**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      :               28th September 2022**

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

Dear colleagues

I became quite emotional on several occasions during the week leading up to the Queen’s funeral, which according to various commentators was a widespread experience, with this significant event evoking all sorts of **memories and surfacing personal grief** for people. The actual funeral was touching on a number of levels, but didn’t have the same emotional pull on me as the previous week, until some names were mentioned. And you might recall how in my last reflection, I focused on Names – hence this pondering.

The names that set me off, were **Emma, Sandy and Muick.** Actually, it was more the poignant, unanticipated images of them on the TV screen, waiting for their owner to pass by in the hearse. Emma, the Queen’s pony stood with a stable hand on the hill approaching Windsor castle, while Sandy and Muick the corgis waited (uncharacteristically on leads) near St George’s chapel.

I think the conversations many of us have had this past fortnight about : real priorities; life in general; death; faith; and the jolt we feel when normalised stability and constancy changes; relates in part to what is known as **Liminal Spaces.** Liminal is from the Latin *‘limen’* which means ***‘threshold’.*** A liminal space is the time between ‘what was’ and ‘what is next’, and is a time of transition -  a time of waiting and not knowing the future. Often liminal spaces can be physical as well, when we sense more than the everyday and the known.

The Franciscan author **Richard Rohr** describes this space as *‘where we are betwixt and between the familiar and the completely unknown. There alone is our old world left behind, while we are not yet sure of the new existence. That’s a good space, where genuine newness can begin’.* However, most of us feel confused and overwhelmed when going through a major life change – rawness, uncertainty and vulnerability can dominate. This may emanate from a job-change, a financial strain, empty nesting, retirement, divorce, bereavement and a whole host of other triggers. Whatever the change, it’s a seismic shift, and the future doesn’t necessarily, in the sales-speak, appear either ‘Orange’ or ‘bright’.

Counter-intuitive as it may seem, at life’s most turbulent moments, some of the most enduring transformation is possible.

The Bible repeats three liminal themes which creates a paradigm of ongoing Christian formation : desert/wilderness; pit/grave; exile/pilgrimage. Desert/wilderness can be seen as a liminal space; Grave/pit can be seen as a liminal posture of heart; Exile/pilgrimage can be seen as a liminal mission into the world. Together these themes form a narrative spirituality of the Bible – a way that God changes us and prepares us for mission. Richard Rohr reflects that **we can be trapped in ‘normality’ – ‘the way things are’**. Life then revolves around problem-solving; fixing; taking sides with winners & losers.  To get out of this unending cycle we have to allow ourselves to be drawn into sacred space, into liminality.  If we allow ourselves to be drawn out of ‘business as usual’ and to remain patiently on the ‘threshold’,  transformation can take place, and de-construction of the old ‘normal’ can happen.

So the name I leave with you this time is Kim.

Kim was my fifth birthday present. For years she routinely accompanied me as I ran, training for cross-country races,  over the mountain on which we lived. She plodded the streets with me in all weathers on my paper-round. She completed the four mile beach run with me several times a week in the heavy sand, minutes from our home – the sight appearing rather incongruous! Often she’d sit waiting at the shore while I swam with mates after school in the dangerous September tidal currents. I said a final goodbye to Kim just after my ‘A’ levels – an amazing 13 years for a pedigree Pembrokeshire Corgi. So Sandy and Muick generated some wonderful, very unexpected memories last Monday, and took me to a liminal space : grieving a dog who was so much part of our family, at a time when I was about to leave home, stability and constancy,  for a foreign land and my tertiary education.

May liminal spaces and those behind special names bless you this week.

Thank you for who you are in our communities.

**Jeff**

**Discussing grief with the help of Muick** **the corgi** (pronounced Mick) -  A good resource with an updated ending following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The book ‘The Girl Who Grew Up To Be Queen’ (Happyland God's Big Story book)

The videos can be found here  [www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/367949/Gods\_Big\_Story.aspx](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/367949/Gods_Big_Story.aspx)

**Free – calming prayers activity booklets for children** – schools and parishes may find this free resource helpful, particularly in such uncertain times  : <https://letspraytogether.christianaid.org.uk/ordernow/>

**SIAMS National Update 3rd November** - further to last week’s flyer, we have been sent this message by the SIAMS National Office:

*The National SIAMS Team would like to thank all those who have registered, or who have tried to register, to attend one of the national update sessions on Thursday 3rd November. Due to an unexpectedly high response, the session registration capacity has been reached and the link that was shared previously is no longer allowing people to register their attendance. Consequently, we are now sharing the link that will allow you to gain direct access to the session of your choice. Please do not share this link with anyone apart from those members of your team who plan to attend the sessions. Thank you.*

