

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

If you have had any conversations with the education team over the last few years you have probably heard us talk about the 'Church School Family'. It is something I feel we talk about a lot and hopefully you feel we try to embody as we go about our work. The Diocese is geographically large; for many schools, it may sometimes feel that you far from anyone else. However, I hope as we try to live out what it



means to be a church school family, these feelings are few and far between. As a team we are constantly talking about how we can bring people together so we can support one another, spur one another on and be that family. Covid changed many of our working practices and Zoom has become the norm. In a Diocese this size, it is extremely helpful in allowing us to 'meet up' and feel part of a wider network. However, it is also very powerful to come together in person, to chat over a cup of tea, to visibly see a school or to have incidental conversations as you pass one another in a corridor. It's important that we continue to meet together in real life!

The verse in Hebrews that links to one of our vision drivers, Aspirational, is a call to be empowered by God and do life together. This is a vision of doing life together as a family does: in the good times and the not so good times, when life is messy and when life feels wonderful. Whatever life feels like, it is about encouraging one another at all times, offering help and support so that you can move forward in all that you are doing in your schools. We want to spur you on towards love and good deeds, to be aspirational for yourselves, your staff and the children and young people in your schools. However, I think it's important to note that this is not a one-way street. When we meet with you, we are encouraged to move forward, to be aspirational in all we do and, as part of our church school family, to celebrate with you and stand with you in the difficult times.

This verse and many others in the Bible talk of the fact that we are not meant to do life alone, that we are relational beings. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 states:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Enthronement and Installation of Bishop Stephen

On Saturday, some of our church schools represented the Church School family at the Bishop's Enthronement, before the service began in the Cathedral children led Bishop Stephen in some Collective Worship at St Peter's in Eastgate church. There was singing, a bible reading and explanations of the Lincoln DBE Vision. The children then escorted the Bishop to the cathedral – with the Bishop stopping traffic to allow the safe crossing of the road for everyone - and entered the Cathedral with him through the West Door. Children also took part in the service by shaking the Bishop's hand in welcome and being part of the prayers said, they also had the privilege of going into the chapter house with the Bishop, senior clergy and choir as he was seated on the Chief Seat.



It was a powerful reminder that our church schools are part of a wider Diocesan family, a family that prays for one another, champions one another and cares for one another.







Upcoming LDBE Courses

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

Date	Time	Course	
13/11/2023	16:00-18:00	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Opening the Conversation	online
23/11/2023	16:00-18:00	The RE Curriculum	online
28/11/2023	10:00-15:30	Developing the Spiritual Life of Your	In person
07/12/2023	10:00-12:00	IDSR	In person
07/12/2023	17:30-19:00	Clerk to Governors Briefing	online

Considerations for Schools in Supporting Pupils and Staff at Times of International Conflict

Please find attached to this email, a paper from the Church of England Education Office regarding the above.