



Newsletter for Teachers and National Updates for SACRE

Virtual RE - videos of places of worship, virtual visits and visitors

As we are in such an unusual context, visiting places of worship will not be possible and yet we want to offer pupils an experience of sacred spaces.

This [website](#) offers an excellent collection of virtual tour resources from around the country for all six major world religions and Humanism.



<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/?department=Board+of+Education>



A RE-Juvinating and RE-Inspiring RE Conference

is going virtual on Wednesday 31st March. With Lat Blaylock

from RE Today as the keynote speaker and a range of workshops,

run by colleagues across Wiltshire and Dorset, this is an event to inspire and encourage!

Thanks to a grant from Sarum St Michael's Education Charity a ticket is only £50 per person.

Book Here: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/psa-subscription-course-re-conference-wednesday-7435>

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|--|---------------|
| Keynote | |
| Creative, Thoughtful and Spiritual RE EYFS to KS4 | Lat Blaylock |
| BREAK | |
| Morning Workshops | |
| 1. 'How to' – Creative ways to deliver RE digitally | Steph Rann |
| 2. CREative and Wriggly RE in EYFS and KS1 | Hazel Baines |
| 3. Sikhism in KS2 | Alison Harris |
| Text Centred Teaching in KS2 & 3 | Lat Blaylock |

| LUNCH BREAK | |
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| Special Guests in conversation 'What is the text that has inspired you in these times?' A panel of guests holding different religious and non-religious worldviews share the texts that have inspired them during the past year | Facilitated by Nicola Coupe & Katy Staples |
| BREAK | |
| Afternoon Workshops 1. 'HEAR the text' - Judaism in KS1 and EYFS 2. Use of Texts in Exam Classes in KS 4 & 5 3. Christianity – Creative approach to using Bible texts | Lynda Ford-Horne & Dave Rees Steph Rann Sarah Sprague |



Introduction to using Understanding Christianity as a resource

One full day (20th May), plus a half day (21st September) This training is suitable for church, community and independent schools who are new to the use of this excellent resource. It is also suitable for schools who may have the resource but who have a new RE leader who has not yet been trained in its use.

This course will be led by 2 Hub Lead Practitioners who are not only accredited Understanding Christianity Trainers, but who use the resource for the teaching of Christianity in their schools. The 'text, impact and connections' approach can be applied to the teaching of other religious worldviews and the creative approach to teaching RE can also be translated into other subjects across the curriculum.

This resource enriches teacher understanding and scaffolds planning of RE. It has sustained impact on pupils' learning about Christianity in RE. Cost £230 (Thanks to a national grant secured by RE Today, there may be a refund of £75 following attendance by colleagues from community schools.) Book here:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/ bespoke-cpd-course-introduction-to-using-the-7456>



Learn Teach Lead **RE**
Improving quality: building community

Learn, Teach, Lead RE Conference

SAVE the Date - more details and registration to follow (still deciding whether to go IRL or online)

'This is my truth, tell me yours! Learning to disagree well in the classroom'.

It features a key note speech from Ruth Flanagan (Exeter University) and a range of workshops to inform and inspire. Richard Keogh the lead RE Inspector for Ofsted is also speaking.

When: Friday 25th June, 2021

Cost: £40

ofqual

Ofqual – consultation on proposed changes to GCSE and A level examinations 2021

In light of the recent government announcement about the 2021 exams, (March 1st) NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) has already been in contact with officials, and will continue to engage positively and constructively with both Ofqual and DfE as they consult about the replacement for exams. SACRE, through its adviser, can be available for any teachers responsible for Religious Studies to answer queries and offer support. Katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Subject knowledge Enhancement

Following the disappointing news that bursaries had been cut for most subjects including RE, it was really good news that Religious Education had been selected for funded subject knowledge enhancement courses. The funding will be available from April 2021 but hopefully will help support those people wishing to apply to teach RE who do not have a first degree in the subject. This decision follows intensive lobbying to make the point that about 84% of trainee secondary RE teachers do not have a degree in Theology or Religious Studies and therefore need support in developing their subject knowledge. Please can SACRE members forward this information to anyone thinking of a new career teaching Religious Education.

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>

Support for teachers and those interested in the teaching of Religious Education (Religion and Worldviews)



Culham St Gabriel are a charitable organisation that funds projects and programmes to support teachers of RE , both in boosting subject knowledge and pedagogical expertise and also in supporting research projects and provides some bursaries details of their projects and programmes can be found [here](#)

The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme: Finding your voice as a leader of Religion and Worldviews 2021-2022

Following a successful pilot programme in 2020-21 CSTG are now inviting applicants to be part of a new Cohort of Leaders for Change in 2021-22. This is an amazing opportunity for teachers.

