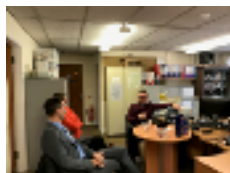


THE GREATEST IS LOVE



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DERBY DIOCESE CHURCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WE SEEK TO OFFER OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

The Greatest is Love

When I was younger I used to have to see a speech therapist. I struggled with pronunciation (some would argue I still do). I'd hear words incorrectly and then speak them incorrectly. In addition to this - if I couldn't say a word I'd just substitute it - for years, my friend Matthew was a 'Schwepshwep'! Well into my teens I would say words incorrectly until someone would kindly inform me of the correct version. I remember a secondary school teacher asking me what the word 'safternoon' meant in my exercise book. When I explained that it followed the morning, he looked at me gone out and said, 'You mean 'this afternoon'?' A lightbulb moment - I had heard it as 'safternoon', always said it as 'safternoon' had therefore written it as 'safternoon' and no one had ever picked me up on it! As you're probably gathering - I wasn't the brightest! One of my favourite songs from my childhood was 'Love Reign O'er Me' by The Who. But it wasn't until years later that I realised that it was 'Reign' - I'd always thought it was 'Rain'. 'Love Rain on me' is what I'd been hearing.

Why have I even been thinking about this and why am I sharing this with you now? Well it's because I've been thinking about Dave - I'm missing him if I'm honest. Prior to Dave's accident we would spend all day, everyday together - in the office, in meetings or driving around in his or my car on the way to or from meetings. I've been thinking about one particular day whilst driving to a meeting. Dave was showing me a fancy new gadget in his car, linked to the stereo. Basically, you spoke into the gadget requesting a song and it would play the song. 'Any song?' I asked.

'Any,' Dave replied.

'Any song in the whole wide world?'

'Any,' said Dave with confidence. I was determined that I could come up with a song that was not in its repertoire.

'This is not a Love Song, by Pill' I said, and sure enough it began to play.

'Cream for Crow, by Captain Beefheart.' Once again it began to play.

This went on with me pulling up random, unheard of songs from my youth. It wasn't long before I was dredging up the rude and vulgar songs that I recalled from some distant past. And with my mind well and truly in the gutter by this point, I announced the next track. To my horror I recognised the intro - the baseline, followed by rhythm and electric guitars. I panicked -

'Dave, how do I stop it. How do I stop it?'

The lead singer's voice began....'Dave, how do I stop it - quick'

Dave replied, 'Just say another song.'

'Errrrmmmm....Love Reign O'er Me - The Who'

Phew! Where did I pull that one from as my get out of jail card? - and believe me, I knew what was coming so it really was a get out of jail card!

'Love Reign O'er Me' by The Who. Love **Reign** O'er Me - **Reign**: to rule, to prevail, to hold sway, to be a force, to endure, to survive, to save. I don't think it was any coincidence that I pulled that cat out of the bag to save me at that point.

I'd not listened to that song in years, but since that car journey I've listened to it over and over. Since Dave's accident it has become even more poignant as I have been reflecting on everything we've been building over the last 5 years - everything we've been striving to achieve. Love to reign over everything is what we strive for - to reign over our schools, to reign over our decision making and our choices - to make sure those decisions are made for the right reasons.

1 Corinthians 13 tells us that if we have no love then we have nothing. I totally agree. Can you imagine a school with no love? It goes on to tell us what love is: patient, and kind. It tells us what love isn't: rude, arrogant, irritable, resentful, doesn't boast or envy. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We're told it is greater than hope and greater than faith and we're told it never ends.

Some people, I fear, would rubbish this as ideology or a fairy tale at best, yet I see it as simplistic as the title of the song. Let love 'Reign' over us and we will make the right decisions, appoint the right people, embed the right ethos, share the right vision and values, disseminate the best practice and we'll do it all for the right reasons. And like when someone smiles at you and you can't help but smile back, it becomes infectious, which is why we have staff across our schools going out of their way to help each other. Headteachers who sit on each other's Governing Bodies, schools that are more than willing to loan out one of their best members of staff to go and problem solve in another school and, more often than not, don't want any recompense for it. 'It all comes back round,' one Head said to me.

Sometimes it's tough love - the messages aren't easy that we have to deliver but by reminding ourselves of why we are doing what we are doing - and that is ultimately for the children within our schools - it makes it a little easier.

If we, from this Board of Education, through to our Local Governing Bodies, our Headteachers and all their children and staff - if we can ensure that in our schools we foster a culture whereby everything is driven by the power of love - a love that never runs out, no matter how trying the tasks in front of us become - if we can achieve that, then I believe our children will be in the perfect environment to flourish in all aspects so that they receive life in all its fullness.

Hope, faith and love and the greatest of these is love - and to think I thought it was raining!



Magpie Ideas

As we visit schools we pick up all sorts of creative ideas and here are just a few of them;

St Giles CE Primary Matlock

had a whole school focus during Lent encouraging every child to think how they could make the world a better place for everyone. A daily challenge was set and on the back of paper butterflies pupils wrote small promises that they would keep to make life better for other people.



Sale and Davy VC Primary

- have used a real root and branch approach to considering their distinctively Christian vision using the biblical verse as its core, 'I can do all things by the one who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13. So much so that in the foyer they now have a tree which interweaves their values, curriculum and aspirations.



