

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

I don't know about you, but I do my doom scrolling last thing at night before I go to bed. It's not the healthiest choice, and certainly not the choice I would like my daughter to make, but every once in a while, it throws up something interesting.

In the past week, I have watched two short videos that have helped to shift my perspective. In the first, the speaker pointed out that in the Gospels, Jesus asks over 380 questions. He was asked 180 questions. He directly answered 3.

This made me reflect on how we understand leadership. Perhaps leadership is not about having the answers; perhaps it is about learning how to ask good questions. Leading like Jesus might require us to ask questions like, 'What would you like me to do for you?' (Mark 10.51), 'Why are you so afraid?' (Matthew 8.26) or 'What do you think?' (Matthew 18.12). Asking powerful questions can help us go deeper: to open up to new ways of thinking and being, to know each other better. This may be more disruptive, perhaps even a little scarier, but it can also offer us a space of truth, freedom and grace.

The second video introduced me to Filippino Lippi's [The Virgin and Child with Saints Jerome and Dominic](#) (c. 1485). This painting was originally commissioned as part of an altarpiece for a prominent family in Florence. However, from a purely artistic perspective, it looks a little odd: the proportions appear skewed and the distant hills in the background seem to be escaping the frame. The saints are positioned awkwardly, and the Virgin Mary's gaze seems dead-eyed. This was noted by the art critic, Robert Cummings, who wondered why an artist of such distinction would produce an artwork that seemed so peculiar. He reflected on this when visiting the National Gallery in London in which the painting is displayed. It suddenly struck him – the painting looks odd because it was never meant to be looked at whilst standing. He dropped to his knees, and the painting came into focus – this painting only makes sense when you are on your knees at the altar.

This made me reflect on the importance of our posture: after all, the world looks different from your knees. It is fitting for us, every so often, to see things from a new perspective.

I hope during this period of Lent you are finding the time to see things from different perspectives. I hope you are giving yourself the grace to take different postures and to ask new questions. And I hope that reflecting on Jesus' question, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' (Matthew 9.28), you feel able to give a resounding 'yes!'

Gillian Georgiou
RE & SIAMS Advisor



LIVING OUT OUR VISION

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

Leadership Conference

 DIOCESE OF LINCOLN | The Diocesan Board of Education

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
**THE RIGHT REVD
DR NICHOLAS
CHAMBERLAIN**
ACTING BISHOP OF LINCOLN



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
**STEVE
CHALKE**
FOUNDER OF OASE
CHARITABLE TRUST



**THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026
10AM-4PM**

The Showroom
Tritton Road
Lincoln
LN6 7QY

KINDLY SPONSORED BY




**COST: £99 (SLA/MPA) £150 (NON-SLA)
GOVERNORS: £99 (SLA/MPA) £150 (NON-SLA)
CLERGY: £50**

Reduced Ticket Price – Book Now!

Thanks to generous sponsorship from NCS, tickets for our Living Out Your Vision: Meeting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable conference have been significantly reduced. We've had a great response so far, but there's still space for more school leaders to join us.

This year you can choose three workshops across the day, offering practical insights from the DBE team and experienced diocesan Headteachers. Topics include spirituality, governance for vulnerable pupils, inclusion and belonging, and RE case studies.

We're delighted to welcome The Right Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain and Steve Chalke MBE, who will share reflections on leading with Christian vision centred on the most vulnerable.

 Thursday 26th March

 The Showroom, Tritton Rd, Lincoln LN6 7QY

 10:00am – 4:00pm

Reduced Cost

- Staff & Governors (SLA/MPA): £99
- Staff & Governors (Non-SLA): £150
- Clergy: £50

[**BOOK HERE!**](#)

Upcoming Courses & Events

Date	Time	Course		Book Here
17/03/2026	10:00-12:00	Preparing for SIAMS - Monitoring and Evidence Gathering	Online	BOOK
26/03/2026	10:00-15:45	Living Out Our Foundation: Meeting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable Leadership Conference	Face to face	BOOK
29/04/2026	13:30-15:00	RE Cluster	Online	BOOK
30/04/2026	10:00-12:00	Preparing for SIAMS inspection - Empowering All, a culture of active justice and responsibility	Online	BOOK

School Improvement

There are a number of useful training materials for schools which have recently been circulated but we are aware that not all head teachers have seen these.

