

# DBE Schools Bulletin

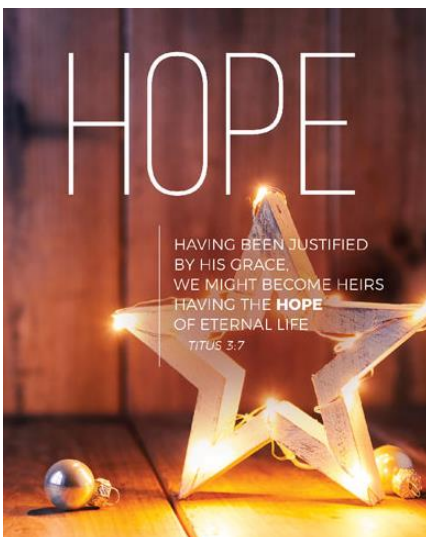
December 2020

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



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## A time of expectation

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year and after the year that we have had, I am sure that we are all wanting a 'reboot' and a new start. This season of advent is a time of waiting, a time of expectation, remembering the waiting of God's people for the coming of the promised Messiah. Equally, we are waiting with a sense of expectation and hope to return to a sense of normality both personally and in our schools.

This season is a particularly special time in school, as preparations are afoot for nativity plays, Christingle and Carol services. This Christmas is likely to be different for us all, not least in the way we gather, prepare and celebrate with children, young people and families in our schools and communities. However, as has been the case throughout the pandemic, our schools have stepped up to such challenges, and thought creatively and imaginatively in how to overcome the restrictions to be able to celebrate God's gift to the world, his Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, bringing love, hope, joy and peace this Christmas season.

To mark this time of advent, the DBE team are hosting an afternoon for our headteachers on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December entitled, 'Light into your Lounge, an Advent Armchair Reflection.' We hope that many of our headteachers will be able to join us for this special event. Further details can be found on page 2.

Finally, on behalf of the whole of the DBE Board and team, can I extend our warm wishes to the pupils, staff, governors and families across our family of schools. Wishing you all a joy-filled and peaceful Christmas.

## Thank you for your long service

The end of the autumn term will see a number of colleagues from our Family of Schools either moving on or retiring. This December, we will be saying good-bye to five of our headteachers, all of whom have given considerable years of dedicated service and leadership to church school education. We wish to express our thanks and gratitude to each of you and send our love and best wishes for the future. Thank you to...



**Mr Paul Quirk**

**Kettleshulme CE Primary**

**Mrs Sue Whitfield**

**Mossley CE Primary**

**Mrs Tricia Walker**

**St George's CE Primary, Hyde**

**Mrs Caroline Waites**

**St John the Evangelist CE Primary, Macclesfield**

**Mrs Julie Massen**

**Woodcock's Well CE Primary**

## Advent Reflection for headteachers



An opportunity for headteachers to join with headteacher colleagues and Diocesan advisers for an afternoon escape; a chance to get away from the demands of school and school leadership and for some quality time for personal reflection and well-being in advent.

The event will be led by the officers of the DBE, with contributions and reflections from some of our headteachers. Bishop Mark will also be providing his own reflection on this period. The event is free of charge and places can be secured by booking on-line [www.chesterdbe.co.uk/yourlounge](http://www.chesterdbe.co.uk/yourlounge)

## Good News of Great Joy

'Good News of Great Joy: Daily Readings for Advent', by John Piper, contains 25 short devotional readings beginning on December 1st and going through to Christmas Day. This book of Advent meditations aims to put Jesus at the centre of your holiday season.

For more information, please click [here](#) and to download a copy of the book, please click [here](#).



## Free Advent Resource



The Archbishop of York Youth Trust have partnered with Prayer Spaces in Schools to bring you a free, creative resource for KS2 and KS3 pupils to use in the classroom, collective worship and at home. Sacred Spaces at Advent includes four weeks of content to inspire children and young people to explore moments of stillness found in the Christmas story. Each week, there is a video from the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, sharing a reflection on the theme.

Please click [here](#) to view and download the resources.

