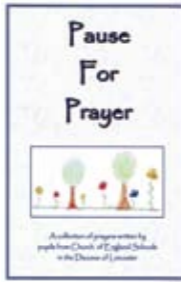


## Resources:

### Pause for Prayer Book £5.00 inc postage



A collection of inspirational prayers and artwork contributed by pupils from Church of England Schools in the Diocese of Leicester. The prayers cover most school occasions, as well as our concerns in the world; from the environment, through to peace, bereavement and there are prayers of thanks for our families and friends.

"Thought provoking and relevant to all - whatever their age or beliefs"

The last few copies are available to purchase, please contact Helen Van Rooose: [helen.vanroose@leccofe.org](mailto:helen.vanroose@leccofe.org)

### March 2011 is RE Month

A month long event to celebrate and publicise the value and importance of RE for every child and young person. An opportunity to shine a spotlight on excellent RE. Ideas for pupils of all ages and abilities with downloadable materials available. Have a look at the inspirational ideas on the website to start thinking about what you might do in your school to join in the celebrations. <http://www.celebratingre.org/>



**The Children's Society**  
making childhood better  
Childrens Society Service at Leicester Cathedral

Bishop Tim Stevens has been Chair of The Children's Society for the past 10 years, and is stepping down in September and handing over to a new chair, Bishop Tim Thornton of Truro. To mark this event the Children's Society are holding a special service at Leicester Cathedral on September 23rd it will be a 'Service and Celebration of Childhood'. The event is to celebrate childhood and to promote creativity and energy of young people.

There will be 2 events that our schools are involved:

- Bishop Tim's Service where St John the Baptist CE Primary School, Leicester have been invited to sing.
- The 'Festival Celebration Performance' in which the following schools will each perform:  
St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, Quorn,  
Newbold CE Primary School,  
Richard Hill CE Primary School, Thurmaston,  
Belgrave St Peter's CE Primary School,  
Church Hill CE Junior School, Thurmaston.

It will be such a wonderful day for Bishop Tim to celebrate and thank him for all the work he has done over the last 10 years. I understand all schools have been invited by the Children's Society and it would be great to see representatives from each of our schools – staff, parents and Governors if possible!



**Get in Touch**  
The Board of Education can be reached by:  
t. 0116 2487450 or visit  
<http://www.leicester.anglican.org/diocesan-info/subsite/education.aspx>



# Schools Newsletter July 2010

Dear All

**It does seem an age since I was at All Saints and yet it has only been a couple of months!**



I am so delighted to be working here at Church House. I do feel very privileged indeed and I do hope we will all work together with mutual support for the good of all our children.

Many thanks to all of you, who sent letters, emails and cards of support, on my arrival here. It was lovely to receive so many and were very welcomed indeed! The Service in the Cathedral on May 9th went really well – it was an amazing time and quite nerve-racking! I had to concentrate so much, not only on the words and oaths, but also, where I stood and which direction I moved. I did not realize it was going to be such a big event and personally tried to make it low key, although all schools were invited. Anyway I am now officially Canon Mary Lawson.

I have managed to visit 25 schools since April 6th. Arranged to meet the Head Teachers, visit the classes, look at issues with buildings and also, of course to lead Collective Worship, (which I have thoroughly enjoyed!) At Saint John's, I was even interviewed by the School Council, and this was recorded!

All the visits have been very positive. Very many apologies to those Head Teachers who have tried to arrange a visit, and also to those who I have had to postpone. Please contact Kerry, if you have not already done so, as I would

like to visit as many schools as possible once you start the next Academic Year.

