

# School Newsletter

*Putting our faith in Education*

Autumn Term 2007 Vol 3 Issue 3

## From Maurice Smith

First I would like to thank all colleagues for the very warm welcome I have received on my return to working in Manchester. Particular thanks to Bishops Michael and Nigel, to all the staff in Church House, and to all my colleagues in schools who have already invited me to their school or met me elsewhere.

Let's start with the schools. Those of you who have worked with me before will know that, like your pupils, I learn most when I am in school. I intend to be in schools as often as possible and have committed myself to visit every school in the diocese during my first two years (if invited, of course). The map is on my wall, and I don't make a habit of false promising. As well as attending special events in a representational role, it is important for me to have a dialogue with school leaders and teachers about what it means to be a Church of England school in a 21<sup>st</sup> century educational environment. I particularly enjoy a discussion with the pupils. In this way, I hope to model the Pilgrimage of Bishop Nigel who is visiting all parishes in five years.

My colleagues will continue to offer, and improve upon, the quality of service established by Jan Ainsworth. Over the summer we have worked as a team to focus on the services we provide to our schools which all fall under the school improvement heading, concentrating on: our support for school leaders; our distinctive inspection and curriculum advisory role; support and training for governors; and our role in managing our estate of school buildings. As a very small (but perfectly formed!) team of staff (compare this to the size of a LA, and we serve 190 schools in 12 of those) we shall continue to do our best, within the resources available, to meet your needs in these areas. I am also pleased that the Education portfolio in the Diocese includes two specialist colleagues, one for children's work and one for youth work, which predominantly takes place outside schools in our parishes. Finally,

Continued page 2

## Farewell To Bishop Michael

**The Rt. Rev'd. Michael Lewis**, Bishop of Middleton and Chair of the Board of Education, has been appointed Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf. He will take up his duties in mid-November and will be based in Nicosia in Cyprus.

Bishop Michael has been fully involved in the work of the Board of Education. He has visited many church schools in the diocese and been an excellent advocate for education and church schools in the diocese and nationally. Over the seven years he has been in Manchester he has opened many new buildings, presented inspection certificates and made educational and pastoral visits at the request of headteachers and governing bodies.

Rt. Rev'd. Michael Lewis

In his new role Bishop Michael will be responsible for congregations in northern and southern Cyprus, the Gulf States, including Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen, as well as the Anglican chaplaincy in Iraq, based at Saint George's in Baghdad. The diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is one of four dioceses in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, which stretches from Algeria to Iran and from Lebanon to the Horn of Africa.

Bishop Michael said: "Being the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf is a unique challenge. It will be a fascinating and humbling ministry covering a part of world where the great questions of our day are focused. It will combine caring for the many people who work in the Gulf; those who are in vulnerable situations and those who value the presence of the church. The role not only includes travelling to Christian communities, but also talking and getting to know the politics of the region. I greatly look forward to carrying on my interest with other faiths, particularly Islam. I also look forward to working with the Eastern Orthodox Church."

---

## Survival of the Human Spirit

**The Council of Christians and Jews** (Manchester) is holding a Holocaust study day conference on Friday 09 November 9 am to 8.45 pm for Christian clergy, educators and students. 'Survival of the Human Spirit' takes place at the Cathedral Visitor Centre with several lectures, workshops, resources, Sabbath evening service, lunch and evening meal and costs £36 (concessions £25). Details from 0161 485 or [info@tikkunolam.org.uk](mailto:info@tikkunolam.org.uk)

I would like to thank my HE and FE chaplains who do such faithful work in our colleges and universities.

Strategically, the Diocese through the Board of Education faces a key decision-making period in relation to our involvement in the Academy programme in the secondary phase. Lord Adonis, the minister responsible, is keen to push ahead quickly with the opening of new academies and, as a Diocese, we are in the 'hot seat'; already we are co-sponsors of Salford City Academy and St Anne's in Middleton, which formally opened this term. With more proposals on the table, it is timely for the Board to 'take stock' and articulate a formal strategy taking into account our relationship with co-sponsors; location; designation; funding; and our missionary desire to offer Church of England secondary education to those children who are most disadvantaged in society. Please pray for the Diocesan team as we wrestle with these decisions.

---

## Connecting globally

We continue to encourage schools to develop international links and global perspectives in the curriculum. We would like to hear of relationships which are working well so that we can report them in future newsletters.