## Free Resource – Christmas Makaton Videos

At a time when collective singing is difficult, we are considering different ways in which we can still enjoy praising together. This YouTube channel is a wonderful resource to use this opportunity to be especially inclusive. It is a free resource created by Becky George, a Makaton tutor since 2011 and Ambassador since 2020. She has produced a series of videos of many much loved worship songs and carols especially for Christmas that will teach and encourage children to sign along...why not encourage your children and families to learn one as a way of interacting in your Christmas worship?



Please click [here](#) to access Becky's YouTube channel.

## CPAS – KS2 Christmas Reflection Day



CPAS has produced a Christmas resource to support KS2 teaching about Christmas. CPAS has worked with schools in our Diocese through participation in their 'School Ventures'. These are subsidised weekend RE/activity residentials run in conjunction between several Church of England Primary schools and their local churches. In the absence of their residentials they have been looking at other ways to serve schools.

This Christmas Reflection Day pack is a resource for KS2 teachers that enables schools to share a day off-timetable where the classes can slow down and look afresh at the nativity story and consider how it might be relevant today. To access the pack click [here](#).

## Christmas Hymn Flashmob

As part of the Church of England's 'Comfort & Joy' campaign, St Paul's Cathedral would like to invite schools to take part in a virtual #hymnflashmob, joining other schools across the country. They are asking schools to video record their students singing their favourite Christmas carol or song as a musical gift for anyone in need of comfort and joy this Christmas. Videos will be shared in the week commencing **14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. Full details can be found by clicking [here](#).



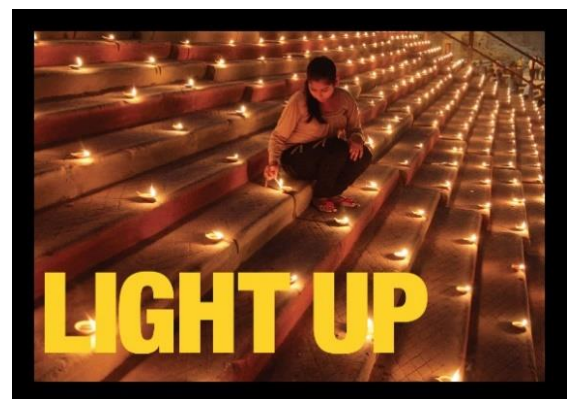
## The Ultimate Online Advent Calendar 2020



Daily reflections on the Manchester Diocese YouTube channel on a different theme each day. Once you have reached the Manchester Diocese YouTube page using the below link, please scroll down the page to find the reflection for each day: <https://www.youtube.com/user/manchesterdiocese>

## Lifeworlds

One of the hardest aspects of this Co-vid 19 pandemic, is the feeling of disconnect from the people we care about. Yes, we can continue on Zoom, or Google meet or Teams, but there's nothing like a shared cuppa in the staff room, or a hug when you're feeling low. These postcards <https://www.lifeworlds.global/shop/product/light-up/> would be a great way to show someone in your school community that you care, offering a little light in the darkness as you reach out to keep connected.



[Lifeworlds](#) was founded as Scripture Gift Mission in 1888 by the printer, William Walters. He was passionate about the Bible, 'this book of books', and determined that it should be available for all, so that 'people will read the captivating story of God's love.' Their mission is to share the words of the Bible freely, and as such, Lifeworlds offers a wealth of resources, both downloadable and in booklet form, which could be used across the school community. Across the seasonal year there is plenty to explore and their [Christmas resources](#) are a wonderful addition to bubble worships during this time, and booklets may be a gift to share with families. Thank you for all you are doing in schools to let your light shine more brightly at this time.

## The Children's Society – Christingle Resources



The Children's Society are offering support for schools in planning a socially distanced Christingle Service. They have resources for bringing the whole school or bubble class together in collective worship, including prayers, reflections and a presentation, as well as separate lesson plans with lots of fun and varied ideas for the classroom. The resource supports children's learning about Christianity and Christingle celebrations, as well as the work of The Children's Society. For further information and to access free Christingle resources, please click [here](#).