This term sees the departure of seven of our Head Teachers. We thank them for all they have done for their schools, over very many years of service between them:

<b>Croxton Kerriel School</b>	<b>Amanda Woodland</b>
<b>Hose School</b>	<b>Matthew Brookes</b>
<b>Long Clawson School</b>	<b>Trevor Walker</b>
<b>Manorfield School, Stoney Stanton</b>	<b>Stephen Palmer</b>
<b>South Kilworth School</b>	<b>Pauline Martin</b>
<b>Whitwick, St John the Baptist</b>	<b>Paula Baldry</b>
<b>Brockington College</b>	<b>Vanessa Hood</b>

To those who are retiring we wish you a long, happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement and to those who are moving onto other schools we wish you every blessing in your new roles.

This term we have welcomed:  
**Wendy Wakefield as Head Teacher at Loughborough School**  
**Mike Wilson as Acting Head Teacher at All Saint's, Wigston Magna**

Next term we shall welcome some new Head Teachers to:  
**Croxton Kerriel** **Anne Harvey**  
**Long Clawson** **Catherine Sinclair**  
**Manorfield School, Stoney Stanton** **Joanne Grace**  
**South Kilworth** **Angela Dewes**  
**Whitwick, St John the Baptist** **Christine Killip**  
**Brockington College** **Chris Southall**

I wish you well in your new roles and I will make contact with you in the Autumn Term. Don't forget where we are!

**Mary Lawson**  
**Director of Education**

### And finally

### Next year is the 200th Anniversary of the National Society

Preparations for celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Church of England opening the first free schools in England and Wales have begun with the launch of a website, [www.natsoc200.org.uk](http://www.natsoc200.org.uk).

The site is aimed at inspiring and supporting today's 5,000 Church of England and Church in Wales schools, and their associated churches, to mark the landmark birthday in creative ways.

Over the summer we will be working on a special 'Held Together Pilgrimage', which will take place throughout the year. All the details will be sent to individual schools for the start of the Summer Term. It will start at the Cathedral in December and end the following year there too. This is going to be a major step in enhancing Church/School links and also school to school links. So look out for the post!!

**I wish you all a very restful summer and I hope the sun shines for you wherever you will be!**

## Education @ Leicester Cathedral

Take an opportunity to plan a trip outside the classroom to support your RE curriculum.

Visit the Cathedral website [www.cathedral.leicester.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.leicester.anglican.org) for details of a whole range of visit programmes and booking information. There are a number of packages being introduced for the coming year (not yet on the website), as well as all your old favourites! **Please contact Janet Ingram for more details.**

