

Autumn Term 2021– Second Edition!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second edition of the RE Newsletter for Community Schools for this academic year. I do hope that despite all its challenges, this term has been an enjoyable one for you and your pupils and that RE is thriving under your care! It has been wonderful to see so many of you at the different Network Meetings, albeit only online and to talk to those of you who have been in touch by telephone too. Remember that I am always here to offer you help, advice and support with RE (or Collective Worship). You may be:

- preparing teaching and learning
- reviewing and revising RE documentation such as schemes of learning and policy statements
- organising existing resources and/or selecting new ones
- developing your own subject knowledge.

I would be delighted to hear from you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to make an online or telephone appointment!

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- **LB Brent:** 3rd February, 19th May
- **LB Camden:** 27th January
- **LB Hammersmith & Fulham:** 24th February
- **RB Kensington & Chelsea/City of Westminster:** 3rd March, 16th June
- **LB Harrow:** 15th March, 26th May
- **LB Hounslow:** 10th March, 7th June
- **RB Kingston/LB Richmond:** 22nd February, 10th May

In all likelihood, these will continue to take place virtually. Please contact me for more details or register online in the usual way.

**Dates of
Future
Primary RE
Network
Meetings
2022**

Christianity Through Ten Objects at Westminster Abbey



Every object tells a story. At Westminster Abbey, a Christian place of worship for over 1,000 years, there are hundreds of objects and tales to tell. Help your pupils to learn more about the beliefs, practices and history of Christianity through these ten hand-picked objects from Westminster Abbey's extensive collection.

Challenge your pupils to learn through listening to audio clips and trying out the hands-on activities based on the objects. Who would have used them? Why are they designed in that way? And what makes them significant to Christian belief and practice throughout history and today? With ideas for primary and secondary students, all children and young people can learn through these brand new and engaging resources: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/christianity-in-10-objects>

The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals

The 2021-2022 Wallchart and the eCalendar are now available from Shap! This is the best and most reliable calendar of this kind and an essential resource for any individual Subject Leader for RE as well as colleagues of all kinds across every school. Put one on the wall of your staffroom! It lasts until December 2022!

More details are available at: www.shapworkingparty.org.uk

Online Resources for Visiting Mosques

This **Visiting a Mosque: RE Teachers Resources** pack is intended to support and empower RE Teachers in organising and leading school visits to mosques and many of the key points being made will apply to other places of worship too.

Additionally, during the current restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, 'in-person' visits to many places of worship including mosques have been paused for obvious reasons. As a result, this pack includes some online mosque tours as an additional resource and to increase familiarity and confidence when organising in-person visits. Please note: this page and associated resources are best viewed on a desktop/laptop device: <https://www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers/>

My own particular favourite for an online visit is the new mosque in Cambridge, recently nominated for a major architectural prize! It incorporates traditional Islamic designs and links these to motifs familiar from other religious buildings in the city such as Kings College Chapel and is environmentally friendly too: <https://cambridgecentralmosque.org/> It is beautiful!



Other Resources on Places of Worship

All teachers know that learning takes place outside the classroom as well as inside it. Visits are highly valuable educational experiences. We also know how much learning inside the classroom is enhanced by visits outside it. These pages (<https://www.reonline.org.uk/specials/places-of-worship/>) are an encouragement to use both local and national religious resources that are available outside the classroom in order to give pupils first hand experiences of the religious buildings and the communities they serve.

Here you will find not only short films and descriptions of the main places of worship, but also links to places of worship that offer opportunities for educational visits. If you cannot get out of the classroom, or want to reinforce aspects of a visit already made, you will also find links to places of worship that can provide virtual tours. You will also be guided through all the instructions you will need to make a visit to a place of worship successful. Here you will find general instructions on planning, and follow up, as well as specific instructions about the sensitivities we need in different places of worship. You can also discover suggestions for activities and questions for pupils to ask.

Strictly RE: An Online Conference Opportunity

- **Dates:** 29th and 30th January 2022 (PLUS additional seminars leading up to Strictly!)
- **Location:** Online - from the comfort of your own home!
- **Full price:** £115- Price includes downloadable handouts and presentations from all sessions. NATRE members discounts available (Bronze: £20 off, Silver: £30, Gold & Platinum: £40):

There will be twilight sessions throughout January, culminating in a weekend of keynotes, seminars and networking. These will be announced soon! Delegates who have already booked a place will be the first to hear about them and book their sessions.