## Trees for Cities

Trees for Cities help local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy.

They have a range of programmes and resources especially for schools, including, redesigning playgrounds to improve air quality and 'Edible Playgrounds', a lively, engaging, multi-sensory way to teach children about growing and eating healthy food. To find out more, please click [here](#).



## Comfort & Joy



Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's 2020 Christmas campaign.

Taking inspiration from a traditional carol service, it features daily reflections for the Christmas season from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcot, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby.

Beginning on Christmas Day and ending on 2 January, each day explores a Bible reading and a familiar carol, encouraging us to look with fresh eyes at how the timeless truth of Christmas might shape our lives in these extraordinary times, and inviting us to hear again the message of the angels – good news of God's unfailing love for a world that is weary and hurting. Find out more about the campaign, access online services, download the free app featuring audio versions of all the featured carols at: [www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy](http://www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy)

## New Foundation Governor Appointment Forms

Foundation governors are important members of governing board teams in maintained church schools with additional responsibility for monitoring and developing the Christian distinctiveness of the school. The new updated Foundation Governor Appointment pack and application forms can be found on the Diocesan website by clicking [here](#).

## School Improvement Services 2020-21

Our school improvement services for 2020-21, delivered through DBE Services offer the following support:-

### School Improvement Partner (termly or annual visit)

- **Headteacher Performance Management**
- **Tailored leadership & school improvement support**
- **School Improvement Course from Leading Schools**

All of our school improvement services are delivered by our team of trained diocesan and headteacher consultants, overseen by Mark Whitehill, our School Effectiveness Officer. This provides the perspective of school improvement within the context of being a church school.

For further details of the services available [click here](#) and to request an order form contact [liam@dbeservices.co.uk](mailto:liam@dbeservices.co.uk)



## Family of Schools' CPD Programme 2020-21

Due to the on-going pandemic and local lockdown measures, our CPD programme will need to continue to be delivered on-line for at least the autumn term and beginning of the spring term. Where training is best delivered as a 'face to face' meeting, these will be postponed and rescheduled for later in the school year. We hope to be able to resume our meetings as soon as possible but, in the meantime, we would like you to be aware of changes to our programme as follows:

### December 2020 & January 2021 Courses

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
08/12/20	<a href="#">Faith Encounters</a>	ON-LINE
11/12/20	<a href="#">Light into Your Lounge- An Advent Armchair Reflection for Headteachers</a>	ON-LINE
13/01/21	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme</a>	ON-LINE
15/01/21	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs &amp; Incumbent Briefing</a>	ON-LINE
19/01/21	<a href="#">NQT Programme</a>	ON-LINE
20/01/21	<a href="#">Understanding Christianity &amp; The Diocesan Syllabus- Assessing the Resources for the First Time</a>	ON-LINE

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>SPRING &amp; SUMMER TERM DATES 2021</b>		
Chester HTs	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10am-12pm 10am-12pm
Macclesfield HTs	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm-3.30pm 10am-12pm
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm 10am -12pm
Warrington HTs	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10am -12noon 10am -12noon

Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

## DBE Officer New Contact Details

Please note new contact telephone numbers for members of the DBE team have been added to enable schools to contact officers by phone as well as e-mail during this period.

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org">sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org</a>	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

## News from Schools

### Acton C of E Primary School

Pupils produced some artwork for their virtual Remembrance assembly. The whole school came together virtually to share prayers, reflection, artwork, and poems for Remembrance Day. The head boy and girl shared a special message from Reverend Anne and the collective worship ambassadors as well as individuals from each year group spoke beautifully and thoughtfully to the rest of the school, governors, and directors. It was a very moving service.



### Bollington St John's C of E Primary School



Reception class recently learnt about the Hindu Festival of Diwali. The children focused on the traditions including, music, food, clothes and celebrating with fireworks. They also learnt all about the story of Rama & Sita. They also made diya lamps and Rangoli patterns using clay & mehndi designs for hands.

It was a wonderful week looking at this beautiful festival of light.





## Crowton C of E Primary School

### Poppies for Remembrance.

Recycling the ends of plastic bottles was a project created by the whole school for a poppy display.

