**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy; Deputy Headteachers; RE CoOrdinators**

(and please forward widely to your contacts & networks)

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               17th November 2021**

**Re           :              Fortnightly email and resources from the Diocesan Education Team**

Dear colleagues

Sometimes a quality item that has been **‘upcycled’** can actually appear better than the original – and of course it is **environmentally sound**, especially in a somewhat ‘throw-away’ mentality which seems to prevail, with respect even to clothes, toys and items that are cheaper to buy than mend. I’m sitting at my desk which is a pretty solid piece of furniture that was upcycled by a friend, with the top carefully sanded and treated, and the drawers sanded, painted with chalk-paint then waxed. For me it’s now more than a functional item of furniture, and has a deeper significance.

**Kintsugi** was developed in the late 16th century and is having a revival in the art world, though it’s never actually disappeared, especially in Japan. Sometimes translated as ‘Golden repair’ or ‘Golden seams’  it’s the process of putting shattered ceramics back together using a lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver or platinum. So rather than trying to mend something to look as if it wasn’t broken, the cracks are beautifully highlighted. Kintsugi repair kits are even available on Amazon – albeit not using the precious metals of the original! Do go online to see photographs of pots and items that have undergone this work – some artists now specialise in creating kintsugi items and these can command many thousands of pounds!

Kintsugi has become a metaphor for embracing one’s flaws and imperfections, rather than masking them, denying them or seeing them negatively. We all have imperfections, seen and unseen, and the past eighteen months may have particularly highlighted them for some of us – both in ourselves and in others. Last weekend there were many poignant vignettes and stories about families shattered through the death or permanent disability caused by serving personnel in the armed forces – but equally stories of hope and re-building that have occurred in families, with the support of others. This weekend we will experience the roller coaster emotions in the stories and videos of children and families highlighted on BBC’s ‘Children in Need’. Bereavement, life limiting illnesses and other traumas and situations especially highlight one’s brokenness, and a kintsugi sort of rebuilding can have a significant effect : not denying or airbrushing things, but using them as an uninvited reality and platform for moving forward.

Isaiah’s prophetic message of the Messiah’s ministry, can of course be applied to us all if we try to live out this ministry in our own lives, contexts and communities :

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (Isaiah Chapter 61)*

Thank you sincerely,  for all you do and who you are in our communities

Best wishes

**Jeff**

**An Angel Just Like Me : Christmas Project :** **UPDATED PPT** The project booklet is attached along with an **updated** worship Powerpoint which includes embedded in the slides (i) the **Abba song ‘I believe in angels’** (to play as children enter) and (ii) **the YouTube video** of Mary Hoffman’s reading of the book especially for us. Please share the Project booklet widely with colleagues in Community Schools and with churches. The video is found here for those who haven’t already received the details : [https://youtu.be/bgD2VkNDV0s](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1mmfEc-000Ahc-3S&i=57e1b682&c=QmpF2_T5XZDAwCIr1u1xxV_HKUAdrF_-rGqY2fmoNZnIokk5vnL_LTyPlaW5Bh4HEJz9T-XBenRhmrtxEtqANMLn6J_BqnFOaH6tBDtwK529jHDjBLb5Hu9J6SOXRk_iY_6TLcBXYb4Emn8-5bkbzaeupB9dFZYB-FV_9n00ctMBBz9fKuUPp6rvWu-3OlzUR6S0psh4zPT7IMp_PcGcOuA2fDqcubLiaOwXXI4sVw8)

**Admissions Policies :** A reminder for those VA schools, Foundation schools and Academies considering making changes to your admissions policy for 2023-24 that you must consult on changes for a **minimum of 6 weeks prior to 31st January 2022 (ie. 17th December latest)** with the final arrangements to be determined by 28 February 2022. In addition, if you have not made any changes to your policies (excluding the recent necessary IAPLAC variation) for a period of 7 years, then *you will also need to consult*. Arrangements for consultation are published as part of the School Admissions Code 2021 (p18) which can be found [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf). When policies have been determined, whether or not consultation was necessary, please send a copy to Rob Sanders who can also be contacted if you have any questions about admissions: robert.sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org or 02392 899658 / 07393 765277

