

## Colleagues

Half term must seem a faint memory these days. As we step back into the rhythm of school community, there's a lot to look forward to. The team will be busy running trainings, supporting schools, conversing with staff and academies and generally being busy but we're especially excited that the annual DBE Conference is just around the corner.

This year, the Annual DBE conference will be held on the 22nd of November at The Double Tree Hilton in Swindon. This year's conference will bring together educators, industry leaders, and innovative thinkers from across the field to share insights, inspire new ideas, and foster connections. It's an invaluable opportunity for professional growth, networking, and exploring cutting-edge approaches to education. We're thrilled to have Rev. Nigel Genders delivering the keynote. Additionally, workshops will also be conducted by people who will equip you with tools and strategies for the classroom and beyond.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a truly impactful experience. It is still not too late to book so – book your place [HERE](#)

So again. Welcome back—and let's make this term our best yet!



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*Nahum 1.7*

## Upcoming training events NEXT Term

Our complete training schedule for the 24/25 Academic year can be found [HERE](#)

Event	Details	Booking Link
<b>Governor Session 3</b> <i>Collective Worship &amp; Spirituality</i>	<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>  <b>6.00pm-8.00pm</b>  <b>Online</b>	<a href="#">Governor Training Package Tickets, Multiple Dates   Eventbrite</a>
<b>Full day of flourishing – All you need to know about SIAMS</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>  <b>9.30am-3.30pm</b>  <b>Hillside House</b>	<a href="#">A full day of flourishing! All you need to know about SIAMS Tickets, Multiple Dates   Eventbrite</a>
<b>Annual SACRE Conference</b> <i>Religions World Views – Inspiring Curiosity</i>	<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>  <b>9.30-3.30pm</b>  <b>Engineers House</b>	<a href="#">Annual Regional RE Conference 2025 Tickets, Fri 7 Feb 2025 at 09:30   Eventbrite</a>

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## Archbishop Young Leaders Award - Free Advent Collective Worship Resource

We are pleased to say that our new free collective worship resource for Advent this year is now live. It joins the national Church of England campaign: **Follow the Star – Calm and Bright**.



As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we invite your school to join us in **Follow the Star: Calm and Bright** drawing on the world-famous carol, Silent Night:

*“Silent Night! Holy Night!  
All is calm, all is bright...”*

We’ll hear from 4 main characters in Luke’s account of the Christmas story, Angel Gabriel, Joseph, a shepherd and Mary. As we listen to their stories, we’ll think about how they experienced ‘All is calm, all is bright’, the message their story brings of Jesus’ birth and what those messages might mean for us today. What actions could we take to bring calmness and brightness to our world?

Schools can sign up here: [www.abyyt.com/advent](http://www.abyyt.com/advent) - once you register you will receive all the resources you need.

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## Sharesy

Sign up to Sharesy and generate extra revenue through hall hire at no cost!

The Diocese of Bristol has negotiated a partnership with Sharesy to help ease the administrative burden associated with hall hire in Church of England parishes and schools. Sharesy enables local people and businesses to book your hall spaces through their platform, increasing your income while minimising admin effort. Liz has had it demonstrated to her and says it's not just another company touting for business but a tailor-made offer designed by those who understand schools and the restrictions of property, lockdown, safeguarding etc for dioBrizzle schools - so do investigate to potentially increase bookings and make an appointment below to know more. No obligation of course ....

Wherever your school is with hall hire, whether you're raising thousands of pounds in bookings a month, or you've never considered the possibility, the team at Sharesy will be able to support you where you are.

By signing up to Sharesy you maintain complete control over your bookings. You still have the power to set terms and conditions, require specific procedures be met, and manually accept or decline every booking taken through the platform. Already a proven success in the Diocese of London, Sharesy, community venues using Sharesy generate an average of £1,000-£2,000 per month, with top performing venues earning upwards of £8,000 per month.

To ask questions, or explore how Sharesy can help you, you're invited to book a meeting with CEO Felix Atkin [here](#). The Diocese of Bristol has prepared an FAQ page for the partnership [here](#).

