



From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –



'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead' 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you had a lovely Easter holiday. I hope you found time to rest and spend time with friends and family. It is difficult to believe that we are beginning the summer term – the academic year is flying by!

It was really good to see so many school leaders, clergy and governors at the diocesan conference at the end of March. The feedback received from the conference was really positive. It would seem that we really needed and valued the time to be together – this first 'face-to-face' conference in three years. Seeing the pupils from Nettleham Church of England Junior School open the conference with collective worship was a truly wonderful experience for us all. They really did fill us with joy and hope for the future. The keynote speakers and workshop leaders also inspired us with thought-provoking ideas and strategies to help us lead our school communities with confidence and optimism. Thank you to everyone who made the conference such a success.

I understand that not everyone could make the conference. It was a really busy time in school and challenges such as staff absence or an OfSTED inspection may have meant you needed to stay in school. I am sure that the Easter break could not have come soon enough for many of you.

Easter is a time to reflect on God's love for us. It's a time to look to the future with hope... a time of resurrection and new beginnings.

Sometimes it can be hard to have hope, especially in difficult or worrying times. However, Christians believe that Jesus teaches about hope as something that can grow, with encouragement and faith. Hope is to be shared.

In the Gospel of Luke, we learn about two of Jesus' disciples walking home, feeling fed up. They had put all their hope in Jesus but then they felt confused and disappointed because Jesus has been crucified, yet there were rumours that he is alive. In the middle of their confusion, a stranger comes and walks beside them.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place."

At the beginning of the story, Cleopas and his friend felt hopeless. They shared their worries, they realised that the stranger they have met is, in fact, Jesus, and then at the end of the story, they turned around and hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive. They became hope carriers, bringing hope and joy to other people.

In these difficult times, it is more important than ever that we as school leaders serve as hope carriers, just as the diocesan education team endeavours to be hope carriers for all of you. We need to help our school communities feel hopeful and optimistic about the future through our distinctively Christian vision for education.

We have lots to celebrate in our schools and there are many symbols of hope to promote in our school environment. It would be worth taking the adults and pupils on a 'learning walk' around school to discover and celebrate symbols of hope. In the school garden, you will no doubt find plants that are beginning to flower. I suspect you will also find children and adults flourishing throughout the school. We need to highlight and celebrate everything that makes us smile!

It is important that your improvement plans are informed by your symbols of hope. It is all too easy to base every plan on the negatives. Our plans need to spread our hope rather than our worries for the future. In the name of our conference, we need to 'lead with optimism'.

'May your choices reflect your hopes not your fears' (Nelson Mandela)



Questions for reflection:

What or who gives you hope for the future?

Can you describe how hope makes you feel inside?

How could you pass on hope to someone else?



ANNOUNCEMENT – Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education

It is with sadness that the Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain, the Bishop of Grantham, has tendered his resignation as Chair of the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education. You will be aware that Bishop Nicholas has been an excellent leader for our Board of Education over the past few years. He has been a real champion for our church school family at a local, diocesan and national level. He has improved the DBE's capacity to address key educational priorities such as developing a diocesan MAT strategy, promoting diversity and inclusion and strengthening governance in schools. He has provided wisdom and care to the DBE team so they are well placed to support schools. Thankfully, Bishop Nicholas will remain as one of our suffragan bishops and he will continue to engage with church schools as they play an integral part to the life of the diocese. Bishop Nicholas says,

'I'd like to express my thanks to the then Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Christopher Lowson, for having appointed me as Chair and to all with whom I have worked in this role, most especially to fellow Directors, DBE colleagues and the young people, staff and supporters of our schools. The focus, as it were, should be on them, because it is they who are the heartbeat of our schools.'

