

For teachers and schools in the north

The RE Newsletter



SPRING TERM 1

JANUARY 2023

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups and during more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Information, films and resources can be found on their [website here](#).



Friday 27th January: Oldham's commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day will be from 1000 until 1200 at The Waterhead Academy, 529 Huddersfield Road, Lees, Oldham, OL4 3NY. If you'd like to attend please contact Virbai.kara@oldham.gov.uk

Wednesday 25th January: Calderdale College will be hosting their annual Holocaust memorial day event, working in partnership with Calderdale Council, Calderdale Interfaith, Holocaust Centre North, and the Holocaust Survivors friendship association. The event takes place at Calderdale College, Francis Street, Halifax, HX13UZ 6pm-8pm

Trude Silman MBE will give her testimony as a child that survived the Holocaust. Other speakers include the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Angie Gallagher and Reverend Canon Hilary Barber. Refreshments will be provided.

Further details [here](#).

The Anne Frank Trust offers workshops to enable KS2 and KS3 pupils to learn from the uniquely inspiring life and work of Anne Frank, using readings and video extracts from her diary. Workshops can be delivered online, in person or a hybrid model. Further information [here](#).

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ PROJECTS AND TRIPS FOR 16 – 18 YEAR OLDS



The Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) is delighted to invite secondary students aged 16+ to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Through this unique educational experience, students will learn about the Holocaust, one of the darkest moments in human history; they will hear directly from a Holocaust survivor and together with hundreds of other students they will visit the former Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Upon their return they will share what they have learnt

with their peers, schools and local communities.

Further details on the HET website [here](#). Applications need to be submitted by **Monday 20th February**.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY QUILT GOES ON THE MOVE IN NORTH KIRKLEES

Kirklees interfaith week in November 2022 addressed the theme of 'Home'. Hannah McKerchar, Humanist rep on Kirklees SACRE, proposed the idea of making a community quilt based on people's perceptions of 'Home'. The finished quilt is beautiful, with handmade panels representing and celebrating the diversity of the community. Following a few weeks in Huddersfield Parish Church, it is now on display in Batley Library. The next stop will be Longcausway Church in Dewsbury; it is hoped that as many people as possible will take the opportunity to go and look at it.



During Interfaith week, nearly 2000 primary pupils from Kirklees, Leeds and Calderdale reflected on the theme of 'Home' by participating in an online conference to learn about how Christians, Jews, Hindus and Muslims practise their faith at home. Older pupils were given the opportunity to meet members of faith communities who have come from other countries and made their home in the UK. One teacher commented that this was 'a lovely, thoughtful day with lots of learning and time to reflect.'

LIVING AND INSPIRING RE: FREE CONFERENCE IN TAMESIDE & OLDHAM

Oldham and Tameside SACREs have arranged an RE half day conference on Thursday 29th June from 1.00 - 4.00 pm at Ashton Sixth Form College.

- Meet some local Faith leaders and SACRE members, have a chance to ask questions, and explore the possibilities of visits and visitors.
- Hear key information about RE, sources of support, resources to use.
- Join a primary or secondary workshop with activities and strategies to take and use in the classroom
- Network with other local teachers from primary and secondary schools in Oldham and Tameside.

The event is FREE and open to all teachers in Oldham and Tameside, but places are limited and must be booked. To reserve email schoolsandsettingsworktray@oldham.gov.uk with your name school and contact details. Please confirm you have permission to attend from your headteacher. More details will follow. For more information contact Alastair Ross (alastair@penninelearning.com)

BELIEVING AND BELONGING SYLLABUS REVIEW SURVEY SENT TO SCHOOLS



The SACREs of West Yorkshire have begun the review of the local agreed syllabus 'Believing and Belonging'. This process takes place every five years and 'Believing and Belonging' needs to be reviewed by May 2024. We are starting the consultation with teachers and schools very soon and a letter or email will arrive in school with a link to a questionnaire that SACRE have put together to ask for your opinions. The questionnaire should arrive in school at the beginning of February. Please complete the survey before the end of half term. This will help SACREs decide on the direction of how the syllabus will look after 2024.