Lots of positive feedback from pupils, parents and the wider community have been received when they pass the school fence.



## Hartford C of E High School

### Tracy Morgan - School Chaplain:



When I was 15 I took so much for granted. My brother and I would 'hang out' in our back yard with our many friends listening to music. We would go to the park or window shopping and spent hours playing tennis. We even took school for granted: the privilege of having an education, where we can sit safely and be taught all we need to pass our exams. It is a very different world for teenagers today.

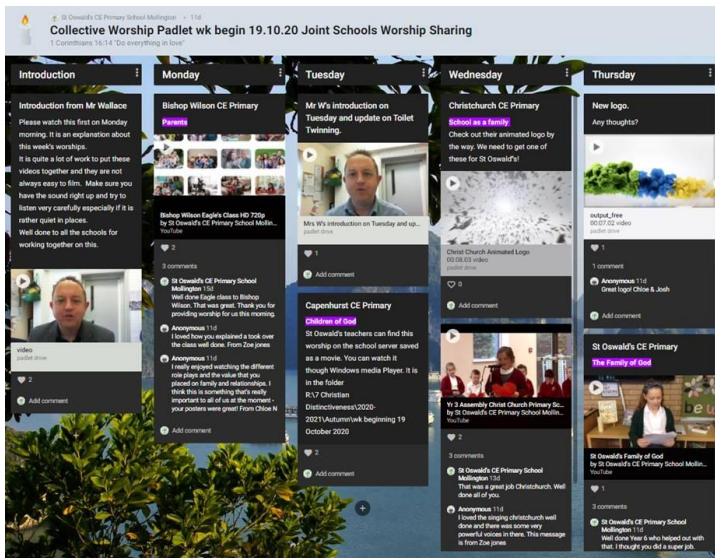
As someone who has worked closely with teenagers for 24 years and with students in high school as Chaplain at Hartford right through the pandemic, I have noticed a real change in the atmosphere. The usual buzz and chatter has been replaced with an anxiety and sadness. With phones in their pockets we can no longer protect them from the news, yet many are not emotionally mature enough to weather the storm. Whilst there has been much highlighted about the need to physically feed children recently, their need for spiritual nourishment to sustain and equip them for the days ahead has never been greater. My personal role has changed much over the recent pandemic too.

Whilst I still have the privilege of sharing Christian hope in assemblies to well over 1000 youngsters each week, this is now digitally done, and they watch it in the classrooms. The students and staff all have a weekly Christian 'Thought of the Week' too. Our Christian lunchtime clubs are finally allowed to re-gather, but instead of one large group, we have 5 smaller year group gatherings. Our Chapel Service at school (after school on a Friday) had grown from 30 to well over 100 pupils in the last year but has sadly been stopped since March. However, much good has happened. Several have put their faith in Jesus and many Bibles have been distributed. We have started a Wellbeing Group to support staff, who have so much extra pressure on them at the moment. Sadly, I have also had to start a bereavement support group for our 8 students who have very recently lost a parent (only 1 to Covid-19 but sadly 2 to suicide). We have also had great opportunities to serve, through Foodbank collections and making Christmas cards (competition) for the old folks' homes etc. I now have over 300 handmade cards to bless people with.

**PRAY** for our young people. It is so hard for those isolating to organise their work schedules and teach themselves at home. They wonder how their schooling and exams will be affected. They hear about redundancies and unemployment on the news and wonder if they will ever find a job. Many are sadly not safe or not fed at home, and they fear about infections, miss their friends and many are very sad and feeling hopeless. Pray especially for those in their final GCSE and A-Level years.



### Mollington St Oswald's C of E Primary School



St Oswald's, Christchurch, Capenhurst and Bishop Wilson have been looking at ways to share worship with each other remotely using technology as they have currently been unable to do their usual visits to each other's schools.

At the end of October, they did a week of worship based on the theme of 'family'. Each school pre-recorded a worship session and this was shared by a central padlet page. The theme, 'family', allowed everyone to look at how they live out their Christian faith through different family aspects culminating in the final worship looking at how we are all part of God's family.

