46:1-3

The news has not been an easy watch over the weekend (well, even for the past couple of years) - lots of images and information that can leave us feeling anxious and unsettled. Doom scrolling on Twitter can easily become addictive, feeding our insatiable appetite to know what is going on, yet also leaving us feeling hopeless and wondering what on earth is going on in our world today. I find the section of the Psalm above gives me great comfort through its timeless understanding of what it feels like when all around us seems to be falling apart. It certainly sometimes feels that everything we know about life is changing, the earth giving way, or the solid dependable mountain trembling and moving. However, the whole Psalm starts with the promise that ‘God is our refuge’. While spending time exploring this verse I came across the following;

In the midst of whatever you’re feeling today, God wants to be your refuge, strength, and your help. God is our protection even when what seems permanent is demolished. When the world crashes in around us, God is still there, protecting us. The word ‘refuge’ literally means *to flee*, as in running to a shelter.

What an amazing promise, that whatever we or others are facing today, whether it is personal, school-based or wider, such as what we see in Ukraine, we can lean into God. Christians don’t believe that it means everything in life will be perfect and sorted, but that God will walk with us through it, being a refuge and a strength.

We are also acutely aware that our children are asking questions and trying to make sense of what is going on in Ukraine. We have attached some resources and added some links to aid

you in your talks in school around the subject. (We know there are many others people are using; feel free to tag us in them on Twitter [@LincolnDBE] and we will retweet them.)

- Please find attached some resources from Coventry and Canterbury DBE's around the situation in Ukraine
- Picture News have made their latest special pack free of charge to cover the Ukraine crisis in school next week.

You will receive a ready made presentation which can be used for class discussions or as part of a larger assembly.

Access here  <https://bit.ly/3HDPMOR>

- BBC Newsround have child friendly news stories as well as presenters carefully explaining the situation. Including the history of Russia and Ukraine, Citizens urged to stay home and how Sport has responded to the crisis. They have also committed to not having blanket coverage if the crisis, still focusing on other news across the UK and the world <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60522331>
- BBC Newsround have also a short video with advice if the news upsets you <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>
- News For Kids also has an age appropriate article on the situation <https://newsforkids.net/articles/2022/02/24/russia-invades-ukraine-world-leaders-condemn-attack/>
- Thee Education Hub blog also has help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about the crisis. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>
- Prayer Spaces for schools have also tweeted some ideas of how to pray.



## Important Updates and Messages

### 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 title 'LEADING WITH OPTIMISM' is centered at the top. Below the title 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:

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)