Programme Outline

The funded programme aims to develop leaders in the following four areas: research, curriculum, classroom and politics

Stage 1: This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

Stage 2: This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply. Please go the website for more details, participant guides and the application form. Applications need to be in by March 31st.

Find out more [here](#).



TEACH:RE

TO ENTHUSE. TO EDUCATE. TO INSPIRE.

Teach: RE primarily offers distance learning modules to teachers of RE. However it is not just for teachers. Teach: RE's modules contain a wealth of information that would be of benefit to anyone in the field of religion and worldviews education, whether SACRE members community representatives, local councillors or LA representatives. There are 10 interesting modules to choose from to find out more click [here](#)

Promote further study to your examination classes with these films of Graduates in Theology and Religious Studies

To study for a degree in Theology or Religious Studies is to open up a vast range of options for worthwhile careers. TRS-UK is launching a set of ten recently filmed interviews with TRS graduates in jobs as varied as television documentary-making, law, local government, public relations, education, and many more. These high-quality YouTube films are to be made available as ten individual (3-minute) filmed interviews and two 5-minute compilations, where graduates speak about the value of their degrees and show how they put their skills and knowledge to work in their jobs. They do not advertise a specific University, only the value of the degree and the doors it has opened for them.

[Careers List Film](#)

[TRS UK](#)



Evaluations of the *Understanding Christianity* Resource

One report was published on 11th December. It presents findings and analysis from a study that examines the impact of *Understanding Christianity* in schools across England. The study, conducted by Dr Rachael Shillitoe at the University of Birmingham, seeks to evaluate the impact of RE Today's *Understanding Christianity* teaching resource amongst pupils and teachers across primary and secondary schools, with a particular focus on schools without a religious character. This study aims to find out the extent to which the resource has 'made a difference' to teaching and learning about Christianity in RE.

The report indicates that the response from pupils and teachers has been extremely positive, particularly in relation to the 'Big Story', pupil engagement and increased teacher confidence.

The full report can be viewed on the **Understanding Christianity** website, available [here](#)



Another report about **Understanding Christianity** has been commissioned by the **National Secular Society** and comes to divergent findings. It has been written by Chris Selway a member of South Glos SACRE and until recently an LTLRE hub leader. This report can be found [here](#). It is worth SACRE members and teachers with an interest in the "Understanding Christianity" resource and its impact on Religious Education reading both reports to make their own conclusions.

NATRE curriculum symposium

NATRE are excited to announce that we will be running a 24-hour residential curriculum symposium in Autumn. There will only be 25 places for delegates therefore NATRE will be running an application process to attract delegates from a variety of school types and at a variety of stages on their curriculum design journey for RE/Religion and worldviews.

The symposium will hear from both experts and practitioners in the area of curriculum design generally and curriculum design in for RE/Religion and worldviews.

Wouldn't it be great if a teacher from our area could take part in this?

For more information and to register your interest please see [here](#)

Free Lockdown home learning from NATRE and RE Today

As a response to the amazing work that teachers and school staff are doing teaching pupils both in school and remotely NATRE and RE Today are offering their support by making all the home learning resources that were created for use by NATRE members in the last lockdown free to all schools. These multi-faith resources are all available on the NATRE website and offer support for home learning about religious and non-religious worldviews for primary and secondary school pupils.

More resources will be created and made available over the next few weeks.

www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/



“Good News for Everyone” (formerly known as Gideons) has worked with Lat Blaylock from RE Today to develop a range of free resources for school assemblies and lessons. All GNE visitors have received training for going into schools.

All their visitors to schools have been trained by Lat Blaylock and are still available to speak in assemblies and lessons. They offer of a free copy of the New Testament and Psalms (now including the Book of Proverbs) to pupils. Here's the link: <https://goodnewsuk.com/node/778>



There are some really useful resources made available from the Oak Academy - Judaism for key stage 1 is excellent . The materials for Key stage 2 and 3 cover most world faiths and non religious world views and at Key stage 4 also some very useful materials including 4 lessons on exam techniques (which may be less useful this year - but are still good tools for consolidating learning). They can all be found [here](#)

New Materials for schools from Free Churches and NATRE

(National Association of Teachers of RE)



The Free Churches of UK funded NATRE to write materials for all schools to have access to Anti-Racist RE. There are a suite of 6 lessons for Primary Schools (UKS2) and Secondary Schools. All these materials can be found [here](#)



