

# COMMUNITY

Derby Diocesan Board of Education Christian Value for the Year 2017/18

## Bishop's Badge

How creative can you be as a school community in helping to build or celebrate community?

- Locally through things like regular or special visits to a care home, helping with a community event, plan a series of joint services with church, help develop a community orchard...
- Within the Diocese e.g. form a curriculum based link with another church school, write and share creative ways of celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Diocese.
- Make links with another school in a different Diocese.
- Find creative ways of supporting the Bishop's Harvest appeal this year.
- Carry out a hospitality audit. What sort of welcome do all receive at your school in terms of environment and practice?

## Christian Value of the Year

This year sees the introduction of a shared value of the year across church schools in Derby Diocese. This value will also underpin various events and training that will take place this year. It will be reinforced each term through our school mailings and will culminate in the Bishop's Badge being awarded to one individual from each school as nominated by the Head for the child who best embodies that value and also to the best whole school project that exemplifies the value of community.



Church Schools are communities in their own right but are also part of many others. In the Church of England's Vision for Education- Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it states:

### *Educating for Community and Living Well Together*

We are only persons with each other: our humanity is 'co-humanity', inextricably involved with others, utterly relational, both in our humanity and our shared life on a finite planet. If those others are of ultimate worth then we are each called to responsibility towards them and to contribute responsibly to our communities. The good life is 'with and for others in just institutions' (Paul Ricoeur, *Oneself as Another*, University of Chicago Press, 1992). So education needs to have a core focus on relationships and commitments, participation in communities and institutions, and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.\*



## 90th Anniversary for Derby Diocese

Go to <http://derby.anglican.org/education/schools/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/> to find collective worship material written for schools to mark this event. In what other ways can you help your school community feel they belong to the Diocese?

## Church Schools' Conference

This year's conference theme is 'Belonging to a Community of Hope'. Professor Trevor Cooling has produced a pre-conference think piece for school staff to use to start exploring the theme. Go to <http://derby.anglican.org/education/schools/conference-2013-2/> and use them in a couple of staff meetings for a 20 minute discussion.

## Links with Kolkata

The Kolkata Challenge raised about £7000 for the slum schools that we support and have links with in Kolkata. You might want to challenge your pupils to find interesting ways to raise more money for this part of the global family we belong to. Go to <http://derby.anglican.org/education/schools/kolkata-school-links/> to find photos and teaching ideas about Kolkata. Encourage your vicar, church member, parent or governor to consider going on the proposed community visit to Kolkata in October 2018.

The conviction that we are created and sustained by God for living together in families and communities is at the root of our dedication to educating for life together.\*

Living before God and living with and for others go together in Jesus. He embodies the centrality of relationships in love, compassion, generosity, truth-telling, forgiveness, and gathering as community.\*

'Each school is to be a hospitable community that seeks to embody an ethos of living well together.\*

\*Quotes all from Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good - The Church of England Vision for Education.

The collective worship resource Roots and Fruits (<http://www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/>) can support the exploration of Community. Although it does not have a section devoted to that theme, it does explore many of the character traits required for schools to be communities where all can flourish. It is also worth looking at <http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk> which again helps schools explore similar values across four aspects of school life: curriculum; worship; ethos and leadership. In particular the one called Koinonia (Greek for Christian fellowship) might be particularly helpful.



## Character Education

Of course healthy communities are dependent on healthy individuals. Quality of character is crucial and schools can really help in this. Get hold of a copy of the Jubilee Centre's scheme of work <http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/1610/character-education> for a comprehensive approach.

Ask Alison to lead some training on a teaching and learning approach which has character education at its heart - What if Learning.

## World Shapers

Go to <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/whole-school/world-shapers> to find out more about a whole school approach to global citizenship. There is also information about the Global Learning Programme (GLP). The GLP provides registered schools with credits to aid their global learning which can then be used with various providers.

## Head Teachers' Meeting

The meeting this term is going to be focussed on how school leaders can work with and for their local community. We have Mrs Jo Redfern, an executive head of three schools in Southwell and Nottingham Diocese coming to steer our thinking.

