

Summer Term 2025

SCHOOLS' NEWSLETTER

Manchester Diocesan Board of Education



I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Diocese of Manchester's Racial Justice Programme on Saturday 26 April. It was a time of celebrating our work focusing on racial justice and faith and looking forward to all that we will be doing over coming months and years. At the launch event Bishop David reminded us of the rich cultural diversity that makes up Manchester Diocese. He spoke about how we need to celebrate the intercultural nature of the diocese, both in churches and schools. We sang together in different languages represented and prayed the Lord's prayer in our Mother tongue.

During the event the Lord reminded me of Revelation 7: 9-10 where we are told:

'...I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands.'

What a rich picture this is. We are all children of God, created in His image. It's a picture of God's vision for us all. Together as one, worshipping Him.

Several years ago Ni-Cola Scott, Diocesan Shades Lead felt called by the Lord to develop work on racial justice and faith. Since then she's been working, with her colleagues Georgia and Tasha, across Bolton deanery. We are now in a position to expand this work. To do this we are recruiting for 3 new Shades workers to join Ni-Cola's team. The adverts can be found on our website. [Shades Worker job](#) - Remote working in schools and parishes around Manchester Diocese. If you know someone who might be interested in these roles please pass the information on to them.

As part of the launch event the Shades Ambassadors from Bishop Bridgeman CE Primary School led us in collective worship. If you'd like to read more about their work across Archbishop Temple MAT feel free to take a look at www.bishopbridgeman.bolton.sch.uk/shades. It is inspiring. They challenged us all with their Shades pledge that all pupils have signed. Imagine if all of us involved within our schools and churches committed to this pledge. We can only dream of what God could do with this.

'I will never be a bystander to hateful or prejudicial language and abuse. If I hear it, I will call it out and report it, and if I can, I will stop it. By adding my name I promise to stand up for fairness, kindness and never be a bystander.'

Please take a read about the Shades work in Bolton as part of the @Places Project and also about our plans for the future in Ni-Cola's article later in this newsletter and consider how you, your school or church might get involved.

Deborah

Diocesan Director of Education

NEWS FROM THE BOARD & EDUCATION TEAM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Schools Conference

Friday 10 October 2025

The Monastery, Manchester

Heads & Chairs Meetings

Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 11 am – [Online](#)

Friday 9 May 2025 at 10 am - In Person

St Michael's CE Primary, Alkington, M24 1GD

(Heads & Chairs from all areas welcome)

Early Years Conference

Saturday 8 November 2025

St John's House, Bury, BL9 0ND

Congratulations



We are absolutely delighted to share the news that Rev'd Terry Hart has been appointed as Diocesan Deputy Director for Education (DDDE). Terry brings enthusiasm, educational expertise and experience, a missional heart as well as bags of fun. Please join us in congratulating him as he takes up this role.

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

We're excited to announce a brand-new version of the KS2 Award for use by schools from September 2025, that will enhance pupils' leadership journey and support schools further to create a culture of justice and responsibility. Our unit topics and much-loved central character Archie remain, but a brand-new design threads through the resource, with a wide range of new activities organised under the headings Spark, Discover, Act to help explore our local, national and global communities.



Information Webinars for schools new to the AYLA

If you've not run the AYLA before, come and find out more about the programme through our free online sessions this term. For more information and sign up for a session, please visit www.nse.org.uk/ayla/whats-on



flourishing LEADERS flourishing SCHOOLS



date: **10 OCTOBER 2025**

venue: **MANCHESTER
MONASTERY**

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

BOARD OF
EDUCATION
SCHOOLS
CONFERENCE
2025

Professional Offer 2025/26

Thank you for your feedback on this year's professional offer and input into our planning for next year. Over 85% of schools have attended more than one opportunity on offer. Your feedback for individual sessions gave the offer **4.9 out of 5** for its relevance, quality and accessibility. We want to continue providing high quality support so we have listened to your feedback and shaped our training for the year ahead.

Religious education's support continues with Development days 1, 2 and 3 continuing to be offered for the next academic year along with an individual development day on inclusive RE. Sessions on subject knowledge, floorbooks, EFS, artefacts etc will continue. The virtual RE Hub for sharing good practice and receiving updates on resources and events will have an additional in person meeting. We encourage RE leads to attend these sessions as well as those who are new to teaching RE. Our **Christian Distinctiveness** support continues with individual sessions but also videos and virtual 'Q and A' sessions to support preparation for SIAMS inspection.

