

Autumn visits /work / RE courses

The term was filled with a lot of individual school visits to church school RE subject leaders to look at the affect of new SIAMS inspections and the 'Realising the Potential' Report. I also met our new acting Bishop David to keep him informed of what we are doing in relation to RE in church schools.

- **Basics courses in CW and RE** – a termly introduction to these areas always bringing in a few NQTS or heads new in post.
- **The Lord's Prayer Theme day** – exploring the use of the Lord's Prayer materials for primary schools –(6 delegates)
- **The Shoes on the Danube Promenade** – an exploration of the Holocaust for KS2/3 ran successfully as a small course (8 delegates) with lots of input from the original trialling schools
- **The Church School Leaders' Conference** – 75 delegates, including a seminar on the role and future of RE and a challenging activity to encourage leaders to look at how they play a part in the delivery, resourcing and promotion of RE

I was invited to deliver seminars on 'The Great Prayer and worship adventure' at the Derby church schools conference to 100 + teachers which was very exciting and highlights the strengths we have here in terms of resources which can also help others.

As the term ended we heard that the **Realising the Potential** Report from HMI had prompted a 'survey' of VA schools to see if RE in these schools would come out differently. The National Society will 'survey' 40 carefully selected schools during January to April 2014.

The Emmanuel Project

This project, which began last June with teachers coming to help write seven units of work on Christianity for KS1, was finally written up. The units are up on www.cofesuffolk.org.uk. They have come out well and have been pretty successful in incorporating the Enquiry Cycle model and the wish to be more focussed on beliefs and concepts.

The DARE newsletter

Sent out at the start of term the 2014 spring newsletter can be found on the Diocesan website: www.cofesuffolk.org.uk, follow schools and RE. As usual this highlights resources and courses which will be useful for all teachers of RE, especially in the primary schools.



Spring term visits / work / RE Courses -

- **January 21 and 22:** Two Key Stage 1 courses launching the new Christianity units written for the Emmanuel project. 15 delegates. Enthusiastic response to the materials and good corrections / amendments suggested. This course will now run

again so that the materials are more widely available for the autumn term. We also used this as a good chance to let schools know about the Judaism units written by Sarah Smith on her Farmington Fellowship and possible lessons on other faiths, so that delegates left with a fairly complete package for KS1.



- **January 28 and 30:** Two Key Stage 2 courses continuing to promote and develop the work done by Beth Boast on her Farmington Fellowship some years ago. 14 delegates. We also introduced delegates of the idea of the Enquiry Cycle.
- **January 24:** A Primary VA / Academy conference – with all but one school gathered, we had 25 delegates present to discuss how to make our RE outstanding. Assessment / monitoring / creative teaching/ Christian concepts were all under scrutiny and we had excellent presentations from three of our schools. Several of the schools brought learning scrapbooks and displays of work so that we could see what they were doing. Follow-ups planned in the summer with delegates working on new units of work for KS2 and discussing RE Council Review etc.
- **Basics Courses in Collective Worship and RE** are booked for next month and the **SCITT RE** days are also this spring when we will yet again take on the training of the 'trainee' teachers in our Suffolk Primary Schools.

RE publications

- **Take a Look at: The Welcome Party:** Lindsay Blankley and I are still working slowly on the new KS1 pack on Baptism to complement either the 'Belonging' Learning Theme or 'Symbols and Artefacts' in the Suffolk Syllabus.

RE Initiatives

- **Teaching Christianity – the National Society project:** I have been invited to work on the Foundation materials and this will necessitate working with Foundation teachers possibly in the same way as the work done on the Emmanuel project last year. This is timely for us in Suffolk as it is an area which we have rather neglected.

Work in association with the Discovery Centre, Bury St Eds, and Helen Woodroffe:

- **Reflective Storytelling for the 'Pilgrim's Progress'** –the launch is planned for March 11th as part of the Diocesan centenary 2014 'Pilgrims in Time'.
- **Pilgrim's Progress – RE** materials including work for KS2 on Pilgrimage and the Journey of Life is being put together by Di Russ who has been awarded money from the Simon Pettitt Memorial Fund administered by Keswick Hall Trust. Some amazing giant puppets are being built in association with Tim Wilson and a variety of schools and church groups to enable large-scale re-enactments of the Pilgrim's Progress.

