

Exodus 3:10 Moses and The Burning Bush

So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.

Dear Colleagues and Friends

It has been a real joy to have feedback about our vision launch, we are very grateful for all those that have taken the time to get in touch via email and X (formerly Twitter), to show how you watched it and your thoughts. As you know, we have created a number of resources to help you understand and embed our vision in the life of your school. For the next few weeks our reflections will be designed to explore it more deeply. These can be used with staff and the school community as an extra resource to work through our vision.



CALLED

Moses was **called** by God by name for a specific task. Some Christians would say that Moses was born and saved for a specific task – he was called to save the people of God from slavery. Only Moses could do this job, although God also sent his brother, Aaron, to support him.

It wasn't always easy for Moses; he came up against many obstacles and difficulties on his journey and I often wonder what kept him going. Our retelling of Bible stories can often feel a bit sanitized, but as Moses followed his calling and headed back to Egypt (with its hard-hearted Pharaoh and series of plagues), there must have been times when he felt like nothing was working, like he should just give up. However, I also imagine the joy he must have felt when things went well, particularly when the people of God were finally free from slavery.

There is so much we can draw from when we explore the story of Moses. Yes, Moses was called, but he did not pursue his calling without support – both God and various men and women were alongside him as he fulfilled his purpose. It is evident that his journey was difficult, but it is also evident that his purpose was clear and he knew what needed to be done to realise it.

Ultimately, the story of Moses' calling is a story about people: their inherent dignity and worth as people made in the image of God, and their right to live in freedom and hope.

I wonder whether any of this resonates with you in your school? Do you feel a sense of calling? Do you feel there is an underlying purpose to the work you are doing?

As I travel around our schools, this is certainly what I see. When things are tough or overwhelmingly busy, I see people whose sense of calling, purpose and relationship keeps them going. This is just as much the case in times of celebration as it is in times of challenge; in fact, I think it makes those celebrations all the more joyful and significant.



*Thus, when you wake up in the morning,
called by God to be a self again, if you
want to know who you are, watch your feet.
Because where your feet take you,
that is who you are.'*
Frederick Buechner



So, on those days of joy and those days of challenge, remember you are in your job for a reason – try, if you can, to explore that sense of calling so that you can recognize why you, like Moses, are in exactly the right place at exactly the right time. Like Moses' journey towards freeing the people of God from slavery, the impact may not be immediately clear, but regardless of this, you will be making a positive difference to those around you all the time.

I feel that we cannot talk about the plight of the people of God in Moses' time without commenting on the current situation in the Middle East. I don't have the words for the heartbreak we are seeing in that area of the world. However, I have included the Archbishop of Canterbury's prayer for your use. This is aimed at adults, rather than children, so you may need to consider adapting it if you wish to use it as part of collective worship this week.

Prayer Space in Schools also has resources to help children pray for the situation buff.ly/3LU7um3.

A prayer for the people of the Holy Land

God of compassion and justice,
We cry out to you for all who suffer in the Holy Land today.
For your precious children, Israelis and Palestinians,
Traumatised and in fear for their lives;
Lord, have mercy.

For the families of the bereaved,
For those who have seen images they will never forget,
For those anxiously waiting for news,
despairing with each passing day;
Lord, have mercy.

For young men and women,
heading into combat,
bearing the burden of what others have done and what they will be asked to do;
Lord, have mercy.

For civilians in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, that they would be protected, and that every life would count, and be cherished and remembered;
Lord, have mercy.

For the wounded, and those facing a lifetime of scars,
for those desperately seeking medical treatment where there is none;
Lord, have mercy.

For medical and emergency personnel, risking their own lives to save those of others;
Lord, have mercy.

For those who cannot see anything but rage and violence,
that you would surprise them with mercy, and turn their hearts towards kindness for their fellow human beings;
Lord, have mercy.

For people of peace,
whose imagination is large enough to conceive of a different way,
that they may speak, and act, and be heard;
Lord, have mercy.

Mighty and caring God,
you promised that one day,
swords will be beaten into ploughshares, meet us in our distress, and bring peace upon this troubled land.
Amen

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

from Lynsey Norris, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education



SIAMS conference 8th November 2023

With the reframing of the SIAMS inspection from September 2023, we would like to invite you to attend a full day of keynotes and workshops to help you understand the new SIAMS framework and prepare for your inspection.

'LIVING UP TO YOUR FOUNDATION'

SIAMS 2023 and beyond
The Showroom, Tritton Rd, Lincoln, LN6 7QY



08 NOV,
2023

10:00AM - 3:45PM

Keynote Speakers

David Tait - Deputy Director of SIAMS

Dave McPartlin - Headteacher of Flakefleet Primary (BGT Golden Buzzer Winner)

WORKSHOPS

- Collective Worship
- RE
- How do I articulate the theological underpinning of my vision ?
- Vision and Curriculum
- The Spiritual Life of Your School
- Courageous Advocacy
- Wellbeing



For more details go to <https://www.lincolndioceseandeducation.com/professional-development-by-subject> or scan the QR code



To book a place, please use link to our website [here](#)

Upcoming LDBE Courses

Please click on the course information below for more details and to book a place.

<u>18/10/2023</u>	<u>16:00-18:00</u>	<u>Church School Governor Induction</u>	<u>online</u>
<u>19/10/2023</u>	<u>10:00-16:00</u>	<u>New Church School Headteachers Induction Day</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>08/11/2023</u>	<u>10:00-15:30</u>	<u>SIAMS 2023 and beyond</u> <u>Living up to Your Foundation</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>13/11/2023</u>	<u>16:00-18:00</u>	<u>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Opening the Conversation</u>	<u>online</u>
<u>23/11/2023</u>	<u>16:00-18:00</u>	<u>The RE Curriculum</u>	<u>online</u>
<u>28/11/2023</u>	<u>10:00-15:30</u>	<u>Developing the Spiritual Life of Your School</u>	<u>In person</u>
<u>07/12/2023</u>	<u>10:00-12:00</u>	<u>IDSR</u>	<u>In person</u>

Websites

As part of our work supporting your school, we regularly look at school websites. This informs the basis of our conversations with you, as well as with inspectors for SIAMS and Ofsted when they request to speak to us. It has been noted that some school websites do not always contain up-to-date information, including information about the school's religious character, such as its distinctively Christian strategic vision (context and theological underpinning), the connection between the school's vision and its curriculum intent, and the school's approach to collective worship, spiritual development and RE. This is vital information that helps us support you effectively, as well as ensuring we are able to represent you fairly to inspectors.

We'd like to encourage you to think about your website as a window to your school: this is the first impression and knowledge basis that people see and use as evidence for your school. If you know there are elements of your website that need updating, it may be worth having a notice stating that the website is under construction.

Photography Exhibition/Art Project Opportunity at Lincoln Cathedral

Peter Marlow: The English Cathedral

Lincoln Cathedral are currently hosting the wonderful '*Peter Marlow: The English Cathedral*' exhibition until the 6th of November 2023.

The main aspect of the exhibition is to make art and photography accessible to all school aged children.

We have been invited to share complimentary resources to aid art and photography lessons.

Alternatively, if you would like to combine a school visit to see the exhibition, and take part in a School Workshop, please find the attached School Visit Brochure and Booking Form from Lincoln Cathedral Learning Centre.