New Manager at the Peak Centre!

Happy New Year from all of us at The Peak Centre, which is situated in the beautiful secluded valley of Edale in the north of the Peak District. 2019 is an exciting year for us as we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary having been founded in 1969 after the generous donation of the John Champion Barn by a local family.

My name is Ben Acty and I have been manager of the Peak Centre since September 2018 having moved from Sheffield with my family. This role gives me the opportunity to pursue and share my passion of climbing



and the outdoors with the groups who come to stay with us here.

The Peak Centre links with the Youth Office of the Diocese of Derby in running events specifically for young people and youth leaders from parishes in the Diocese of Derby. We also host schools for residential stays and like to work in partnership with leaders and teachers to help them achieve their aims. This means that they retain

control of the "what and when" leaving us to support them in their endeavours.

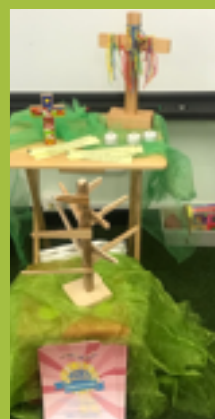
The Peak Centre offers comfortable, warm and welcoming group accommodation maintained to a high standard. The accommodation is offered in two wings, John Champion's Barn and Grindslow Wing. It is possible to have exclusive use of your part of the Centre if you are a small group and of the whole centre if you are a large group.

The Peak Centre offers a wide range of activities both at the centre, where we have our own climbing wall, and in the surrounding Peak District National Park. We are registered with the Adventure Activities Licensing Service for single pitch rock climbing, abseiling and hill walking. The Peak Centre is a unique place and a wide range of possibilities exists for a residential experience.

Part of our Christian ethos at the Peak Centre is "community living, discovery and growth" and this has been our strap-line for many years now. Our central aim is to offer a comfortable, safe and well-resourced centre which will meet the needs of any type of group who reside here, be it for a couple of nights or a whole week, and one where young people and adults alike can explore, learn and grow together. For more information visit our website <https://www.peakcentre.org.uk> or email office@peakcentre.org.uk



Sale and Davy have also further developed their reflective spaces in the classrooms. Each class now has an empty tree which can be used however that class wishes to by adding prayers, reflections and images that have meaning for the pupil as a result of the class based collective worship.



Resources



What Happens In...? Created with members of faith communities, these cutaway drawings show pupils about physical features of places of worship and what happens in each one. They are presented both electronically and as double-sided A3 posters, with key vocabulary and definitions on the reverse.

The collection of teaching and learning ideas helps pupils explore basic information about places of worship, but also to go beyond this and think about the significance for believers. The activities make connections with the lives and thoughts of pupils. Teaching and learning ideas have been selected in order to make the cutaways useful and appropriate for primary school pupils in all stages of RE. £25 from <https://shop.retoday.org.uk/9781910261309>



Church in School - from Separate Buildings to Shared Premises What is the effect of establishing a church-in-school in which the church worships solely on school premises? How does it impact on the church, the school, and the wider community that they both serve? What are the benefits and challenges for the churches and schools involved? And, once a church-in-school has been established, how can an effective partnership be maintained? This booklet sets out to answer these questions by exploring the experiences of three very different church-in-school partnerships. It also points the reader to further resources aimed at encouraging new partnerships and establishing guidelines for good practice. £3.95 <https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/ed-37-church-in-school-from-separate-buildings-to-shared-premises>

Get a religious discussion going and engage children. Use as an opener or develop the subject into more of a whole lesson using the suggestions on the cards. Elicit verbal and discursive responses. Build in to creative or written work. £25.99 <https://www.tts-group.co.uk/religion-lesson-openers/1005791.html#>



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Hartshorne VC Primary

at least once every half term the pupils, parents and teachers get together on a Friday afternoon to work on a 'Design to Delight' project. The idea is for pupils to make something to either take home or to enrich the school environment. It is based on key Christian festivals or another aspect of being a Church school. Here is the most recent piece of work which is a display of their Christian values in the newly decorated hall.



Congratulations to

All staff at St Werburgh's VA Primary for being awarded the REQM gold level!

Welcome to New Head Teachers:

Helen Walker at Woodthorpe VC Primary

Andrea Tomlinson as executive head of Great Hucklow and Peak Forest VC Primary Schools

Kim Millar at St George's VC Primary, Church Gresley

Dates for Diaries 2018/19

Head Teacher Meetings

26 Mar
6 June
8.30am-3.45pm,
Hassop Hall

Heads and Clergy Conference

11 Feb Chatsworth, Hartington Room
9.15am-1.15pm or
12.15pm-4.15pm

Exploring the Eucharist

26 Feb Eyam Church Centre
27 Feb Derby Church House
9.30am-12.30pm

RE Moderation

1 Apr 1.15-3.15pm
St Werburgh's VA Primary
3 Apr 1.15-3.15
Longstone VA Primary

Understanding Christianity Refresher Day 2

19 Mar - Chapel en le Frith VC Primary
21 Mar - Derby Church House
9.30 am-3pm

Collective Worship Coordinator's Training

14 March Chatsworth
18 March Jury's Inn, Derby
9.30am-3.30pm

2019 Church Schools' Conference

4 Nov 2019
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick