



## From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –



‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

(Matthew 25: 34-40)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This week, we saw the biggest daily increase in fuel prices for 17 years. Unbelievably, it now costs £100

to fill a typical family car with petrol. This is having a massive impact on families and businesses across the country and the pressure is particularly felt in a rural diocese like ours where many of us depend on cars and buses to get to school and work.

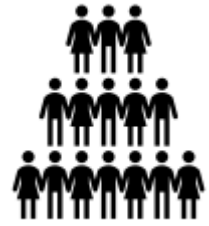
Not only are we seeing the price rise at the pumps but we know gas and electricity bills are increasing at record levels, the weekly grocery shop is more expensive and families face job uncertainty as businesses are having to make cut backs.

I understand that about 30% of children in greater Lincolnshire are living in poverty and some families have indeed had to make difficult choices between heating and eating. Three-quarters of children living in poverty are from households where at least one parent works.

In the UK and globally, there are many who lack essentials for living, including food, shelter and clothes. At the same time, there are many who have an abundance of such resources.

If the world was 100 people:

- 87 have access to clean water, 13 do not
- 77 have shelter, 23 don't
- 86 can read and write, 14 can't
- 15 make less than £1.50 a day, 83 make between £1.50 and £65, 1 makes more
- Out of those 100 people, one would control 50% of all the money in the world



In the New Testament, Jesus is described as having a real heart for those who are in need. In his teaching and his action, he encourages all to offer their time, talents and treasure to help others, including those who are less fortunate.

Once, he told the story of a king who was pleased with those who had chosen to help others. The King was delighted with those who:

- Gave those who were hungry something to eat
- Gave those who were thirsty something to drink
- Gave those who needed it clothes to keep warm
- Gave those who were ill medicine and care

The King said, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25: 40)

I know there are many excellent examples of courageous advocacy in our schools where staff and pupils have been inspired by Jesus' call to support others in need so they may flourish.

I'm aware that schools are engaged in a range of charitable acts and social action projects such as foodbanks, school uniform exchanges and environmental campaigns. In schools, I have seen pupils use their range of talents to help others. There are pupils who enjoy public speaking, others who like to research facts and others who love to create artistic campaign materials. A school that is able to harness the energy, motivation and determination of the pupils to tackle social injustice will find they have a community of passionate and committed courageous advocates.

If your school would like to share any case studies of social action projects, please send them to the DBE team for us to celebrate and share with others.

We can all make a difference. How we might your school use its time and talents to help others?



Are there any ways churches, community groups and schools might be able to work together to help others?

‘Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it’.  
(Proverbs 3:27)

The Faith at Home (Series 3) has some very [useful resources](#) for schools keen to engage with social injustice work. Christian Aid also has [resources](#) to help those that want to campaign to change things, to be courageous advocates. I’m sure you will know of many more virtual resources to shape your thinking and action in this type of work in schools.

At this point, I would also like to promote the [Bishop’s Ready for School Fund](#). This fund which comes from diocesan staff fundraising activities and donations aims to support pupils facing hardship and lacking the things they need in order to access confidently the full life of school and the curriculum.

Head teachers may apply to this fund to meet some of the identified needs of individual pupils. Items such as revision booklets, coats, school uniform or PE kit, lunchboxes, cookery ingredients or art or maths equipment are just some examples of where the fund can be put to work.

The fund is a practical expression of the diocesan central staff’s commitment to service as an outworking of – and central to – faith. The prayer is that funds will continue to meet the very real social needs in our schools and witness to the generosity of God through His people.

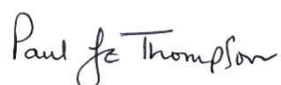
For more details of this fund and information on how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=Grants&pid=23>

### Prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you that you care for each one of us,  
and for the time, talents and treasure you have given us.  
Please help us to use these things to do good,  
and make the world a fairer and more equal place for all.  
Amen

Best wishes



Paul Thompson

## Important Updates and Messages

### Courses and Conferences

#### Aspirational Governor Conference 29th June 2022

We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Local Authority and are holding a joint Governor Conference on 29th June 2022.

The conference will include inspirational speakers, including Emma Knights from the NGA, and practical workshops to equip governors in their role.

To book, please click below -

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=185>

#### RE Council of England & Wales – Worldviews Project

The RE Council of England and Wales have been working hard to implement the recommendations of the Commission in RE outlined in their 2018 report, [Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward](#). As part of this process, and supported by funding generously provided by the Templeton Foundation, they have commissioned a team to produce a draft National Statement of Entitlement (NSE) for RE along with a supporting handbook for curriculum designers and syllabus writers. The next phase of this work is to commission three groups to use the handbook to support the development of an RE curriculum or syllabus that meets the expectations of the NSE. Following a rigorous bid process, the RE Council of England & Wales have announced the three teams who will develop an exemplar RE curriculum as part of their Worldviews Project.

**Our RE & SIAMS Advisor - Gillian Georgiou – and her team will be producing work from a mixed context of primary, secondary, single-form entry, mixed-age classes, Local Authority schools, academies, church schools and MATs from across England. They will have two working principles: (1) worldviews start with people and (2) pupils' ability to make sense of what they learn is a necessary part of the curriculum. They will further explore the use of disciplinary lenses familiar to those working with the Lincolnshire agreed syllabus as part of their curriculum. We are very excited that two of our RE teachers/subject leaders from this region will be part of that team: Sally Brooman (St Peter and St Paul's CofE Primary School, Scunthorpe) and Georgina Foxcroft (St Peter at Gowts CofE Primary School, Lincoln).**

Nikki McGee's team, from the Multi Academy Inspiration Trust, will be developing work for the schools in her MAT that embrace a knowledge-rich approach to a religion and worldviews education. Their aim is to enable young people to have informed and nuanced conversations about religious and non-religious worldviews.

Jen Jenkins and team are working with schools within Coventry and Warwickshire local authorities, and the Coventry Diocese. They will be producing work which develops the theme of reconciliation which is so important to the Coventry context.

If a local school, MAT or syllabus creator, would like to know more about the Draft Handbook, and how it is being tested by the teams, the RE Council of England & Wales is holding a webinar for them on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 4.30pm – 6pm. The flyer for this is attached.

## Barnardo's, NSPCC, Save the Children, and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Advice

Please find attached to this email, information from the above organisations, regarding provide practical advice and support to host families welcoming new arrivals from Ukraine into their households.

## Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Holocaust Memorial Day Trust are launching **Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys** - an immersive and innovative website, which maps previously unknown journeys of men, women and young people affected during the Holocaust. This unique experience follows individuals' journeys via an interactive map and through artefacts belonging to them, casting a light on lesser-known aspects of the Holocaust.

You are invited to join us online to see the website, consider how you might be able to use it in your settings and schools, and hear Holocaust survivor John Hadju MBE in conversation with Enver Solomon, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council. Together they will explore refugee experiences past and present and the role and relevance of 'ordinary objects'.

You can book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ordinary-objects-extraordinary-journeys-website-launch-tickets-342586955807>

## RE Regional Hubs – Regional Leads

RE Today are recruiting for the revised Regional Hubs programme and looking for Regional Leads.

Attached to this email – job description and revised timeline/information.

## Just Voting? On political participation and civic life - second lecture of Lincoln Cathedral Social Theology Series

by Maurice Glasman

on 12th July, 6.30 p.m. (following Choral Evensong at 5.30 p.m.)

Baron Glasman is an English political theorist, academic, social commentator, and Labour life peer in the House of Lords. He is Professor of Politics at St Mary's University, and also director of The Common Good Foundation, which is involved in local community organising work in Grimsby. (<https://www.commongoodfoundation.org.uk/>)

For more information please see

<https://lincolncathedral.com/forthcoming-events/just-voting-a-lecture-by-maurice-glasman/>

Tickets are available in advance, from the above link, or please contribute £5.00 in cash towards expenses on the day.

The lecture series exploring Catholic Social Teaching and Anglican Social Theory is a part of Lincoln Cathedral Common Good Project.

The lecture series is organised by Lincoln Cathedral, in partnership with Together for the Common Good (T4CG), Caritas in the Diocese of Nottingham, Bishop Grosseteste University, and Lincoln Theology Network. For an overview of the series, please see <https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/news/lincoln-lecture-series> The work of T4CG for this series is supported by CCLA, one of the UK's largest ethical fund managers.