Primary Phase Programme	
<b>E Y F S &amp; Special Needs</b>	<b>Sensory Visit</b> – explore parts of the cathedral and precinct using the 5 senses.
<b>Key Stage 1 ‘Out of the Box’ Day Visits</b>	<b>Stories from the Bible</b> – using some areas and artefacts <b>Victorian Day</b> – take part in a mock baptism introducing some key Victorian figures living in Leicester <b>Mega structures and Maths</b> – looking at materials and structures
<b>Key Stage 2 ‘Out of the Box’ Day Visits</b>	<b>Worship</b> – stories, artefacts and areas in the cathedral explained <b>Timeline Characters</b> – introducing some people associated with the cathedral throughout different centuries <b>Cathedral Church of St. Martin</b> – key stories, areas and artefacts explored specific to St. Martins <b>Materials and Forces</b> – science explored around the cathedral
<b>Generic visit KS 2 (1-2 hrs)</b>	<b>Worship</b> – tour the cathedral and learn about some of the key features used in worship
<b>Seasonal Visits KS1 &amp; KS 2 (2 ½hrs)</b>	<b>From Advent to Christmas</b> - Hear the stories associated with Advent as you travel to different parts of the cathedral (KS 1 make an Advent ring for school; KS 2 make a personal bookmark as aide memoir) <b>Experiencing Easter</b> - Hear the stories associated with Holy Week and Easter as you travel to different parts of the cathedral
<b>Special Visits</b>	<b>Pilgrimage ‘Moving On’</b> – 5 mile walk from Watermead Park to Cathedral exploring issues around Transition Year from Primary to Secondary Education. Includes 1 hr session at school also. <b>Lifepath</b> – Journey together with a partner school learning about their own and St. Martin’s life journey <b>Journey Together</b> – a walk from the Mandir to the Gurdwara and on to the Cathedral to learn about each place of worship (day visit) fully booked for 2010
Secondary Phase Programme	
<b>Key Stage 3 Worship</b>	Tour the cathedral and learn about some of the key features used in worship This programme is useful for those making visits to other places of worship on the same day, to offer opportunities for comparisons. <b>Journey Together</b> – a walk from the Mandir to the Gurdwara and on to the Cathedral to learn about each place of worship <b>A Cathedral reordered</b> - How would you change this space to reflect key Christian beliefs? During 2011/12 major changes to the cathedral, precinct and other Diocesan buildings give opportunities to explore faith from different angles.
<b>Key Stage 4</b>	<b>Is there enough evidence to convict us as Christians? A place of Symbol and Practice</b> An investigation which aims to support and develop the students’ understanding of key beliefs and practices from the Christian faith. <b>Breathe@Cathedral</b> Explore an interactive resource and reflect on the themes of belief, journey and values. <b>Breathe2gether</b> Inter faith week 17th 19th & 26th November Engage positively with difference and diversity using ‘Breathe’.
<b>Cathedral @ School</b>	Can’t visit us? Then we’ll come to you and help you explore some of the themes and ideas from our visits programmes.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to St John’s Church of England Primary School and Hope Hamilton Church of England Primary School, both in Leicester City. They have been honoured for proactively showing, that they are strategically addressing race equality issues in their plans and practices and tackling institutional racism. All schools must show that they are doing so and both schools used the Young Gifted and Equal (YGE) audit to examine their practice, submitted portfolios of evidence to the YGE panel, and received accreditation awards in a celebration ceremony early this month. Sheila Lock from Leicester City Council presented the certificates, and stated that she was very proud of the diversity work currently being undertaken by Leicester schools.

## Forthcoming events:

**Partnership RE Conference 2011  
‘Challenging and Creative Curriculum’  
Thursday, 26th May 2011 8.45 am to 3.45 pm**

with  
Stephen Fischbacher –  
Fischy Music  
Julian Stern – York St  
John University  
Lat Blaylock – RE  
Today and NATRE



Beaumanor Hall,  
Woodhouse, Leicestershire.  
£120.00 inc lunch and refreshments  
(£80.00 for Service Level Agreement Members)

This is the tenth year for the popular one day conference and once again we are able to bring together some of the best local and national speakers as well as classroom practitioners to ensure that everyone who attends can return back to the classroom fully motivated and ready to share new and exciting ideas with colleagues and the school.

We are delighted that this year we will be joined by some inspirational guest speakers. The opening speech ‘Using Music to create inspiring RE’ will be given by Stephen Fischbacher – Creative Director of Fischy Music and the closing speech ‘RE, Music and Spirituality’ by Julian Stern of York St John University. The full and varied programme offers practical and creative ideas to cover all aspects of work; from Community Cohesion through to seminars on music and creativity within RE and Collective Worship.

Places already filling up fast, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

**For further details contact  
helen.vanroose@leccofe.org**

**Community Cohesion – Respect through RE  
Monday, 4th October 2010 9.00am to 4.00pm**

Forest Lodge Education Centre, New Parks, Leicester.  
£100.00 inc. lunch and refreshments.

Presented by Lat Blaylock and Fiona Moss of RE Today, this one day course is aimed at developing attitudes of respect for all and promoting community cohesion for primary school children.

Delegates will each receive a folder of lesson materials, ideas and resources along with a CD to support this work in their own schools.

Only a few places remain- strictly on a first come, first served basis!