LEEDS 'FAITH IN SCHOOLS' OFFERS GOOD NEWS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Leeds Faith in Schools exists to be 'Good News' to the high schools of Leeds. For nearly 30 years the Leeds Faith in Schools team has worked to be a consistent and dependable Christian presence in schools serving and supporting secondary education through a wide range of activities both pastoral and educational. From engaging RE lessons, assemblies and prayer spaces through to weekly lunch clubs, mentoring and support groups, the Leeds Faith in Schools team seeks to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people and their school communities. They would love to connect with and support secondary schools and students in Leeds. Please get in touch via their website www.lfis.org



'VILLAGE VOICES': KIRKLEES POETRY ANTHOLOGY INVITES SUBMISSIONS

Celebrating art and poetry from the diverse and inclusive communities of Kirklees and the South Pennines, 'Village Voices' will be an inspiring collection of poetry and art that celebrates diversity, inclusivity, and equality. This is a post-pandemic anthology – a book that gives a voice back to our communities. Deadline for submission of poems is **Sunday 22nd January** Further information can be found [here](#).

CELEBRATE FAIRTRADE WEEK WITH FAIR AND FUNKY WORKSHOPS

Book now to join the Fair and Funky primary conference during Fairtrade Fortnight at The Tolson Museum in Huddersfield on **Friday 24th February 2023**. It is a day of creative learning around Fairtrade through arts, literacy, chocolate tasting, games and more! The conference costs £135 for up to 8 pupils. All participants receive a Fairtrade goody bag and each school a Fairtrade football. Email helen@fairandfunky.com to book a place.



Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 27th February to 12th March and this year's theme is "Choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods".

Book a Fair and Funky workshop and you will also get a FREE WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Workshops for KS1 and KS2 include: 'Chocolate and Fairtrade', Fairtrade SCRAPtastic, 'Smoothie Bike' workshop and 'Fly the Fairtrade Flag' (Early Years and KS1). Further details of these and lots of other fair trade workshops and events can be found [here](#).

NATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS

STRICTLY RE: IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE JANUARY ONLINE CONFERENCE

There is still time to book for the online conference Strictly RE run by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). If you book a ticket you will receive a goodie bag straight to your door and have access all year to recordings of all sessions, downloads, and handouts. Sessions include Jewish, Muslim, and Christian worldviews, Humanism, philosophy, recall, enquiry, dharmic lenses, using case studies, special RE, assessment, inspection, disciplinary diversity and much, much more...



Sessions take place across the Strictly weekend **Saturday 28th January** and **Sunday 29th January** and on weekday evenings in January. There are 40 speakers including, a keynote session on curriculum from Mary Myatt. Book now! Booking will close on **January 25th**.

[Click here](#) for details and booking form.

CENSUS DATA 2021 SHOWS CHANGING ATTITUDES TO RELIGION

The results of the religion questions from the 2021 Census were released at the end of November and there has been plenty of comment and interest from RE organisations and leaders. Here is a selection:

- Read a summary of the results in this [NATRE news article](#) and this [article from the Guardian](#).
- Listen to a podcast 'The one about the 2021 census' [here](#)
- The Religion Media Centre has offered this summary and short film on their website [here](#).

Following the publication of the 2021 census results relating to religion and belief, Culham St Gabriel's Trust wanted to understand how parents view their children's religious education. Their survey into attitudes among parents has found that religious and philosophical themes are a major talking point at home between parents and their children:

- Around 8 in 10 discuss beliefs about the origins of life and the universe (78%)
- Around 7 in 10 discuss beliefs concerning what happens when we die (72%)
- Around 8 in 10 discuss beliefs that affect people's behaviour and decision making (77%)
- Around 7 in 10 discuss issues related to religious and non-religious worldviews that appear in the media (67%)

Read more about the parental survey [here](#).

IN CONVERSATION ONLINE SEMINARS: FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

This term's 'In conversation' theme is Freedom of Religion or Belief (#FoRB). Sessions provide opportunities for participants to ask questions, provide feedback and comment. These events are FREE but must be booked. All welcome. Book via CSTG website here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events



Monday 16th January 4.30-5.10pm In conversation with Joe Miller

Theme: Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January 2023)

Monday 20th February 4-4.40pm In conversation with Dr Nayla Tabbara and friends

Theme: Learning from experiences in Lebanon

Monday 20th March 4.30-5.10pm In conversation with Professor John Wolffe and friends

Theme: RETOPEA! Promoting religious peace and tolerance through history

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EFFECTIVE RE FOR THE EARLY YEARS: 'UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'

The Eastern Region Early Years Conference takes place online on **3rd March 2023** 1-5pm, hosted by the Eastern AREIAC group. The conference is suitable for teachers, RE leaders and AREIAC members interested in joining the discussion around providing the best Early Years RE. The conference costs £20 (Members of AREIAC: free). Tickets are first come first served. Bookings and further information available on [Eventbrite](#).

FREE SELF-STUDY SHORT COURSES ON RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS

Culham St Gabriel's now has seven FREE self-study short courses for teachers available on their website. Courses include primary beginner teacher courses, suitable for ITE providers to use to support subject knowledge and pedagogical approaches in RE.

