

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I recently visited a church school outside of this Diocese whose vision was rooted in Matthew 5.16, *Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds*. Part and parcel of belonging to this school community was recognising that each person had inherent worth and that it is the responsibility of everyone to help shine a light on this. The school used the parable of the Lost Sheep to help the younger children understand how it is important to be the person who shines a light on others so that their good deeds can be known. Every day, a member of staff hid a big fluffy toy sheep somewhere around school. The challenge for the pupils was to find the sheep so it could be brought to collective worship at the end of the day where the whole school community shone a light on all the good deeds that had taken place that day.



I loved the idea of the pupils keeping an eye out all day long to find the lost sheep so that it could rejoin the school community, so I decided to use this parable with the children at my church on Sunday. I asked one child to read out the story, which can be found in Luke 15. The Bible we used was The Message version and I noted as the child read that in this translation the lost sheep is compared to a sinner, and the sinner is contrasted with “99 good people”. Sinner is a tricky word, so I asked the children what they thought it meant. Unsurprisingly, they went for the opposite of ‘good’ – a sinner is a ‘bad person’. This struck me as deeply problematic and strongly against the actual theme of the parable itself. We spent some time talking about the fact that there are not good people and bad people; just people: people who make good choices and bad choices. The story shows that we all make bad choices sometimes, but that Christians believe God always offers a route back when bad choices have been made. One bright spark told me that that was what Sirius Black had meant when he told Harry that “the world isn’t split into good people and Death Eaters. We’ve all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on.” (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*).



We are entering a season that weaves together light and dark in complex, challenging and beautiful patterns. Next week, Hindus will celebrate the festival of Diwali, which is rooted in a story about good choices and bad choices, and celebrates darkness being overcome with light. Christians, too, - particularly in this area of the world, - frame the preparation for Jesus' birth as a narrative of light overcoming the dark. We explore stories about people making good choices (Mary's acceptance of God's will that she should become the mother of Jesus) and people making bad choices (Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth, who does not believe that she will bear a son and is made silent by the Angel Gabriel for the duration of Elizabeth's pregnancy because of his lack of faith).

I know that you all help the children and young people in our schools and academies understand that the world cannot neatly be fit into black and white categories; that real life is much messier and more complex than we might sometimes like. I hope that you know that we celebrate along with you when good choices lead to flourishing in your schools and we stand alongside you when bad choices (of any kind!) make life trickier for you. We wish you all a smooth final week of the half term (how are we there already?!) and a wonderful rest over the half-term holiday.

from **Gillian Georgiou**, RE & SIAMS Advisor

Barton St Peters CofE Primary School—RE Quality Mark Gold

Barton St Peters have been awarded the RE Quality Mark, Gold!
Congratulations to all at the school, but particularly to Mrs Crosby.



BartonStP
@BSPCofE

...

We are very proud that we have been awarded the Gold RE Quality Mark for excellent, creative and innovative RE practice in school and for recognition of outstanding practice in the wider community! 🌟🌟🌟
thank you Mrs Crosby for all of your hard work
[@REQualityMark](#) [@lincolnldb](#)

Upcoming LDBE Courses—

For more information—click the links below!

18-10-22	13.00-15.00	Understanding Christianity Refresher	Online—click here
19-10-22	10.00-15.30	Wellbeing for Church School Leaders	Face to face—click here
20-10-22	10.30-12.30	Bishop's Visitor Regional Meeting	Face to face—click here
20-10-22	16.00-18.00	Governor Roles & Responsibilities	Online—click here
02-11-22	10.00-12.00	Growing Faith - Developing links Between Church, School & Household	Online—click here

Drop Everything and Listen!

Lincolnshire schools invited to join the 'Drop Everything and Listen!' campaign, powered by Clouddaloud Education.

Did you know that listening to stories improves outcomes for children who struggle with reading?



Using audiobooks in the classroom benefits reluctant readers by providing access to stories they may not be able to read in print [source: National Literacy Trust]. Audiobooks can also help families whose parents may not be confident readers, e.g. from a literacy or language perspective, and ensure that story time can be enjoyed by everyone.

Join Clouddaloud Education this November to support little listeners becoming little learners! Contact Marisa McGreevy-Rose at Clouddaloud Education for your free user log-in and supportive resources: mmr@clouddaloud-education.co.uk.



Checking the Pulse, Developing Collective Worship and the Spiritual Life of the School

The SIAMS 2021-2022 highlighted that Spiritual Development across the school was an area for development. This conference is to equip to you move forward in developing the spiritual life of your school.

Our keynote speakers and practical workshops will help you on your school's journey of spirituality.

Rebecca Swansbury is the Deputy Diocesan Director of Education at the Diocese of Canterbury. In her previous role with the Diocese as Schools Officer she was responsible for RE, Collective Worship and Christian distinctiveness. You may know her from her excellent document 'William and Lucy Lead Collective Worship' which support schools in pupils planning, leading and evaluation Collective Worship.

Lucy Moore is the Head of the Growing Faith Foundation. The Growing Faith Foundation started as a concept in 2019 to promote stronger partnerships between the Church, schools and households through various initiatives at both diocesan and parish level. Also the former founder of Messy Church Lucy has great insight into taking spirituality wider than collective worship.

Date: Wednesday 30th November 2022

Time: Arrival from 9:30am for 10am-3:30pm

Venue: The Showroom, Tritton Rd, Lincoln LN6 7QY

Cost

Staff: £180 (non SLA £285)

Governors: £140 (non SLA £220)

Clergy: £75

To book click here <https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?>





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Religions and Worldviews through Significant Texts—Beginnings

This is a session on exploring religions and worldviews through significant texts using Story Tent's scriptural reasoning approach. It is aimed at teachers for use in the RE classroom.

Many primary teachers feel they lack the expertise, confidence and resources to deliver the quality religious education they would like. The [Story Tent](#) seeks to address these concerns by providing resources that develop skills for intercultural and interfaith dialogue through an inquiry-based approach with an exploration of difference at its heart.

More information is available in the PDF sent with this newsletter.

Register below—

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/religions-and-worldviews-through-significant-texts-beginnings-tickets-404633338207>