*Thursday 3 November 10am-11.30am* [*Click here to join 10am meeting*](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1663776000%2F1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w%7Cin6f%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C632B363C2FA847BD107FA7045DFD66F3&s=xEnJAOrwehWRb8-Y-vzj2v_ipYw&o=%2Fphte%3A%2Fttsr.amsicosm%2F.of%2Fomltcjtmeip-oeum9n%2Fe3ae1%25YgtiMMzyn_NOjkdMtT4WR0iMLYWki0ONWJQItDkzkEyMMMTwm2h%25jEe0tr14%3Fvado%2F0c.27xnt%25%3D%25bet2i223%252%25Td22a%2565e429-33b7b04-a-9b48c15-a477c0e8f7e2%25%252Oc%25222a2id2%253%25%252f627-a8ca819e7-4e7a-ee99cd5aa-%2548b244224d7%25)

*Thursday 3 November 6pm-7.30pm* [*Click here to join the 6pm meeting*](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1663776000%2F1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w%7Cin6f%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C632B363C2FA847BD107FA7045DFD66F3&s=7uiOrtRakUZivkBUE7K9ZiMnJBI&o=%2Fphte%3A%2Fttsr.amsicosm%2F.of%2Fomltcjtmeip-oeum9n%2Fe3ae1%25YgtiNOT5n_OMTldItDlGE0lOLMG3S0ZOTgdQtT0TMQkNMNTw20h%25TIe0trw4%3Fvado%2F0c.27xnt%25%3D%25bet2i223%252%25Td22a%2565e429-33b7b04-a-9b48c15-a477c0e8f7e2%25%252Oc%25222a2id2%253%25%252f627-a8ca819e7-4e7a-ee99cd5aa-%2548b244224d7%25)

*The sessions will consist of a presentation by Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS, and no questions will be able to be taken to the high number of attendees.*

**RE Network Meetings**

Please see the attached flyer for dates and venues for this term’s RE Network meetings. These will be taking place in schools across the two dioceses throughout October and are a great way to link up with other RE leaders and teachers in your area. This term we will be focussing on Interfaith Week and discussing how to avoid stereotypes in the RE classroom, which is a focus for both SIAMS and OFSTED at the moment. Please let Jane Kelly know if you would like to attend one of the meetings, [Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org)

**Interfaith Week**

[Interfaith Week](https://www.interfaithweek.org/about) will take place between 13th and 20th November 2022. This is a great way to raise the profile of RE in your school and to reach out to your local community. Many schools combine it with [Anti-Bullying Week,](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2022-reach-out#:~:text=Anti-Bullying%20Week%202022%20is%20coordinated%20in%20England%20and,socks%20to%20celebrate%20what%20makes%20us%20all%20unique.) which starts off with

Odd Sock Day, a simple way to celebrate our uniqueness.  Do come along to one of the RE network meetings to find out more, and for recommendations for visits and visitors.

**Training Events for teachers, governors and parishes (relevant for Church Schools and community schools)**

More training events will be added soon, but for any of the sessions below, please email my pa [Sam.powell@portsmouth](mailto:Sam.powell@portsmouth) to register for details

**All Are Welcome**   : 9th November , 4:00 – 5:00   Online training to launch our new diversity project, based on a selection of  picture books. It is aimed primarily at Y2 children, but can be adapted up or down.

**Supporting RE in primary schools**  : 5th October, 10:00 – 12:00 or 11th October 1:30 – 3:30       Training for clergy or Children & Family Workers, including an introduction to Understanding Christianity.

**Global Neighbours**  :13th October, 4 – 5:30    Online training for school leaders and governors on how to develop and embed global learning in your school.

**Kindertransport workshops**  7th November, 3:30 – 5:00 (Northern schools) or 10th November, 3:30 – 5:00 (Southern schools)  A practical workshop for Y5 / 6 teachers with activities and resources to teach their pupils about the Kindertransport and the lessons we can learn from history. Ideal for use on Holocaust Memorial Day January 27th 2023.

**RE Network Meetings** Weeks beginning 3rd October and 10th October, dates and venues to be confirmed.    An opportunity to meet up with other RE coordinators to share ideas and resources.