Previous courses, still available, include Introduction to Religion and Worldviews and Curriculum planning. The courses take about 90 -120 minutes to complete. [Browse courses here](#).



FARMINGTON SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEACHERS AND HEADTEACHERS

Farmington Scholarships for research in RE cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher. Scholarships last for a maximum of 30 days and can either be taken at a local university or can be home-based with a local tutor. Further information and an application form can be found on the [Farmington website](#) The closing date for applications for the academic year 2023-24 is **29th January 2023**.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR RELIGION AND WORLDVIEW LEADERS

This two-year programme aims to provide opportunities for emerging Religion and Worldviews leaders to expand and deepen their reflections on educational leadership in the subject, through receiving mentoring, structured challenges, research insights, inspirational networking events, and experience of professional development delivery. Further information and an application form can be found on the Culham St Gabriel's website [here](#). Applications for September close on **24th March 2023**.

HUMANISTS UK CELEBRATE DARWIN DAY BY OFFERING FREE TRAINING

To mark this year's Darwin Day in February, Humanists UK are offering tickets for their teacher training webinars at half the usual price - that's just £10.00 pp for 90 minutes of CPD!

Understanding Humanism (the education branch of Humanists UK) offers training for teachers at both primary and secondary level to deepen subject knowledge of humanism (a non-religious worldview) and provide practical ideas for the classroom.

Primary training: 31 January 2023, 16:00–17:30

Secondary training: 2 February 2023, 16:00–17:30

For further details and booking, visit the Understanding Humanism [training page here](#).



RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

NEW FILM RESOURCE: MEET MEMBERS OF A LEEDS JEWISH COMMUNITY

A series of short films about Judaism and the synagogue, funded by [Westhill](#) and West Yorkshire SACREs, has been completed. The films were initiated by Gail Taylor, Jewish representative on Leeds SACRE and produced by 'Thunder and Lightning', a local film company. Members of the Jewish community in Leeds talk about their faith and practice, alongside images filmed at local synagogues. The films are freely available to be used in schools. They can be accessed on the Pennine Learning website [here](#).

The Open University offers a series of YouTube films 'Exploring religion in London'. The films show online tours of gurdwaras, mosques and synagogues and they can be found [here](#).

SOURCES OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Where can busy teachers, subject leaders, managers and teacher trainers get support with developing curriculum and finding high-quality resources? Subject associations such as NATRE offer valuable information to teachers about curriculum planning, resources and professional support. The Council for Subject Associations has recently updated their FREE digital directory of professional associations covering all subjects taught in schools, as well as Early Years, SEND associations and many others. It introduces teachers to the subject associations whose purpose it is to help in the classroom. Visit the [CFSA website](#) to download the directory.

Primary RE subject leader's toolkit: Visit the NATRE website [here](#) to access resources, films and subject knowledge to support primary RE leads.

Win free NATRE membership for a year: Complete the survey about some NATRE resources [here](#).

RE ONLINE 'RESOURCE OF THE MONTH' ADDRESSES SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE

During the Spring term, RE online will be exploring contributions to teachers' subject knowledge from various researchers, beginning with a new book on Islamic history for teachers. The subject knowledge is for teachers' development, to enhance understanding of religion and belief. You can access this resource and many more resources on the RE Online website [here](#).

TEACHING WORLD RELIGIONS USING 'BBC TEACH' FILMS AND RESOURCES

World Religion Day takes place each January, aiming to promote understanding and peace between all religions as well as mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples from different backgrounds. World Religion Day 2023 takes place on Sunday, 15 January. BBC Teach is promoting a collection of classroom resources for primary and secondary schools to support teaching of World Religions. Visit BBC Teach [here](#).

Lent resources for primary schools: Lent begins on 22 February 2023. There are some free resources available online, including the following:

- BBC Bitesize offers films and resources for KS1 and KS1 [here](#).
- CAFOD offers resources and films [here](#).
- 'Look out for Lent' (ABYYT) goes live on February 6th www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk

The [Pennine Learning website](#) offers resources including guidance and advice for RE, SMSC and Equalities. Find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Newsletter produced for teachers and schools in Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Oldham, Tameside and Sefton – and anyone else who might find it useful! Pennine Learning is contracted by these councils to support statutory responsibilities for RE and SACRE. We work hard to make sure information is correct and up to date but cannot accept liability for any errors or changes to third party information. Views and items do not necessarily represent the views of the Councils. To contact us please email enquiries@penninelearning.com.