**For further details and booking forms for all the above courses, contact [helen.vanroose@leccofe.org](mailto:helen.vanroose@leccofe.org)**

## Religious Education Network Meeting (Primary Schools Autumn Term 2010)

This term there will be a change to our usual pattern for network meetings. We have invited the Barnabas Trust (BRF) to lead our training. The theme will be, ‘What’s so special about the Bible?’ this will help us to prepare for work related the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible in 2011. More information can be found on the following website <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/>

There will be two venues for the training sessions for you to choose from:

**Thursday 4th November 2010 between 10am – 12 noon,  
St. Peter’s CE (A) Primary School, Market Bosworth**

**Thursday 4th November 2010 between 2pm – 4pm,  
Hope Hamilton CE (A) Primary School, North Hamilton**

If you would like to plan an event for your school and parish for 2011 to celebrate the anniversary you can find inspiration on the following link <http://www.2011trust.org/about-us/>

There will be an exhibition and events at Leicester Cathedral some of which will be linked to our schools work. Details of further events to follow.

## Religious Education Network Meeting (Secondary Schools Autumn Term 2010)

A new opportunity for Church of England Secondary School colleagues to network with Catholic School colleagues in Leicestershire. There will be opportunity to share good practice and resources and plan a way forward to support the future work of RE.

An inaugural meeting to take place on:  
**Tuesday October 5th 3:45 – 5pm  
Brockington College, Enderby.**

## Godly Play Network Meeting Wednesday, 13th October 2010 Leicester Cathedral. 1 – 4 pm

This course will use the ‘Godly Play’ approach to tell stories from the Bible. It is suitable for those who have already experienced the methodology of Godly Play; want time for discussion and would value further support in learning some of the stories for use in schools and church.

Cost: £5.00 to include course costs and working lunch.



## New Garden for Ullesthorpe CE Primary School



The staff and children at Ullesthorpe Church of England Primary School have been developing the school grounds this year, and pride of place is the new garden built after a trip to Ryton Organic Gardens. The Worship Trail links in with this. There are 12 stations inside and outside the building marked with numbers made by one of our school Governors. A series of meditations for each station will help children to engage imaginatively in worship and prayer.

For example, at our welcome sign (picture attached) which was a collaborative venture made with a visiting mosaic artist, we would gather round in a group and consider how all the little pieces come together to make the big picture and how everyone in the school community is valued for their contribution to our school life. We might then say a prayer thanking God for all our different talents and personalities.

Our Key Stage 1 Summer Production was about planting a garden and through songs and dialogue the children learned about the life cycle of plants. In the school garden (picture attached) we might consider all it takes to make plants grow and how, although we can help by planting and tending the seeds, it is God who sends the rain and sun. We are also making our own compost and we might think about how every small effort by ourselves to recycle used and unwanted items helps reduce the impact on our planet.

## Church Hill CE Junior School, Thurmaston Bank a Big Success

Church Hill CE Junior School's branch of the NatWest bank is running well with 106 new accounts opened.

They have been working with the local NatWest branch to set up School Money, a school bank service run by and for pupils at the school. The Year 6 Cashiers and members of staff have been trained by staff from NatWest and they come for the first few weeks for added support. There is always an adult supervising the children on this exciting new adventure.

The service allows pupils to open a real NatWest bank account



## Time Capsule at All Saints CE Primary School, Coalville

All Saints CE Primary School, Coalville are having significant building work carried out at their school this year and they buried a time capsule in the foundations of the new office.

The children decided what should go into it. The contents included, amongst other things school items, uniform, photos, a local newspaper and a mobile phone.



suitable for their age at school, and to bring money into school to pay into their account. To withdraw money they need to visit a local branch or visit an ATM.

Headteacher, Shereen Kirk said "I feel that children need to learn from an early age the importance of saving for something and financially planning ahead. They can save weekly or monthly, from small amounts from their pocket money to larger amounts from Birthday presents etc; the minimum amount they can save is 10p and the maximum £20 in one transaction, unless parents want to bring larger sums of money into school. The School Money service provides pupils with first-hand experience of managing money. It provides the foundation for the continued experience of having a bank account and managing their own finances."

The children as part of their maths lessons have completed work on everyday money matters and used some interactive resources from the bank to practice skills for the future.