## Theological Underpinning to Community

(written by Rev'd Nicky Fenton, Schools' Missioner)

**God** reveals himself to us as Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons yet one God. Relationship and community therefore lie right at the heart of who God is and everything he does. The three persons of the Godhead work together complementing each other in what is known technically as the dance of community.

In **creation**, we see the Spirit hovering over the waters, the Father speaking and Jesus the Word acting and at the very pinnacle of creation we see humankind made in God's image. When Adam is formed God sees that he is good but also says that it is not good for him to be alone and that there isn't a suitable companion for him amongst the animals and so creates woman to be his equal and his partner. We are formed to live in families and to be in mutually supportive and sustaining relationships working together to accomplish the task that God gives us of being fruitful and taking care of creation.

In the story of **God's people**, we see God making a covenant and promise with Abraham made at a time in his life when he and his wife were old and childless that they will have as many descendants as the stars in the sky and that they will be God's people and he will be their God for ever and that he will give them a land to live in. We see his descendants taken into slavery in Egypt and God acting to set his people free in the story of the Exodus. Once they have crossed the Red Sea, God spends many years teaching them his commands, giving them laws to govern the life of the new nation he names Israel and trying to show them how to live together well. God's intention is that his people should be a light and example to the nations around them showing them what it means to be a community blessed by God and living under his rule, reign and in his presence so that others will come and join them and become part of God's family, nation and kingdom. But, things go wrong and God's people struggle to live up to the challenge and turn their backs on God in many ways and never live up to God's standards and are unable to form the ideal community.

## Defibrillators

Cardiovascular disease is the world's leading cause of death. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in Europe, killing 400,000 people each year. 13% of all workplace fatalities are due to sudden cardiac arrest. 50% of victims have no previous symptoms of coronary heart disease. A defibrillator is the only effective therapy for SCA and is an essential link in the Chain of Survival. In the UK SCA claims the lives of a medium size plane crash occurring every single day! Survival rates decrease by 7-10% for every minute that passes without defibrillation. Over 95% of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. Waiting for emergency services results in a 5-7% survival rate. Cardiac arrest rarely converts spontaneously. It's ultimately a defibrillator that saves lives. (Source: St John Ambulance)

Derby Diocese has 110 schools distributed across Derby and Derbyshire. If each school had a defibrillator this could not only save lives in our schools but it could also provide a wide network of life saving devices across our communities. An act of service for the common good. I know many schools already have these devices.

If you are interested in purchasing a defibrillator with a package to include staff training, please let Netta know by the end of October. If enough schools are interested we will investigate the potential for economy of scale discounts from different suppliers. This might just save a life.

So, in the **incarnation**, God sends Jesus to live amongst his people - God literally comes into the neighbourhood and dwells among us as one of us demonstrating what it means to be in relationship with God and to live in community with all of God's creation.

Jesus gives us his **Gospel** and God's greatest commandments, to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. He gathers a community of followers called disciples around him and travels teaching and demonstrating God's desire to be in community with his people. Jesus' most famous teaching in the Sermon on the Mount gives a vision of life as part of the family of a God who is fully inclusive in loving where even enemies are loved, welcomed, forgiven and invited in.

Jesus demonstrates God's desire for community most clearly on the cross where **salvation** is freely offered to all who will turn to Jesus with whatever faith they have as we see in the penitent thief who is told 'today you will be with me in paradise'. The community of believers that God is forming is not just within this world, but exists beyond death and outside of time in eternity where all Christians will see Jesus face to face and live within his new heaven and earth worshipping God together with people from every race and language.

Meanwhile, as we await Jesus second coming, God continues to form a community known as **the Kingdom of God**. Jesus' last words to his disciples were to commission them to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them, offering forgiveness and inviting them into a new community called the church. In the book of Acts we see people coming to faith as the stories of Jesus are told and these new believers gather together daily to pray, worship, eat together and learn to live together well as a community of disciples centred around Jesus. They gradually travel further afield spreading the good news as they go and forming new communities everywhere they travel. The church has continued to grow and develop over the many centuries since. Churches today are still communities gathering to worship Jesus and inviting others into relationship with God and to join the community and fellowship of faith known as the worldwide Church.