## Climate School 180

As one of our aims in the diocese is to help our schools to be as climate change adaptable as possible, we have been working with LTL – Learning through Landscapes to see if some schools can be part of a programme that supports you to develop a climate change curriculum and implement nature-based, accessible, affordable, local solutions within the school grounds for mitigating climate change.

Children are rightly often very interested and also distressed to see the effect of climate change on fauna and flora well away from Britain: polar bears, rainforest etc. This programme aims to acknowledge these catastrophic effects and bring the changes and mitigations for climate change down to an accessible

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local level, thus helping children to realise effects in their own area and know they can make a difference. This helps to reduce the climate anxiety that may feel overwhelming for some. It does not give set tasks, but rather a way for children and staff to experience finding solutions for problems on their school doorstep such as impoverished soil, areas that flood or get too dry, increasing biodiversity etc.

The programme is free, (through generous external donation) it includes a small group of staff having three hours of online training individually or together, then a day with a consultant who comes out to lead a survey with children of the school grounds and an afternoon workshop with the same group of staff (the adult ‘movers and shakers’) who then get the ball rolling in the subsequent two terms to make local changes that are bespoke for your grounds. There is curriculum support as well and we hope to also add in support to link all of this to your Christian distinctiveness and care for creation where this is appropriate.

Please see [Apply for Climate School 180 - Learning through Landscapes \(lcl.org.uk\)](https://lcl.org.uk) for more details and do tell us if you are applying as we are hoping to group schools together for this project, geographically or in MATs etc. The project is not specific to CE schools so if you work together in a cluster with non-church schools and would be interested to participate, that would be great too.

**Congratulations to St Peter’s Bishopsworth** who now have their reading bus on site, to be kitted out as a library and wonderful reading space.



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## Parents Promise

We would really appreciate if as many of you can complete this short survey that has been developed by the Positive Parenting Alliance to help with a very important schools initiative

The Positive Parenting Alliance is a group of organisations, and individuals, who are looking to change the culture of separation for the better in the UK. They launched the Parents Promise in 2021 and last year worked with some of the UKs largest organisations to change HR policies to better support separating families. [This](#) short video gives some background to the HR initiative and the Parents Promise website is [here](#)

Their next initiative is to look at separation in the context of schools: how does separation affect children? What support and protocols do schools have in place? and what further resources might be helpful? **We'd love it if you could fill in [this](#) short survey and send it around to your school colleagues to help provide insight for the initiative.**

The survey is short and multiple choice in the main so should take a handful of minutes to complete and all information is confidential/anonymised. The insight gained will be invaluable and it will help the Alliance develop assets to aid schools, and parents, better support children during separation. The aim is to launch the campaign in 2025.

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## **St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing**

This autumn term, St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing has invited some Church of England primary schools within your diocese to take part in our "Thank Your Vicar 2024" campaign <https://www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk/thank-your-vicar-2024/> as well as advertised on our social media channels. This is a great way to get pupils involved in local churches and celebrate the wonderful work that vicars do for the schools.

For many pupils interacting with the vicar through school is often their only contact with the church; playing a key role in the children's personal faith journeys. Clergy are there for all pupils, staff, parents, governors and the community, regardless of faith or belief. Clergy support the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the whole school community.

You can find out more about this campaign by visiting website <https://www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk/thank-your-vicar-2024/>

You might like to get involved and but there is no need to make a donation just show your vicar how much you care!

## **Bursaries for Headteachers and Teachers**

Do you find life in the classroom as tiring as it is stimulating?

Would you like time to rest, read, reflect and recharge?

In a new initiative, the Association for Promoting retreats has made a number of bursaries available to support teachers and headteachers across the UK.

Please see the attached information and application form and take advantage of this fabulous opportunity! You all deserve this!

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## A Prayer for this term

**Heavenly Father**

**Please pour out Your blessings upon our whole school community so that everyone grows in the knowledge of Your truth, love, wisdom and peace.**

**We pray for all children - help them to explore what they can achieve and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.**

**We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.**

**We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.**

**We ask this in Jesus' name.**

**Amen**

Don't forget we're here to support you so let us know if you want to chat any ideas through.

*Liz* and the Education Team

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