You can have a look at the padlet page online by clicking [here](#).

### Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School



It was wonderful for everyone as Reverend Ric joined them in their new Peace Garden. He led in the culmination of the Remembrance reflection in a very special worship which was held 7 times across the morning so everyone could spend time with him.



### Pott Shrigley C of E Primary School

Pott Shrigley have had a wonderful first term with a whole host of new families joining their small, rural school and they have taken full advantage of their location. Friday afternoons are all about well-being and mindfulness at Pott Shrigley and the first half term was spent at a local farm accompanied by two experienced Forest School leaders, Lorna and Julia. The children experienced a diverse range of opportunities from resting in the hammocks, creating leaf art and creating clay moulds to receive molten pewter. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and have all felt the benefit. Next term: Yoga.



### Sale St Mary's C of E Primary School

Sale St Mary's raised £1,170 in two days to help feed hungry children in half term. To read the full story on the Manchester Evening News website, please click [here](#).

### Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School

Sir Thomas Boteler would have ordinarily held their annual Remembrance Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. This year a virtual service has been produced in the form of a video. The virtual service included readings from students and the school chaplain, and a musical performance; as they would have been in the usual service. The poppy dress, made from individually made poppies by the students and put together by Head of Art Mrs Sam Joice, is worn by Year 11 student Angel Joice in the schools' Peace Garden.



This video was shown across the school during form time on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> November. As every year, at 11am, all staff and students stand at their desks to observe a two minutes silence. Leading up to 11am, another video was played; a recording of Mrs S Woolley, Teacher of MFL playing the Last Post on her trumpet. Over the two minutes silence, the school's roll of honour was shown.

Graphic Designer and Publicity Manager Miss Alice Roberts said: "Although we cannot hold our Remembrance Service as usual, we are not prevented from remembering and sharing the stories of the past. We will always remember those who served for us and future generations." Here is the link to the school's Remembrance Service video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNhiE2xoiR4&feature=youtu.be>

Photo: *PeaceGarden – Year 11 student Angel Joice and Headteacher Mrs Beverly Scott-Herron in the school Peace Garden. Angel is wearing the poppy dress made by Head of Art Mrs Sam Joice.*

### Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School



Reverend Tim and Reverend Norma led a very moving, outdoor Remembrance Service. It was very emotional seeing the whole school community come together to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. The children enjoyed making poppies from recycled pop bottles and these made a powerful display, outside school. Everyone was very touched when a neighbour tweeted positively, having spotted it on a morning run. Lest we forget.

Linking their work on Africa, Mark Mayhew visited Shocklach recently to lead some fantastic drumming workshops for Years 2-6. Drums play an important role in every aspect of African life including the physical, emotional, and spiritual. The school was filled with energy, laughter, and inspiration.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the children helped to make a bonfire; they toasted marshmallows, popped some popcorn before making whistling and whooshing noises with their home-made sparklers!

Many children are missing out on celebrating their birthdays in the usual way and so there are parties in the school bubbles. It is wonderful to see such joy when they are treated to a Shocklach special.

### Tilston Parochial C of E Primary School

Joe, a Year 6 pupil, set up a Just Giving page to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

Joe was inspired through his WW1 history topic and wanted to find a way to show his respects during this challenging time. Joe hand painted pebbles with poppy designs and raised an outstanding £500.00.

On Remembrance Sunday, he displayed his poppy pebbles on the War Memorial in Malpas. We are very proud of Joe's creative and thoughtful fundraising efforts.



### Tushingam-with-Grindley C of E Primary School

Tushingam-with-Grindley produced a virtual Harvest Service that encouraged the whole school community to not only be thankful for all we have, but also to demonstrate Generosity towards others. Pupils took up this challenge, despite the lockdown restrictions, and created shoe boxes filled with gifts for the Team 4 U shoe box appeal. This half term our Collective Worship has been focussing on the value of Compassion and we began the half term with a whole school art project based upon Remembrance. The pupils' hard work produced an eye-catching, thought – provoking display.