Art in Heaven 2020 and 2021

- The 2020 Art in Heaven and Spirited Poetry competitions attracted record entries – lots of teachers set it in lockdown! flagship for 'Spirited Arts', our strategy to make RE more imaginative and creative.
- The latest website update is excellent –[take a look](#) The relaunched 2020 section includes many amazing responses to last year's themes, and the YouTube video to encourage entries had about 15000 views last year. NATRE will be doing another of these for 2021.
- A Climate Justice theme features again this year: 'God's good earth?' The most popular theme, overtaking the hardy perennial 'Where is God?'.
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Anti Bullying week November 15th - 19th 2021

How about this year's theme being "Bullying and Belief?"

Another great resource available from NATRE which has been written through a NASACRE Westhill Project by Newham SACRE is an anti-religious bullying toolkit. This tackles an issue sometimes neglected by schools in their anti-bullying work. That is bullying on the grounds of religion or apparent religion. These materials can be found [here](#)

New Resource from the BBC for EYFS / YR 1

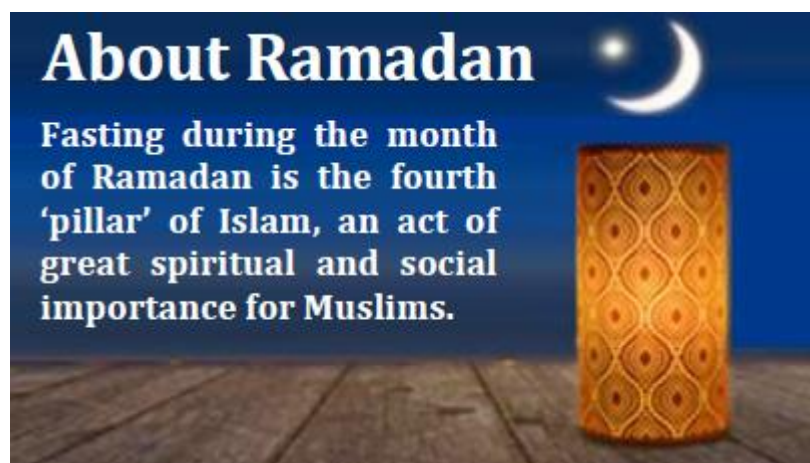


This series is called **"What's on your head?"** and includes short films of someone wearing hijab, a turban, a kippah and a mitre. It also includes a firefighter a scuba diver and a cyclist etc !

The films can be accessed [here](#)

Ramadan this year begins for most Muslim communities on

Monday 12 April 2021 and ends in the evening of Wednesday 12 May 2021



Bristol SACRE have written new guidance to help schools prepare for Ramadan these can be found [here](#)

The Significance of Ramadan for Muslims could be explored using the Locally Agreed Syllabus in year 5/6 ?
U2.6 What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

There is a good Newsround clip about Ramadan that can be found [here](#) , the second clip that follows on is about Ramadan during Covid

My Religion my Life also has a good clip that explains [Ramadan](#)

Resources for Passover (Pesach)

This year begins on March 27th and ends of April 4th



BBC Bitesize also have several clips about [Passover](#) and more [here](#) and the clip from “My Religion , My life” is particularly helpful for KS2 and can be found [right here](#)

Resources for Easter

This year Good Friday is on April 2nd and Easter Sunday is on April 4th



There are many resources available from Wells Cathedral including this lovely short film that uses

Godly Play short film to explore Holy Week

This can be accessed [here](#)

A series of Assemblies called **“From Wilderness to Hope”** preparing for Lent and Easter can be used for class worship can be found [here](#) These are suitable for years 5, 6,7 and 8. These resources are provided by Helen Jackson from Swindon Evangelical Church

EYFS and KS1 (ages 3-6)

There are some lovely **CBeebies** films to help understand the Christian Festival of Easter and how some Christians celebrate it.

The Easter Story is particularly moving. The films can be found [here](#).

Watch it.

See what you can remember.

Talk about why this might be important for Christians

There are also a cooking idea about how to mark Easter [here](#) and some things to help make an Easter Egg hunt [here](#)

FOR All Ages

Journey Into Easter With Children

Reflections through art for Holy Week and Easter

written by Shahne Vickery with paintings by Nebiyu Assefa

These free resources can be found [here](#) and give a reflection for each day and craft activities.



Katy Staples March 2021 katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

If you have any new resources you are using that may be helpful for RE teachers please let me know and they can be included in the next National Updates/ Newsletter for Schools.