Currently the news from our link Diocese of Lahore is not encouraging but everyone hopes that a more settled situation prevails after the elections in November. Planning is continuing for a young people's visit to schools and churches in April 2008. We would particularly like to hear from young Christian teachers, especially if you are involved in the performing arts, who would welcome the opportunity to take part in this visit. As it is taking place during term time you will obviously need to have your school's permission. If you know of other people who would be able to take part, please contact John Wilson at the Board of Education; Tel: 0161 828 1436; e-mail: [JohnWilson@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:JohnWilson@manchester.anglican.org)

The British Council is running a conference, 'Involvement for All' at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster on Monday 12 November. Details from Jane Ladbury on 020 7389 4417 or at [involvementforall@britishcouncil.org](mailto:involvementforall@britishcouncil.org)

## Stained Glass Windows

**Chris Barratt**, the redundant churches officer for Manchester Diocese, has a selection of stained glass windows that he is able to offer to schools. If you are interested please contact Chris, giving details and measurements of your requirements. Photographs of the windows can be viewed at the Diocesan offices by appointment and costs will be negotiated as an enquiry is progressed. For further information please write to Chris at Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance, Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH or e-mail him at [Cbarratt@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:Cbarratt@manchester.anglican.org)

---

## Taking faith seriously

Training event

**The National Christian Teachers' Conference 2007** is being held at Luther King House, Manchester on 05 to 07 October. The theme of 'taking faith seriously' will examine:

- recognising and celebrating the faith dimension in schools;
- the contribution of the Christian faith to developing social cohesion in school
- equipping Christian teachers to take their own faith seriously in the classroom

Speakers include Trevor Cooling, Director of the Transforming Lives project and Andrew Graystone, Director of the Churches' Media Council (UK).

Details are available from The Stapleford Centre, The Old Lace Mill, Frederick Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8FN Tel: 0115 939 2076; Fax: 0115 939 2076; E-mail: [conferences@stapleford-centre.org](mailto:conferences@stapleford-centre.org)

---

## Sixth Form: Same Planet: Different World

Training event

**Lat Blaylock** is helping to organise a conference for teachers, youth workers, chaplains and all those working in or visiting 6<sup>th</sup> forms and FE Colleges. It is an opportunity to see and try out the best resources on spiritual topics, meet others, hear lectures, participate in workshops, get inspired and motivated. The conference, at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire, runs from 4.00 pm Friday 05 October to 4.00 pm on Saturday 06 October and costs only £50. Details from Nicki Summerson on 01582 877220; e-mail: [mail@dare2engage.org](mailto:mail@dare2engage.org)

---

## RE at the Centre

Training event

**The St Gabriel** 9<sup>th</sup> RE Teacher Weekend is from 10.30 am 13 October to after lunch on 14 October at Wokefield Park near Reading. It is intended for primary co-ordinators and secondary RE teachers with between 1 and 15 years' experience. Speakers include John Keast, Joyce Miller (Chair of AREIAC), Deborah Weston (chair of NATRE) and Prof Terence Copley and seminar topics include 'Better RE', 'Addressing Islam in the classroom', 'RE & ICT', 'Godly Play', 'Assessment', 'Experiential learning' and 'Resourcing'. The weekend is free to first-time attenders but those who have been before are asked to pay a nominal £35. Details and forms are available from [www.culham.ac.uk/sg/weekend](http://www.culham.ac.uk/sg/weekend)

# New to the Job

We wish the following new headteachers and deputy headteachers well as they take up their new posts in September 2007 and January 2008.

Jonathon Fish	H	St Mary's Prestwich
Sue Wilson	H	Canon Johnson
Sally Magill	H	St John's Kearsley
Ian Southern	H	Saviour Ringley
Leroy Taylor	H	Bishop Bridgeman
Jill Brenchley	H	St Michael's Alkington
Jason Harvey	DH	St Paul's Bury
Carol Woods	DH	St Paul's Constable Lee
John Wilson	DH	Ashton Parochial
Jennifer Birkin	DH	St Peter's Farnworth
Jane Lisic	DH	St Hugh's Holts
Joanne Briggs	DH	St Michael's Great Lever

## LEGIONELLA

### Buildings Administration

**It is important** that a representative from your school attends any training for the management of school water services.

Schools have a legal obligation to ensure that all tests and procedures are followed.

## Douglas the Dragon

If you are looking for a resource on anger management you might consider introducing children to Douglas. The package consists of a musical play and five original songs with backing tracks and is available on [www.douglasthedragon.co.uk](http://www.douglasthedragon.co.uk)

## Puppets 'n' Parables

**Hand to Mouth Ministries** have been working in primary schools for 10 years, using puppets to lead collective worship and support RE. They have now launched a DVD in which puppet sketches bring parables up to date. There are white board accessories and signing for the deaf included. It costs £25 plus £3 p&p. Details of the DVD and services to schools from: Hand to Mouth Ministries, 106 Birkby Hall Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD12 2TN; Tel: 01484 547895

## Even better value from Rhema Theatre

**Rhema Theatre** is a professional Christian theatre company based in Manchester. They present the Christian message and teachings in an accessible and engaging way, performing to churches, schools, prisons, mission events and Christian festivals.

In addition to the enclosed flier for their Christmas production they are also performing "Home" during the autumn term. It is based on the books of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and follows a group of characters as they undertake an epic journey from slavery ... to promise. They are touring nationally from 27th September to 9th December 2007 and are currently taking bookings.

