

The Diocesan Board of Education

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Last Thursday, I listened to Dr Sanjee Perera's lecture for the Institute of Educational and Social Equity on the ways in which the Church's legacy of slavery and empire shapes education in the UK. It was a fascinating and sobering talk.

During this period of Lent, I have been reflecting a lot on Jesus' approach to challenging injustices. He doesn't tell people they are bad or they are good; he recognises that most people are a mixture of both most of time. Perhaps he even recognises this tendency in his own life on earth. As he moves towards the end of his life, he increasingly focuses on the systems and institutions that were enabling injustice, rather than on the individuals participating in it.



Any major social endeavour – religion, government, healthcare, education – is liable at some point to develop to the point where it needs systems and institutions. Many of these will be positive and supportive, ensuring that people are valued and protected. Others, however, might be perpetuating injustices – either consciously or unconsciously.

It made me think about how our own field of endeavour – education – might perpetuate injustices, not in the ways individuals treat individuals necessarily, but embedded in its very systems. Take, for example, our focus on knowledge progression in the curriculum. In order to even talk about this, we have to know what we mean by 'knowledge', 'knowing' and 'making progress'. So, who decides what counts as 'knowledge'? What traditions of knowledge are we drawing from? Who constructed these in the first place? What categories did they use to identify what counts as 'important' knowledge? What – potentially unjust – assumptions underpinned this? How has this shaped our educational systems today?

And how do we know what it means to know? Is it, for example, the same for neurotypical and neurodiverse pupils? If not, then which approach drives our teaching – the former or the latter? And either way, who loses out?

And then how do we help pupils to understand what it looks like to 'get better' in each subject? Does 'getting better' look the same for every subject, every pupil? If not, then how flexibly do our systems and institutions respond to this in their ways of holding us to account as educationalists?

How might the ways in which we teach our pupils to *know* induct them into unjust systems?

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What is worse – noticing this and not doing anything about it or not noticing it at all?

It is fair to say that there are plenty of people, Dr Perera among them, who are working hard to direct our attention to these systemic injustices, just as Jesus did in his own lifetime. Professor Michael Young's work on powerful knowledge is another example of this, as is the work of the Education Racial Justice team in the Church of England, including Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde, Elizabeth Olulari and Lorraine Prince. The Archbishop of Canterbury's [Difference](#) programme is another example of providing children and young people with the skills they need to notice and address matters of justice and injustice, including in their own learning.

As we move through Lent, I invite you to notice: to look at the things we take for granted and ask the question, 'why?' Why do we do it like this? Why do we prioritise that? How might it look different if we were to reimagine things? And remember, you are in good company as you do so!

from Gillian Georgiou, RE & SIAMS Adviser



WE ARE HIRING

ADMINISTRATOR



The Diocesan
Board of Education



Full Time (37.5 hours per week) and permanent

Salary: £25,000

Location: Edward King House, Minster Yard, Lincoln, LN2 1PU
(working from home for part of the week can be negotiated)

Start date: Easter 2024 (or earlier by negotiation)

The Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to join our dedicated and talented team which inspires our family of church schools and academies across the Diocese of Lincoln. This is an exciting and rewarding role, in the context of an organisation which places Christian vision and values at the centre of all that we do.

For more information, go to—<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/vacancies>



The Rt Revd Stephen Conway
Bishop of Lincoln



Andy Wolfe
Executive Director of Education, Church
of England



Alison Kriel
Executive Director of Education, Church
of England



Vic Goddard
Principal of Passmores Academy and star
of the Bafta nominated Channel 4
documentary 'Educating Essex'

To book use the link below
www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/leadershipconference

Join us for our Annual
Headteacher, Senior
Leader, Chair of Governor
& Clergy Conference

The Showroom, Tritton Rd,
Lincoln, LN6 7QY

£185 school staff (non SLA £290)
£145 Governors (non SLA £225)
£75 Clergy



FLOURISHING FOR ALL

LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

Thursday 21st March 2024
10am-3:45pm

*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.*
John 10:10

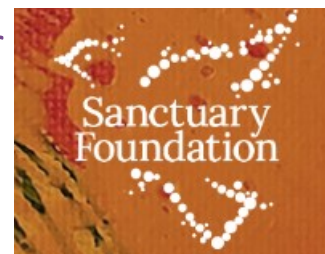
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Diary of Upcoming LDBE Courses—

Date	Time	Course	
28/02/2024	16:00-18:00	Collective Worship: Enabling pupils and adults to flourish	online
29/02/2024	16:00-18:00	Evaluating the Impact of your Theologically Rooted Vision on the Curriculum	online

No Place Like Home—Art and Poetry Competition for Schools

Sanctuary Foundation is proud to present an exciting new art and poetry competition that invites students from years 3-13 to reflect on what life is like for the 43.3 million children around the world who are displaced. Schools should digitally submit their top 3 pieces in each category.



Students can create either a piece of artwork or a piece of poetry illustrating their empathy with or experience of being separated from the place they call home. These creations will be judged by a fantastic panel of celebrities, refugees, and journalists with the top 30 entries going on display in The British Library during National Refugee Week (17th-21st June 2024).

They will also be featured in a special national online assembly, in the press and elsewhere. The prize ceremony will be at the British Library on World Refugee Day (20th June 2024)

<https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/art/>

School News



The Diocesan Board of Education

Barton St Peter's CofE Primary School—Stations of the Cross

On Wednesday 21st February 2024 we had the privilege of attending a service in St Mary's Church led by Reverend Alan Wright to bless and dedicate the Stations of The Cross art installation that our Y5 and Y6 children have made as part of the Growing Faith initiative. This is an initiative being promoted by the Church of England to try and create greater cohesion between church, schools and families.

The 15 canvases tell the story of Jesus being led to his place of crucifixion through to the resurrection. The children worked in groups of 4/5 and each group was allocated a particular part of the story to represent in art. Their chosen media was collage. The children were then given free rein to interpret each stage of the story as they wished but great cohesion was created with the story flowing.

They are stunning pieces and will be a permanent feature in St Mary's for everyone to see; in particular we hope families will go and see them thus strengthening the link between family and school.

It was evident that all of the children had enjoyed producing these and were very proud of their work; they enjoyed telling Reverend Wright and Mrs Wind, our foundation governor, all about their pieces and how they created them. Mrs Wind told us that the Sunday morning congregation (18th February) were very impressed with the work that had gone into this project. We hope visitors to St Mary's will also enjoy looking at the artwork. Several members of the St Mary's congregation made cash donations to cover the cost of the canvases.

The Y6 children will be able to 'compare' their work to the Stations of the Cross at Lincoln Cathedral later in the year when they attend the Y6 Church school festival, which they are very excited about.

We are very proud of the children and the work they have produced.

from Adeline Brack, **Headteacher**

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