

From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –

24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. Luke 8:24

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you have had a safe and restful half term break. With storms Dudley and Eunice battering the UK over the past few days, it has been a disruptive and indeed quite a frightening time. We have seen record breaking winds of 122 mph on the Isle of Wight and the first ever red weather warning over London with winds capable of sadly causing a loss of life. Nearer to home, the storm caused trees to topple, power cuts, transport links to close and some damage to property.



I guess for many families during half term when the weather was so bad, it will have been a time to stay at home, maybe watch a film, read a book or play a board game. I hope you as school leaders found this time to relax with friends and family.

Thankfully, the storms have now subsided and we are able to safely venture outdoors again.

Reflecting on the Bible passage above, we think about the story of Jesus calming the storm told in the three Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, and what this story may mean to us.

Jesus had been teaching near the Sea of Galilee. Afterwards, He wanted a respite from the crowds so decided to take a boat with the apostles to the opposite shore where there were no large towns (Mark 4:35–36). The Bible reports not long after they sailed, Jesus fell asleep and a storm arose (Luke 8:23).

An important point in the Bible story is that Jesus needed time to rest. We all need time to rest and recharge our batteries. As you start this new half term, I hope that you feel refreshed and ready to approach new opportunities and challenges with vigour.

Another point in the story to reflect upon is that as Jesus was asleep in the boat, the experienced fishermen he was with were frightened they were not going to survive the storm.

“The waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But [Jesus] was in the stern, asleep on the cushion” (Mark 4:37–38).

The fishermen lacked faith in themselves, each other and in God. When Jesus awoke and calmed the storm, he rebuked them for their lack of faith (Mark 4:40).

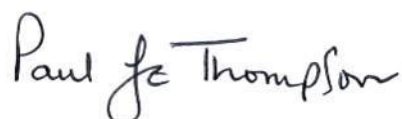
As school leaders, we will have experienced storms in the educational landscape. There may even be some on the horizon. You may be looking out with your binoculars to see what budget pressures are ahead or what future government policy may bring. Like weather forecasters, though, we can never be totally accurate in judging the severity of the storm or even if they will hit our school communities at all. Will it be a gale force wind or a light breeze? Will our school community be at the epicentre of the storm or will the storm miss us completely?

Whatever lies ahead, we must have confidence in our own resilience, strength and creativity to convert the energy of the storm into something good for our community. We could simply batten down the hatches, pick up the pieces and let the storm pass until the next one. Alternatively, we can look more positively, metaphorically construct a wind turbine and capture the high winds to help the school community drive forward.

At our forthcoming conference for headteachers, senior leaders and clergy, we will focus on the theme, ‘Leading with Optimism’. Keynote presentations and workshops at this event will help us to think about how we as a church school family can work collaboratively, and convert challenges into opportunities to enable all adults and pupils to flourish. For more details about this event, please see below.

On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education, I wish you every success in this new half term.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Thompson

Prayer

Heavenly Father

Thank You, that You are always there to provide for my needs and to protect me from the storms of life. I pray that no matter what the future holds, that You will remain there beside me. I pray that You will be with me through all that I face in the future.

Amen

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Conferences

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

The banner features the Lincoln Diocesan 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 keynote 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 provided: '30TH MARCH 2022 10 AM - 3:30PM' at 'BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY, LONGDALES RD, LINCOLN, LN1 3DY'. The background of the banner shows a person presenting at a conference.

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>

Governance & Compliance Lead – LDBE

We have an exciting vacancy at LDBE – for an experienced and innovative individual to become our new Governance & Compliance Lead.

This is a fulltime, permanent position.

The ideal candidate will have:

- A proven track record of successful experience of working effectively with school governors
- Significant experience and understanding of GDPR, admissions and academy conversions
- Experience of leading presentations and workshops at professional conference and training events
- The ability to inspire trust and confidence
- The ability to work inclusively within a Christian organisation

We can offer you:

- A supportive and dynamic team working within a Christian context
- The chance to support transformation for pupils and families across greater Lincolnshire
- Opportunities for continuous professional development
- Experience of working collaboratively with a range of talented school leaders and education partners

If you are interested in this opportunity to contribute to the development of Church School Education in a dynamic and forward thinking diocese, please download the application pack and application form from the Diocesan Board of Education website at -

<https://www.lincolndioCESaneducation.com/vacancies>

Should you wish to discuss this post further you are more than welcome to contact, Paul Thompson, Diocesan Director of Education, Tel 01522 504010 or email

paul.thompson@lincoln.anglican.org

Salary £30,000

Closing Date: Monday 28th February 2022 (no later than 9 a.m.)

Shortlisting: Tuesday 1st March 2022

Interview Date: Friday 18th March 2022

Dirt is Good Schools Programme

‘What do your pupils value the most? The Dirt Is Good Schools Programme is an accessible, research based step by step programme that enables and empowers young people aged 7 -14 to take social and environmental action based on what they believe is important. By signing



up now, you will have instant access to all the resources and activities of the programme. [Click here to find out more.](#)’

ABYTT – Way Maker Lent Resources



With 6 weeks of content, **Way Maker** takes pupils on a journey through Lent, reflecting on Jesus’ ministry and his example of being a ‘Way Maker’ and serving others. The 6 sessions help pupils to explore what it means to be: servant hearted, compassionate, accepting, bold, forgiving and a light in the darkness. **Way Maker** helps pupils consider what these examples mean for their own lives and the practical actions they can take to become way makers in their community.

Each week includes:

- Introductions
- Bible links
- A video
- Questions and challenges
- A prayer

This resource can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Challenges can be done individually or as a group or class.

Watch the introduction [video](#) to the resources, to find out more. Sign up here to download the resources: www.abbyt.com/lent.

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