Ofsted

In line with their commitment to greater transparency, Ofsted have now shared their inspector training videos. These can be found here. [Your paragraph text](#)

Some school leaders have shared these with key staff on their team e.g. foundational knowledge (EYFS and KS1 teachers) inclusion (SEND/CO/ PP leaders) etc.

Regional Improvement for Standards and Effectiveness (RISE)

Please remember that whilst there are universal priorities for RISE, there is greater alignment to regional priorities through the training offers.

East Midlands RISE (Lincolnshire schools)

RISE Universal offer - Literacy Spring 26

[🔗 RISE East Midlands Literacy - Universal Offer Spring 26 - All Key Phases](#)

Leadership and SEND - FREE

‘Writing Without Barriers - Strategies for Pupils with SEND’

In every classroom, there are pupils with brilliant ideas who struggle to get them onto the page. This focused session explores the often-overlooked transcription side of writing from handwriting and spelling to sentence construction. Discover why writing is as physically demanding as it is cognitively complex and how to better support pupils so their writing truly reflects their potential.

This is a recorded webinar with an accompanying workbook, released on Wednesday 25th March

👉 [Click here to book your place.](#)

Yorkshire and Humber RISE (North and North-East Lincolnshire schools)

Attainment webinars (running every Thursday in March, 4-5pm)

- Y&H Regional Network Event: Raising Attainment in Maths

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/e506bb89-0d6a-48db-8d8c-59a134aa20fa@fad277c9-c60a-4da1-b5f3-b3b8b34a82f9>

This session will feature key strategies used by some of the highest-performing schools and trusts to secure marginal gains for all pupils - including disadvantaged pupils - in Mathematics in the build-up to SATs.

- Y&H Regional Network Event: Raising Attainment in Reading
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/83bb3a5a-bc48-439d-90ca-ca0b7236bbb8@fad277c9-c60a-4da1-b5f3-b3b8b34a82f9> This session will feature key strategies used by some of the highest-performing schools and trusts to secure marginal gains for all pupils - including disadvantaged pupils - in Reading in the build-up to SATs.
 - Y&H Regional Network Event: Raising Attainment in Writing
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/df735dc8-782d-42eb-9f07-fcd544ea14d6@fad277c9-c60a-4da1-b5f3-b3b8b34a82f9> This session will feature key strategies used by some of the highest-performing schools and trusts to raise attainment for all pupils - including disadvantaged pupils - in Writing.
 - Y&H Regional Network Event: Session 4 Preparing Pupils Well -
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bfa80ed3-0eb5-44f2-8a27-65e20304f761@fad277c9-c60a-4da1-b5f3-b3b8b34a82f9> This session will feature key strategies used by some of the highest-performing schools and trusts to ensure pupils are confident, relaxed and well prepared for SATs
 - Inclusive mainstream conference – Royal Armouries, next Tuesday 10 March (sign up has now closed but please encourage those who've signed up to attend)
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World book day and school visions

On World book day, Welton St Mary's challenged their children to find quotes from their 'book spine books' which related to their church school vision.

Not only did children have to work out the book and the author but, they were also challenged to work out the connection to the school's theologically rooted vision and associated values (See attachment).

There are so many opportunities, in the books we share, to reflect on our church school vision and values. Perhaps this is an activity that can go beyond World Book Day? Perhaps a challenge that librarians can take ownership of too.

Here are some examples which would link to vision and values which speak about compassion for others:

The Lorax, Dr Seuss "Unless someone like you cares... nothing will get better."

Charlotte's Web, E.B White "You have been my friend. That in itself is a tremendous thing."

Winnie the Pooh, A.A Milne "A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference."

Elmer, David McKee, "It's his colours that make him Elmer."

The Boy at the back of the Class, Onjali Q. Ra'f "I made a secret promise to myself that I would be friends with the new boy"

Picture News - Middle Eastern Conflict

Attached is a PowerPoint provided by Picture News - and some guidance below -

'This story should be shared in a calm, factual and reassuring way. Avoid graphic details, images of conflict or political debate. Emphasise that the events are complex, happening far away, and that many adults and organisations are working towards safety and peaceful solutions. Provide reassurance to pupils and allow space for questions, as some children may have personal connections to the region.'

Katie Harrison / Head of Support

help@picture-news.co.uk / 01765 609888

www.picture-news.co.uk

Bishop's Easter Letters for Bishop's Visitors

LDBE is expecting the Easter Bishop's letter from the Bishop's Office, and hope to receive it by 20th March 2026 to circulate to schools in good time for the end of term.

We will contact the Bishop's Visitors if there is any change to this timetable.