This Tour is in support of 'Stop The Traffik' Campaign and for this reason for the months of October and December they are offering a special 50% discount on bookings for "Home". Instead of £420 for the performance it will be only £210. Also, they will be taking up a collection at the end of each performance with 50% of the donations received for Rhema Theatre Company Ministry going to the 'Stop The Traffik' Campaign.

For further details please contact: Tracy Brown, Rhema Theatre Company Ltd, Lancaster House, Harper Road, Sharston M22 4RG; E-mail: [admin@rhematheatre.org](mailto:admin@rhematheatre.org); Tel: 0870 421 4565; Website: [www.rhematheatre.org](http://www.rhematheatre.org)

### Festivals this term:

22 September	Yom Yippur	Judaism	01 November	All Saints Day	Christianity
27 September	Sukkot	Judaism	02 November	All Souls Day	Christianity
05 October	Simchat Torah	Judaism	09 November	Divali	Hinduism/Sikhism
09 October	Lailat-ul-Qadr	Islam	24 November	B'day of Guru Nank	Sikhism
11 October	Navaratri	Hinduism	05 December	Channukah	Judaism
13 October	Eid-ul-Fitr	Islam	20 December	Eid-ul-Adha	Islam
			25 December	Christmas Day	Christianity

# Primary Heads and Governors Cluster Meetings

**These meetings** are becoming more and more popular with our schools. They are better attended, with the ability to influence direction and policy in the board. At the last round of meetings, heads and chairs felt that one agenda item should involve sharing good practice. We have responded and outlined here are the times, dates, venue and main discussion item. We look forward to seeing you.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	GOOD PRACTICE ITEM
BOLTON	13 Nov	13:15 – 15:30	St George's Westhoughton	Ideas on worship – Neville Norcross, consultant.
BURY	15 Oct	09:30 – 11:30	St John's Radcliffe	Ideas to enhance children's spiritual experience Steve Dixon, MDBE Children's Officer
LANCASHIRE	14 Nov	13:30 – 15:30	St Paul's Constable Lee	Ideas to enhance children's spiritual experience Steve Dixon, MDBE Children's Officer
MANCHESTER	17 Oct	10:00 – 12:00	Holy Innocents Church, Fallowfield	Ideas to enhance children's spiritual experience Steve Dixon, MDBE Children's Officer.
OLDHAM	21 Nov	10:00 – 12:00	St George's East Crompton	A chance to meet and put questions to the new Director of Education – Maurice Smith
ROCHDALE	21 Nov	13:30 – 15:15	Middleton Parish	A chance to meet and put questions to Sue Casey, Head of Holy Family RC/CE College
SALFORD	15 Oct	1:30 – 3:30 pm	St Augustine's Pendlebury	TBA
STOCKPORT	11 Oct	10:00 – 12:00	St Mary Reddish	Thinking skills in RE
TAMESIDE	17 Oct	10:00 – 12:00	Holy Trinity, A-u-L	Ideas to enhance children's spiritual experience Steve Dixon – MDBE Children's Officer.
TRAFFORD	16 Oct	13:30-15:30 pm	St Mary Davyhulme	TBA
WIGAN	13 Nov	10:00 – 12:00	St George's Tyldesley	Ideas to enhance children's spiritual experience Steve Dixon – MDBE Children's Officer.

## New Christianity schemes of work

**New schemes** of work have been written for Christianity in primary schools. They follow the same pattern as the existing ones with Bible topics, Harvest, Advent and Christmas in the autumn term; Jesus, Lent, Mothering Sunday and Easter in the spring term; and Christian living, Pentecost and the Church in the summer term.

The autumn term schemes have been sent to all schools by e-mail and are on the website:

[www.manchester.anglican.org/education](http://www.manchester.anglican.org/education) Those for the spring and summer terms will appear on the website as they are completed. At present the old schemes are also on the website; eventually they will be available in an archive section. The schemes are not mandatory. Any school: aided, controlled, foundation or even a local authority community school can use as little or as much of the schemes in following the governors' or LA's policy on RE.

### Contacts

Maurice Smith	Director of Education	mauricesmith@manchester.anglican.org
Janet Cowley	Deputy Director	janetcowley@manchester.anglican.org
John Wilson	Assistant Director	johnwilson@manchester.anglican.org
Jane Phillips	PA to Director	jphillips@manchester.anglican.org
Lynn Wild	Buildings Officer	lwild@manchester.anglican.org
Jean McClenaghan	Secretary to Building	JMcClenaghan@manchester.anglican.org
Will Leeson	Governor Support	willeeson@aol.com
Chris Shelley	Governor Support	cshelley@manchester.anglican.org
Tracy Squirrell	Buildings Admin	tsquirrell@manchester.anglican.org
Terry Cooper	Insurance	tcooper@manchester.anglican.org
Marion Kaufman	Admin Assistant	mkaufman@manchester.anglican.org

# Training & development

*Developing you and your staff*

## All the best

Training event