**Joint school parish eco projects** 15th November 4-5.30pm A session to inspire and encourage joint eco projects between parishes and schools

**Induction training for recently appointed foundation governors** 15th November 6.30-8pm

**Collective worship training for foundation governors** 5th October  and 30th November 6.30-8pm

**All Are Welcome Project -** We have put together a series of resources based on children’s picture books that celebrate racial diversity, including *The Proudest Blue, My Hair and Look Up!* The materials include classroom reflections, RE and art ideas and are aimed at Year 2 pupils, although they can be adapted for older or younger children. They have been trialled by Jan Thomas at Copythorne CofE Infant School and we are holding some online training on **Wednesday 9th November.** Please contact Jane Kelly if you would like more information and a Teams link. [Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org)

**Academic Administrator Job opportunity :** attached is the advert for the post of Academic Administrator. We are looking to appoint someone to ensure the organisation, coordination and quality assurance of the Licensed Ministry Training programme for the Diocese of Winchester. We can offer 21 hours per week (up to 22.5 hours per week) within Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Work pattern is negotiable and flexible. Some home working available. Salary in the region  of £16,950 per annum for 22.5 hours. Plus, we make a contribution of 15% of basic annual salary into our pension scheme. For an informal discussion contact Revd Dr Amy Roche, Dean of Licensed Ministry Training - [Amy.Roche@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:Amy.Roche@winchester.anglican.org) Job Description and Application pack available at [www.winchester.anglican.org](http://www.winchester.anglican.org/) **Deadline for applications Tues 11th October.**

**Invitation from Jeff, Catherine and Peter : Large Scale Art Installation at Winchester Cathedral -** I’m delighted to be working with Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester and Peter Walker, artist-sculptor and am keen to promote a new and exciting large-scale art project. We encourage and warmly invite your CofE or Community school to take part.

**Light of Hope** is a **mass participation project** that will invite messages of hope from across the region. The project will culminate in what will be a stunning **temporary installation of The Light of Hope Star inside Winchester Cathedral** next year. I’ll be sending details of services and live stream viewing of the Star, but importantly will also be delighted if many of you will be there with your families and friends in person.

**To get involved :** please email me and copy my pa [Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org) in a fresh email with Light of Hope in the subject line, and we will provide **FREE digital resources** for use anytime in the Autumn Term, including a full education pack with supporting materials and guidance.

Using the resources, we’d like your pupils and students to create their own simple Light of Hope and decorate it with a message or drawing. Once completed we’d like you to use your students’ Lights to create a display in your school setting, photograph the display and share it with us to join the celebration.

This is a great opportunity as well for parishes to engage with children and young people in creating the Light of Hope.

Have fun, and be part of a project that will involve lots of people and organisations. To see some of Peter’s spectacular projects please visit [www.peterwalkersculptor.com](http://www.peterwalkersculptor.com)

**Garden Twinning -** If you have recently developed your school outdoor space, perhaps creating a reflective area, you might be interested in a [garden twinning scheme](https://rippleeffect.org/get-involved/individual/garden-twinning/?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=garden_twinning_22&utm_medium=email) run by the charity Ripple Effect (Formerly Send a Cow.) You will receive a wooden plaque and some wildflower seeds in return for sponsoring an organic kitchen garden in rural Kenya. This would be a good opportunity for your pupils to learn more about our global interdependence in a practical way.

**2022-23 Diocesan Education Project – ‘Everyday Ubuntu : Growing & Developing Together’ -** This academic year’s project will be launched in October. But if you want a taster, we are using Desmond Tutu’s reconciliation theology as a basis – clearly not ‘go-to’ reading for children, but what will appear in our podcasts, videos and project in age-appropriate, inspirational and exciting activities and opportunities. In addition to the project booklet, packed with ideas and off the peg packages, a new feature this year will be podcasts, seminars and other activities for adults.

**Flourishing Together: CofE Foundation for Educational Leadership National Conference 2023.**

The conference will take place on Friday 27th January 2023 at Union Chapel and St. Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington, London. Details on speakers, workshops and how to register can be found [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1od6OK-0001ZI-4l&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1664268600%2F1od6OK-0001ZI-4l%7Cin6d%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C6332BAC468C05CC554BC9B5323DA411A&s=4iiaS4G_-o0yzyePZnBPx0lcP8Q&o=%2Fphth%3A%2Fctsnhurlfegcof.anrfaodt4nms0t%2F9.e3353).

**CofE NPQs -** the first application deadline of the year is 16th October. Details attached and an application form

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

Diocese of WINCHESTER &

Diocese of PORTSMOUTH

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