I am delighted however, to inform you that the Acting Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Stephen Conway has nominated The Venerable Dr Justine Allain-Chapman, the Archdeacon of Boston, to be the new Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education. The Directors of the DBE appointed Archdeacon Justine to begin this role from today – the 19th April 2022. Archdeacon Justine brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role, having been Head of Religious Studies in a North London multi faith school, a lecturer in higher education, a foundation governor, a leader of collective worship in every type of school, and a published author of books about resilience. I'm sure many school leaders will already know Archdeacon Justine

well as she has served on the DBE before and has led headteacher retreat days as well as presentations at conferences for school leaders. Archdeacon Justine says,

‘I am delighted to be appointed as the new Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education. I would like to pay tribute for the excellent work Bishop Nicholas has done in this role and I know that the DBE is in a strong place to further develop church school education in the context of a rapidly changing educational climate. I am aware there is a lot to celebrate in our church schools and as Chair, I would like to promote the highly distinctive and effective provision in our schools. I will work with the Directors of the Board, to ensure the DBE team is well equipped to support school leaders to further develop our family of schools and academies. I am looking forward to this role very much so that I can enable the DBE to support church schools to serve their communities through ‘excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God’.



Archdeacon Justine will formally introduce herself by way of a letter to all school leaders in the coming days. We look forward to working with Archdeacon Justine.

New DBE staff appointment



I am pleased to announce that the DBE have appointed Sue Edgar to the new role of Governance and Compliance Lead. Sue brings a breadth of experience to this role, having worked with many Governing Boards as Governance Officer for North East Lincolnshire Governance Services. She has also served as a professional clerk and led a range of training events for governors and clerks in schools, academies and multi-academy trusts. Sue will be the key point of contact for church school governance, admissions and other compliance related matters. Sue begins with the team on 25th April 2022. Her contact details will be issued to all schools in the next few days. We look forward to working with Sue.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Thompson".

Paul Thompson

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Conferences

A purple banner with a white border. On the left is a circular image of a group of people in a meeting. On the right is a circular image of a laptop displaying a video conference. In the center, the text reads: "Join us for our Summer Term Training", "Click here for upcoming training and events", and the website "www.lincolndioCESanEducation.com/training-and-events". At the bottom center is the logo for the Diocese of Lincoln Board of Education, The Church of England, featuring two stylized figures.

If you would like your school or MAT trained together in the same subject, we can provide that. We can come to your school in person or deliver training online for a variety of areas.

Here are some suggestions:

- Developing a distinctive Christian vision for your school
- Governor Roles and Responsibilities
- RE Subject Knowledge
- Understanding Christianity refresher
- Collective Worship
- SEND - Flourishing for all
- MHFA

Email lynsey.norris@lincoln.anglican.org for more details.

Archbishop of York Youth Trust

Free Webinars

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop leadership and character through social action? Come and find out more about the **Young Leaders Award** Programme through our free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools. We are also running our **Introduction to Character Education** sessions with input from Dr Tom Harrison at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.

Find out more and sign up at www.abyyt.com/events.

Platinum Jubilee Challenge

Our 'Platinum Jubilee Challenge' asks pupils to consider what they would like to see change for the better over the next 70 years and to think about how they can start to take action towards these changes now and 'be the change they want to see' in their communities. To take part head to our



website www.abyyt.com/jubilee where you can download a FREE activity pack.

Springs Dance Company

The Good Samaritan, You Are Special and **PARABLE** - Springs Dance Company's latest offering to schools.

Specialising in cross-curricular dance, in particular with Religious Education, Values and PSHE, Springs Dance Company is delighted to be offering the following programme to schools for the Summer and Autumn Terms:

- ***The Good Samaritan*** - Focusing on the importance of helping others, these workshops touch on themes of living in a multi-racial / multi-religious society, ask moral questions and go deeper into RE.
- ***You Are Special*** – These workshops tackle the big issue of self-esteem and create opportunities for the children to discuss ideas about self-worth and how we treat others.
- **PARABLE Interactive Performance Workshop** - Combining a professional performance and integrated workshop experience in one, PARABLE provides an exciting opportunity for children to encounter and overcome creative challenges, accomplish tasks and influence the outcome of the performance whilst absorbed in a vibrant world of professional dance and theatre.

Further details on *The Good Samaritan, You Are Special, PARABLE* and all of Springs' workshops can be found at <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/index.php/join-in/schools-workshops>

To book and to find out more please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07876 752 910