

Dear Friends and Colleagues -



The Diocesan Board of Education

Stir-up Sunday

Yesterday marked Stir-up Sunday, the final Sunday of the Church year, and also the Feast of Christ the King. This is a day when the liturgical calendar ends with the declaration: Jesus reigns! If you are following tradition, it also marked the moment when spoons were raised, aprons were donned, and families across the land began the task of stirring up their Christmas puddings, mincemeat, and cakes.

The name "Stir-up Sunday" comes from the collect in the Book of Common Prayer: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people..."

It's a prayer that sounds suspiciously like a divine nudge to get cracking on your festive baking. Coincidence? Perhaps not.

In Victorian times, this collect was taken quite literally. Families would gather to stir their pudding mixtures, each person taking a turn and making a wish. The idea was to let the flavours mature over Advent—just like our hearts, as Christians prepare for the coming of Christ.

So, whether you spent your Sunday mixing dried fruit and brandy or simply mixing lesson plans and laundry, take heart: this season is about preparation, both practical and spiritual.

As we look ahead to Advent, Christians can reflect that Christ's kingship is not about pomp and power, but about love, humility, and service. In the Gospel reading from John 18v36, Jesus says: "My kingdom is not of this world."

However, it is in this world that Christians live out His reign—through kindness in the classroom, patience in the staffroom, and joy in the everyday.

So as you stir up your puddings, stir up your hearts, and maybe even stir up a bit of laughter. As one old rhyme goes:



**"Stir-up Sunday's here at last,
Time to mix the fruit up fast!
With spoons and prayers and festive cheer,
We bake and hope for Christ to near."**

**Wishing you well this week as you
stir, serve, and smile!**

June Richardson
Schools Effectiveness Advisor



The Bishop of Lincoln's

Ready for school fund

Supporting children and young people who need financial support to fully engage in the life of school and benefit from educational opportunities.

The fund is faith in action to meet an important social need. It is witness to the generosity of God's people that the funding can assist with...



Essential items

Bedding, clothing, shoes, uniform, books, stationary, lunchboxes, bags, additional needs resources.

School activities

Excursions, residential visits, theme days, pantomimes and drama productions, equipment for clubs.

Wider activities

Out of school club memberships and equipment for community-based clubs or events.

How to apply

Schools are encouraged to apply for grants of usually **up to £150 per child** on behalf of families in the church school community.

Simply fill in the online form or send physical applications to: education@lincoln.anglican.org

lincolndiocesaneducation.com/grants



Free Resources from Empathy Week 2026

From 9-13 March 2026, schools around the world will get FREE access to a week of storytelling, films, events, and classroom resources - all designed to help students aged 5-18 develop the skill of empathy.

This year's theme, "My Culture, Your Culture, Our Culture", invites students to explore identity, belonging, and what unites us across cultures.

What's included (completely free!):

Accredited Teacher CPD
Live in-person events (UK only)
Ready-to-use films and lesson plan resources
On-demand speakers and pre-recorded assemblies

Whether you're a teacher, school leader, or education partner, this is an opportunity to bring empathy to life in your classrooms - through powerful storytelling and meaningful discussion!

[Find out more and register your school at this link](#)