

Dear Colleagues

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

This weekend we turned the clocks back and suddenly it feels like autumn has gone and winter is here. While it can be nice to get cosy in an evening under a blanket, perhaps with a film or a good book, it's not my favourite time of year – I much prefer the warmth of the sun. This is also the time of year I have to fight not to buy more fairy lights either for the garden or my house, I think it's just a hankering to keep things light and bright (without putting the big light on!)



Tonight, I am helping lead a light party (well, I think my job is to cook many, many hot dogs) as an alternative to the darkness and increasing fascination with Halloween and ghosts and ghouls. I am looking forward to children running around, eating lots of sweets, bouncing on bouncy castles, not focusing on the dark things of the world, but just having fun as children do. Light is important!

Darkness has all sorts of connotations such as evil, sadness or fear, even the Bible uses the imagery of darkness to contrast with the goodness of light. I like the imagery of John 1:5, that just as if I light a candle or turn on a torch in pitch blackness there is light; light cannot be overcome by darkness.

The preceding verses make it clear that this light is Jesus, that when he came to earth he was light and he brought light into a dark world, even when the darkness tried to subdue him, it could not.

Not only do we physically see more darkness at this time of year, it feels like our country is in a dark place at the moment, with people struggling to pay bills, people struggling with mental and physical health and a general feeling of instability. It would be easy to try and shy away from these things, but it is the reality of where we are at. At times this can feel very overwhelming, the news feels full of negativity and people wonder where it will all end. We don't have all the answers to this, we have to trust some people have some of the answers. However, for me this verse brings me comfort, another translation of the verse is 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it.' Not everyone in the world understands the light that is Jesus and the hope that he gives, however even if we don't understand the light it cannot be overcome, it does not require our understanding. Jesus is the light of the world, he brings light into the world, and though the world is full of darkness it has not overcome His light. In the end, there is hope.

From Lynsey Norris, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education

We know things are hard for many families and staff with the current cost of living. We have started to draw together places of information and support on our website, in geographical areas to help you find support easily. This is in no way complete, as there will be much more out there that we are not aware of.

If you are aware of any areas of support that are not school specific and would be beneficial to share please email Lynsey Norris : lynsey.norris@lincoln.anglican.org

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/costofliving>

Forthcoming Courses

08/11/2022 4pm-6pm

Developing Knowledge in the Curriculum: RE - Christian Worldviews (Substantive)

09/11/2022 4pm-6pm The SIAMS Journey Moving Forward Online

10/11/2022 4pm-6pm

SEND: Flourishing in Hope, Wisdom Dignity and Community

15/11/2022 4pm-6pm

Developing a Distinctive and Effective Church School - Wisdom

16/11/2022 1pm-4pm

Developing Knowledge in the Curriculum: RE - Theology (Disciplinary) Face to Face

16/11/2022 4pm-6pm Collective Worship Going Deeper: Inclusive

22/11/2022 4pm-6pm Developing Inclusion Through the Vision for Education: SEND

29/11/2022 4pm-6pm School Admissions

For more information about our training events, and to book, please see our website:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/professional-development-by-subject>

Conference on Wednesday 30th November 2022

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

It is nearly time for our 'Checking the Pulse, Developing Collective Worship and the Spiritual Life of Your School' Conference. We can now confirm all the workshops for the afternoon. Please see the attached flyers and agenda for more details.

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

Rebecca Swansbury — the Deputy Diocesan Director of Education at the Diocese of Canterbury. In her previous role with the Diocese, as Schools Officer, Rebecca 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 — 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/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10&pid=9&viewid=1&event=271>



**CHECKING THE PULSE
CONFERENCE**
*Developing Collective Worship and the
Spiritual Life of Your School*

Rebecca Swansbury
Deputy Diocesan
Director
Canterbury Diocese

Lucy Moore
Head of the Growing
Faith Foundation

30th November 2022 10:00 am - 3:30pm The Showroom, Tritton Rd, Lincoln LN6 7QY

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iSingPOP



iSingPOP are releasing their new classroom worship sessions. This term is based on Aspirations, Advent and Christmas. For after Christmas the series is on Creativity and then a 5 week mini series on the big story of the Bible starting in creation leading up to Easter. For more details head to <https://www.isingpop.org/schools>



Becoming a Wellbeing Leader in Education

From Dr Andy Cope
[Art of Brilliance](#)

We are running our first ever LEAD WELL programme. Details below. It's for those who want to be part of the wellbeing revolution.

If you want to help change the mental health narrative and/or embed wellbeing into the fabric of your school, please sign up.

Alternatively, please forward to the wellbeing lead in your workplace.

<https://www.artofbrilliance.co.uk/training/universities/lead-well/>



The Royal British Legion are bringing KS2 children together on Friday 11th November to explore the theme of service through a live interactive event. This has been co-produced with the National Literacy Trust and will feature music, film, art, interviews and culminate in the 2 minute silence at 11am. The link to register for this can be found here:

[Teaching Remembrance | Learning Resources | Royal British Legion](#)

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award Free Advent Resource

A new free resource for Advent this year: **'Follow the Star – Advent Journeys'**. The resource is available for pre-order and will be released as a full resource on 31st October. Schools can pre-order or sign up here: <https://www.abyyt.com/advent>

As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we invite schools to join us in exploring some of the journeys made in the Christmas story and to consider how these can help and inspire us on our own journeys in life. Join us in taking a look at the journeys made by Mary as she visits Elizabeth, by Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem and by the shepherds and wise men as they travel to meet and celebrate Jesus. The journeys offer us an invitation to hope, search, follow and rejoice.

Over four weeks the resource will explore what we can learn from these journeys and how they can inspire us to reach out and make a difference to others in our communities this Advent.

Each week includes:

Bible passage activity

Video Exploration

Questions to reflect on

Challenges

Prayer

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

We also have information webinars running about the Young Leaders Award programme and schools can sign up to find out more here: www.abyyt.com/events.