Strictly RE @ Home will have a strong focus across the conference on:

- Worldviews
- Dharmic traditions
- Ways of knowing

It should offer something for everyone, from head teachers to ECTs. There is lots to choose from, and the hope is that you will pick and mix from across the month and weekend to create a programme that works for you. You do not have to attend a seminar at every time slot.

Book soon to avoid missing out! Here is the link: <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2022/>

Resources for Teaching About Judaism

- **Aisenthal** Judaica Shop is well known and much loved in the Jewish community. Established in the late 1950s in Stamford Hill, **Aisenthal** moved to Golders Green some forty years ago. It then changed hands in 2012 and continues to offer a wide range of all kinds of Jewish cards, books and ritual objects, including beautiful mezuzot cases, challah plates and covers, havdalah sets and much much more. Materials produced for Jewish children on sale here can also be useful in RE in schools, especially the toys and games. Mail order is available: <https://aisenthaljudaica.com/>
- **Jerusalem the Golden** is another wonderful Judaica shop in North London. Established in the late 60s in the city the shop moved to Golders Green in the 70s to serve the then growing Jewish community. The shop remains a place where it is possible to find almost anything remotely connected to Judaism. Great emphasis is placed upon customer service and carrying a more up to date stock of Jewish items, including a wide range of kippot, objects associated with Shabbat as well as annual Jewish festivals and some rather fun cartoon greeting cards. Mail order is available: <https://www.jerusalemthegolden.org/>
- If you are in Jewish North London looking to buy artefacts for your school, then do not forget to call in to two other fascinating places! **Kosher Kingdom** is a Jewish supermarket offering a range of kosher foods and cuisines and at festival times, you will find lots of wonderful resources for your classroom, – see: <https://kosherkingdom.co.uk/our-store/> where you will also find some recipes to try!
- Finally, **SoferStam** is also based in Golders Green. It specialises in traditional Safrut – Hebrew scribal calligraphy. Staff also do repairs serving both the local Jewish community as well as the wider UK community and elsewhere in Europe. See: <https://soferstam.co.uk/> for more information. This short film - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqfkYY7W--c> - shows the work of Bernard Benarroch, the scribe whose job it is to hand write the Torah scroll using traditional methods handed down over the generations – a great classroom resource!

Artefacts and Other Resources

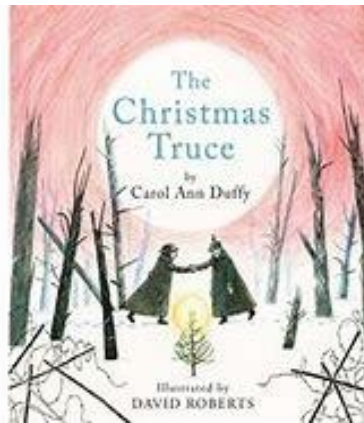
TTS produces Primary RE resources to reflect religious beliefs, spirituality, celebration, worship, practices and belonging. Materials are offered to reflect the fact that RE has an increasingly important role in helping children to be more aware of what it means to live in a multi-faith community and respect the beliefs and practices of others, thereby strengthening social cohesion: <https://www.tts-group.co.uk/primary/re/>



Resources for Teaching About Quakers

Members of the **Society of Friends**, otherwise known as **Quakers** generally consider themselves to be Christians, but also find meaning and value in other faiths and traditions. They believe that there is something transcendent and precious in every person. You can find out more about them and what they believe here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/about-quakers/our-faith> In particular, **Quakers** are perhaps best known for the simplicity of their worship and their commitment to peace and reconciliation. Some SACREs have Quaker representatives sitting on Group A who are happy to support RE work in schools.

The **Quakers'** website also features a lot of materials of use to teachers, including resources to support RE and Collective Worship and a wealth of ideas relating to Peace Education, some of which relate to the Christmas Truce during the First World War – explore all of these via the following link: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/teaching-resources-2> The Christmas Truce is also addressed in the lovely poem by Carol Ann Duffy, ideal for this time of year!



Finally, **Quakers** welcome school visits to their Meeting Houses and this booklet for their own members gives a flavour of some of what their outreach work with pupils might involve: <https://quaker-prod.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/store/59134b7b10b80e505f7872a862dc2410786cef1d130de787ff404c155370>