Other news from Church Hill CE Junior School: The school has been awarded Artsmark Silver in recognition of the schools commitment to, and excellence in, arts education.

## News from Our Schools



## Green Award for Thurlaston CE Primary School

Thurlaston Church of England (Aided) Primary School are delighted to have again been awarded the Green Flag for Eco-Schools. Members of the Committee said, " We love the environment because nature counts and we count in nature. It also shows the schools commitment to looking after God's world."

## Outdoor classroom for St Mary's CE Primary School, Bitteswell

An outdoor classroom was erected in the Spring half term at St Mary's Bitteswell. The money was raised by the Friends of Bitteswell who arranged many fund raising events such as Fine Food and Wine, Christmas Fair, Chilli Night to name but a few.



Headteacher Hazel Maher reported on how well it was working. "The children love learning outside and already we have used it for music, poetry, guided reading and phonics.

Many children who are very active have found the outdoor classroom to be more enjoyable and the teachers say that children are calmer and more focused.

We have also had 4 raised beds, made one for each class. The children have planted seedlings and seeds and these are the results. We have already harvested mange-tout and are looking forward to the runner beans, broad beans, potatoes and strawberries. Each class is responsible for their own bed and

makes sure it is watered daily. Parents and friends of the school donated the plants and seeds and the children have had great fun watching them grow."

Both the raised beds and outdoor classroom are part of a bigger project to develop the outdoor space for learning. We are now awaiting the installation of some outdoor musical instruments and the redevelopment of the wildlife area.

## Barwell CE Junior School Awarded Artsmark Gold!



Arts Council England has awarded Artsmark Gold to Barwell Church of England Junior School in recognition of the school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education.

Headteacher, Brenda Davies, said: "I'm delighted that the Arts Council has recognised Barwell Church of England Junior School's dynamic provision for arts

education through this award at the highest level achievable – Artsmark Gold! Our children have really enjoyed working with a wide range of inspirational writers, poets, dancers, musicians, actors, technicians and artists, and I'd like to thank all our staff for their hard work in achieving this award. Artsmark is more than simply a mark of distinction to us; taking part in the scheme has enabled us to develop our arts provision, and see the children who take part become more self-confident, engaged and excited about learning."

Alan Davey, Chief Executive, Arts Council England, said: "Arts Council England believes that the earlier children are creatively inspired, the more likely they are to have a lifelong engagement with the arts – something that can transform lives and give young people a voice for their thoughts and feelings. Artsmark - now nationally recognised as a prestigious and coveted award - sets the standard for an outstanding arts provision in schools and it's great to see so many new schools attaining the Artsmark award this year. This award recognises Barwell Church of England Junior School's commitment to providing exciting art experiences and their belief in the power of creativity."

## 'Forest School' Experience for St Peters CE Primary School, Whetstone

Year 4 children have thoroughly enjoyed their 6 'Forest School' days in the Outwoods, near Loughborough, led by Mrs Clare Adams who is completing her training as a Level 3 Forest school Leader.

As part of the Forest school ethos, the children were involved in making shelters and homes for 'Blobster' characters, building birds nests, playing games such as 'trail blazers' and 'Hunters, Mammoths and Mice'. Throughout the visits the children increased in confidence and self-esteem, whilst learning to take risks. The children were proud of their achievements climbing trees and roaming over the rocks.

The pupils at St Peter's CE Primary School were also treated to a fun poetry day on 24th May where poet Paul Cookson came to visit. Everyone had lots of fun. During the day Paul led hilarious workshops making up class poems. This was extremely inspiring for pupils who went home and produced their own poems. This was part of the school's achievement in gaining the 'Silver Artsmark Award' at the beginning of June.



## Townlands CE Primary School, Earl Shilton Launch a Creative Curriculum

Townlands CE Primary School in Earl Shilton implemented the Creative Curriculum in September 2009 ahead of its proposed launch in September 2011. Before the summer break, the children voted for their top three favourite themes which were: 'Our Colourful World,' 'Heroes and Heroines' and 'From Dormouse to Diplodocus.'