**Farmington Scholarships :** We mentioned at the recent series of Termly Briefings the opportunity to carry out some **funded** practical research in RE or values education, facilitated through a [Farmington scholarship.](http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/) The Farmington Institute offers support to Headteachers and teachers of RE, including tutorials at a local university and funding for supply cover. A number of teachers from both dioceses have taken up scholarships in recent years, researching topics such as child-led collective worship, teaching the Trinity at Key Stage 2,  HeartSmart at home and  Christian values in coaching. The deadline for next year  is **January 30th2022**, and you can download an application form [here.](http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/application-form-2022-23/) Please speak to one of the Diocesan team if you would like to be put in touch with someone who has recently completed a Farmington scholarship, or if you’d like to talk through your application.

**Understanding Christianity Training :** thank you for your enquiries about our repeat sessions on Understanding Christianity for new **Governors and clergy**, or anyone who missed the training previously.  This training is not appropriate for an online session, as it involves lots of hands-on and practical ideas-testing. We will be running sessions next term in-person, Covid-permitting. Dates to follow.

**Growing Faith :** At the Termly Briefings I mentioned the CofE’s GF initiative to support links between School-Home-Church and the resources that are available **:**  <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>  This week it was announced that Lucy Moore, who founded **‘Messy Church’** while living in Portsmouth Diocese, and recently from Winchester Diocese (wife of former Archdeacon Paul Moore) has been appointed as the first Head of the CofE’s Growing Faith Foundation.

<https://mailchi.mp/churchofengland/new-foundation-head-appointed-for-growing-faith?e=a519da0462>

**EYFS RE :** Vaisey, who is a specialist in RE for 3 – 7 year olds is running some free online training on **18th November from 6:30 – 8:00** on **‘Making every opportunity count in EYFS and KS1 RE.’** The session will focus on the EYFS documentation and you can find out more information, or book a place [here.](https://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/events/zoom-event-eyfs-key-stage-1-re-making-every-opportunity-count-a-conversationtherrc-with-gill-vaisey-teacher-author-and-adviser__trashed-749/?mc_cid=59d2cf8bd4&mc_eid=UNIQID) Gill is the author of the **Puddles the Cat** resources and has recently written a series of books looking at the lives of eight children from different faiths and worldviews, [Belonging and Believing.](http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/)

**Courageous Advocacy :** Online training about **courageous advocacy** and how the **Global Neighbours Award** can support this, on **23rd or 24th November from 4pm to 5:30pm.** These sessions will also include practical ideas and resources for talking with children about race and diversity, to support our Christmas mini-project **An Angel Just Like Me**. Please contact Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org for further information.

The Church of England’s Courageous Advocacy report can be read here :  <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/180521%20Courageous%20Advocacy%20%28final%29.pdf> Caroline Weir of Christian Aid is the author and you can listen to a podcast here : <https://anchor.fm/cefel/episodes/Courageous-Advocacy-e18b68b>    You can find out more about Global Neighbours on the [Christian Aid website.](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme)

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**Year 6 Leavers’ days 2022 :** We are planning with our Winchester and Portsmouth Cathedral colleagues for in-person days next year! You will shortly receive some forms to assist with our administration and desire to bring over 2,500 children to spend time in morning workshops and fun, learning and experiential activities, and joining in afternoon worship with our bishops. The dates are being shared for general diary management, but please could I ask you to wait until you receive our booking forms to respond with requests for specific dates – which we always try to accommodate, but with 160 schools and thousands of Leavers, is always a challenge! Bournemouth area schools celebrate at Christchurch Priory, and our KS1 Leavers have their leavers’ day at Romsey Abbey – details will be shared separately.

**Winchester Diocese at the Cathedral : 15, 16 and 17 June 2022**

**Portsmouth Diocese at the Cathedral : 22, 23 and 24 June 2022**

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

Diocese of WINCHESTER &

Diocese of PORTSMOUTH

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