

'God sets the lonely in families'  
Psalm 68:6a



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Family, a word that means very different things to different people. For some, that word sparks joy, happy memories, perhaps recent times or times gone by. For others, it is not a joyful word and can bring about painful thoughts and emotions. For some, family means those that we are related to, for others, it is those we choose to be our family. However we understand family, we all need people around us to have fun with, laugh with but also to walk alongside us in the difficult times. A common phrase we use in my church is to 'do life with' and we need people to 'do life with'.

We often talk about all the church schools in our Diocese as the 'church school family' and this is something we, as the education team, truly mean.

We see ourselves as part of this family: we love to support you in any way we can, celebrate your joys and walk alongside you in the difficult times. Whenever I come to visit a school, I always feel welcomed as part of the family, which is a great privilege.

However, we know that not everyone feels part of a family, or that you can belong to a family and still feel lack of support or loneliness. Statistics show that loneliness is a growing epidemic and it's not just about people being on their own. Loneliness is as much about being surrounded by people and feeling isolated. It can be related to poor mental health, struggling to cope with life or not being able to relate to those around you (<https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/the-facts-on-loneliness/>).

The first part of Psalm 68:6 shows that God does not want anyone to feel this way. To be lonely or isolated is not God's will for us. God's greatness can be seen in His compassionate concern and care for those who are in need and lonely. There are many verses in the Bible that show God asking his people to care for the needy, marginalised and disadvantaged, something you as church schools do so well (and increasingly more of). As part of this week's thought for the week, I wanted to introduce you to an organisation called [Safe Families](#), an organisation recognising the need in families and supporting them in lots of different ways. They are living out Psalm 68:6 by putting people in families, making sure those that need support get it.





*No one should feel alone. Facing life alone is hard, and when you feel there is no one there to support you, it is a scary place to be. At Safe Families, we exist to create relationship and connection because everyone deserves to belong. We offer support, hope and belonging to improve the lives of those in our communities by linking children, young people and families with local volunteers who can offer them help and support.*

*We currently partner with over 35 Local Authorities, as well as a small number of Multi Academy Trusts, to identify families most at need who can be helped and supported by trained and equipped volunteers.*

*We have different types of volunteers: **Family Friends** who work directly with families, coming alongside and giving support to parents and children when they need it most, making sure they feel less isolated; **Host Families** who open their homes to look after children from a night or two up to a couple of weeks, giving a regular break and space to families dealing with issues or challenges; **Resource Friends** who are able to provide (or transport) useful items, such as a cot or children's clothing, as well as those with helpful skills, such as cooking or gardening.*

*At the heart of all we do at Safe Families is the desire for families to feel seen, heard and understood. We want to break the cycle of loneliness, isolation and overwhelm, so that families can flourish and thrive.*

We are thrilled to be having conversations with Safe Families from Lincoln, but working across the geographical region of the diocese, to see how they can work to support your school and your families. If you would like more information please do head to their website, <https://safefamilies.uk/>. I would also be like to hear from any school that would be interested in find out more about the organisation and how they can work with your school or MAT.



As part of our church school family, we would love to invite you to come and be part of our Leadership Conference, this invite is for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chair of Governors and clergy. It is a day to hear from national speakers to inspire, challenge and encourage you in your work. There will also be opportunity to network with other leaders in our church school family. To book and for more information please use the following link

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10&pid=9&viewid=1&event=301>

*from* Lynsey Norris, **Assistant Diocesan Director of Education**

## Upcoming LDBE Courses—

For more information—click the links below!

08-03-23	16.00-18.00	Developing a Distinctive and Effective Church School - Dignity	<a href="#">Online—click here for more information</a>
09-03-23	10.00-15.30	Wellbeing for Church school leaders	<a href="#">Face to face—click here for more information</a>
10-03-23	10.30-15.00	Bishop's Visitors Conference	<a href="#">Face to face—click here for more information</a>

## Zellar—Sustainability Tool

Find below, a link to access Zellar, the sustainability score tool—for free—

<https://www.zellar.com/schools-nc23>



The Showroom,  
Tritton Rd, Lincoln,  
LN6 7QY

Headteacher, Senior Leader, Chair of  
Governor & Clergy Conference

ALL ONE -  
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE

29  
March,  
2023  
10am

## OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



THE RT REV  
STEPHEN  
CONWAY  
ACTING BISHOP  
OF LINCOLN



ALAN  
WATKINSON  
PARTNERSHIP  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT  
IMPACT - TEACHER OF  
MO FARRAH



LORRAINE  
PRINCE  
HEAD OF  
NETWORKS  
CEFEL



PROF. TREVOR  
COOLING  
PROFESSOR  
CANTERBURY CHRIST  
CHURCH UNIVERSITY



*'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* Galatians 3:28

## All One: Radically Inclusive

We are delighted to invite you to our Annual Headteacher, Senior Leaders, Chair of Governors and Clergy Conference – All One: Radically Inclusive.

We can announce our keynote speakers, that will each look at the theme from their own specialism on the day. The **Rt Rev Stephen Conway**, Acting Bishop of Lincoln, having first trained as a teacher as well as previously chairing the Council of the National Society Council which supports the church's work in schools and further and higher education, brings a wealth of experience to our conference. He will be inspiring and challenging us at the start of our day.

**Lorraine Prince** is the Head of Networks for The Church of England Education Office. She facilitates CPD and networks focusing on EDI, SEND, Trauma and Teaching and Learning. She previously was a teacher for twenty-five years in UK and US; having studied in London and New York. She co-leads the BAMEed Eastern region network, a grassroots network that ensures our diverse communities are represented as a substantive part of the education workforce for teachers and educational leaders

**Alan Watkinson** former teacher of **Mo Farrah** will also be joining us. Alan taught PE and History for 17 years in secondary schools. During this time, he was also a Head of Year and a Gifted and Talented Coordinator. He became Partnership Development Manager of Isleworth and Syon's School Sport Partnership (I and S SSP) in 2007. I and S SSP evolved into Sport Impact in 2011 and he has led the organisation throughout. You may know Alan as the teacher from the Mo Farrah documentary as he was the teacher that mentored Mo Farah through some very difficult times. If you have not seen the documentary we would highly recommend it. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001977f>

**Prof. Trevor Cooling** will be joining us for our afternoon session. Trevor is an Emeritus Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University. His role is to lead on research and knowledge exchange in Christian Education. His background is in secondary teaching, where he started his career as a biology teacher and then moved into RE teaching having taken two years out to study for a theology qualification. On the day Trevor will spend time exploring what it means in practice to develop a theologically grounded vision which is both deeply Christian and serves the common good.

### Details

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Time: 10:00am – 3:30pm (refreshments from 9:30am)

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

Cost: Staff £180 (non SLA £285)

Governors £140 (non SLA £220)

Clergy £75

To book please use the following link <https://www.lincolndioCESaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10&pid=9&viewid=1&event=301>