Headteacher Dawn White said, "The children have been much more engaged in their learning because they have more ownership of the theme. The theme is a school wide one and a lot of displays around the school link to it which means that everywhere you go, all stakeholders know what topic they are currently working on." The children completed questionnaires at the end of each topic and confirmed their increasing enjoyment in the creative curriculum. An added bonus for the school was that the vast majority of the children at Townlands made accelerated progress in all of the core areas of reading, writing and maths.

At the end of each term, each class holds creative curriculum assemblies in which parents are invited to attend and the children present an overview of the work they have done during the term. The assemblies are popular with parents and school governors as well as being a great way to get an insight of the curriculum. Schools have recently received notification from the new coalition government that they will not be going ahead with the creative curriculum, however, in June this year, Townlands had their Ofsted and the inspection team praised the work that the children had done and the quality of the writing.

Townlands have therefore decided to pursue the creative curriculum and would urge other schools to try it out as it has certainly proved to be a huge success with disengaged pupils as well as being of benefit to the whole school. If you would like to know more, please ring Townlands CE Primary School on 01455 843859.

## Seed to Tree at St. Cuthbert's CE Primary School, Great Glen



St. Cuthbert's CE Primary School in Great Glen held an inaugural 'Seed to Tree' event on Wednesday 21st April. Since September the newly formed Great Glen Community WildSpace group have been working closely with the school and the Green Light Trust to secure land in the village that they can manage for the benefit of the whole community.

The children have helped design a logo and planted wildflowers in the village, families and volunteers have worked on preparing a tree nursery patch and beds for the inaugural ceremony.

Parents and members of the wider community including the High Sheriff of Leicestershire, Colonel Robert Martin OBE, Edward Garnier MP, district and parish councillors, youth leaders and

representatives from village organisations joined children, staff, governors and the WildSpace group to plant an inaugural apple tree (kindly donated by Coles Nurseries) in the school grounds.

Headteacher Mrs Anne Burbidge said "This is a great example of what can be achieved when school and community work closely together. Our aim is to make this a sustainable project so that the children and their families can enjoy the wild spaces in their village for years to come".

Pictures of the High Sheriff of Leicester planting the tree and a member of the school community helping the children to plant out vegetables in the new raised beds.



## Eco Day Out for St Peter's CE Primary School, Market Bosworth

St Peter's Church of England Primary School has transformed its grounds so that children learn the value and importance of sustainability. There have a KS1 and KS2 garden, a nature area and a sensory garden and more is being developed.

Following this environmental work, the school entered a competition and were selected, along with four other schools in the Hinckley and Bosworth area to attend the 'finalists' Eco day at Caterpillar in Desford.

Eight children from the gardening club were chosen and they spent a wonderful whole day at the site learning about environmental issues and being rewarded for their hard work over the year. They had to give a presentation to explain what the school was

doing for the environment and how it was trying to improve their learning.

Once the presentations were finished, the children met the 'rainforest man' who gave an inspiring talk about his life and adventures in the Brazilian rainforests with his family. The children were then given a tour of the Caterpillar site and watched a superb display where drivers at the site drove the machinery around the demonstration area making the vehicles perform stunts and even dance. Finally, the children were each presented with a certificate, a goodie bag, a plaque for the school and £250.00 which will help to support the continued efforts with the gardens and other Eco projects.



## Christ Church & St Peter's CE Primary School, Mountsorrel 'Experience Easter'

The children visited Christ Church & St Peter's Church just before Easter. It was a great opportunity for the school and church to work together and everyone really enjoyed the time to experience the Easter events (based on the pack produced by the Gloucester Diocese). Church folk led the activities during the week, enabling most of the classes time to attend. The one to one and a half hour session ended with everyone singing a couple of songs in the church nave and the children were given a biscuit decorated with a cross.

Experience Easter was a very special time for everyone.