Our new element will be live INSET sessions. These will be once a half term on a Tuesday afternoon, 3:30 – 4:30. These sessions will cover key topics and will be aimed at whole school teams. Topics include: What is effective RE? How can I assess in RE? What makes Church schools different? What is spirituality? Dates for these sessions will be released before the summer term.

We want to ensure that professional development is recognised. To do this we will be launching the **Diocesan Certificate for Leaders of RE**. Criteria for this will be released in the autumn.

For any further information please contact:
terryhart@manchester.anglican.org

Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

SIAMS have rebranded! New templates are available on their website and we encourage these to be used for inspections from September 2025. The resources for SIAMS inspections are available here: [**SIAMS Inspections | The Church of England**](#)

Those who are on the list this year have had in-person visits, zoom touch base meetings and opportunities for SIAMS Q & A sessions. We have contacted schools expecting inspection to arrange our support offer. This is currently taking place.

EQUIP

It was great to have Dr Becca Dean with us during March and to see a great number of people come and hear from her and the research she has been doing into intergenerational church. There will be more visiting speakers and EQUIP Spotlights coming in September - November because we are looking to create more opportunities to train those who serve children and young people throughout 2025.

EQUIP: The Big Weekend

[Join us](#) for an incredible weekend of learning, growth, and connection for everyone involved in youth and children's ministry!

Friday 16 May: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday 17 May: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 18 May: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Where: The Hurst Building, Horwich Business Park, Chorley New Rd, Horwich, Bolton BL6 5UE (plenty of parking available!)

What to expect: Hands-on workshops on spiritual development, leadership & creative planning. Expert-led sessions that will transform your ministry. Spiritual renewal through worship and prayer. Networking with others passionate about young people's faith. Perfect for youth leaders, children's ministry volunteers, Sunday School teachers, church staff, and anyone with a heart for nurturing young faith!

Refreshments & snacks Friday evening, pastries & lunch on Saturday included!

Don't miss this opportunity to grow your skills and connect with others across the Diocese who share your passion!

📅 [Book your spot now](#)

Various ticket options available for the full weekend or individual days. ALM/GLP participants, please select the ALM/GLP ticket option!

Year 6 Leavers' Celebrations

We're preparing for our largest Year 6 Leavers' celebrations in recent years. All eight services are now fully booked, and we're organising plenty of fun and joy for everyone. If you're attending, you'll receive an email with all necessary preparation details for the services.

We're thrilled to welcome Bishop Mark, special guests from our local secondary schools, and our friends at iSingPop, who'll encourage the children to give their all when leading us in song. The theme centres on the Lord's Prayer, reminding us that God is present and hears our prayers. We look forward to celebrating from 16th-19th June.

Beyond

We've also been adapting our Beyond Year 6 transition programme for school use. We've updated the website, making it easier to find what you need. All sessions are designed to help children process their transition from primary to secondary school. There's a selection of lesson plans and a service outline for schools and churches to mark this significant moment in a child's life. Click the [LINK](#) to learn more:



Mental Health First Aid England have thoroughly updated the Two Day Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Course and we are delighted to offer this training course during the summer term on the following dates:

Day 1: Friday 27 June 2025

Day 2: Friday 4 July 2025

The training will take place at St John's House in Bury and each day will begin promptly at 9:30am and finish by 4pm.

If you would like more information please contact
susiemapedoram@manchester.anglican.org

Click on this [LINK](#) to book a place.

MHFA Youth Mental Health Training **Two Day Training Course** *Summer 2025*

These courses equip to respond to early signs of low mental health in children and young people by increasing knowledge and confidence, and offering an action plan



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD



National Centre for

Suicide Prevention

Education & Training

We are offering 20 spaces for the half day Suicide First Aid Lite Course on **Thursday 22 May 2025** at St John's House, Bury. The course begins promptly at 9am and finishes by 1pm. This course gives learners knowledge, skills and confidence to understand that suicide is one of the most preventable deaths amongst children and young people. Responding appropriately from a safeguarding perspective, underpinned by UNCRC and a trauma informed approach.

Click on this [LINK](#) to book a place.

Collective Worship Resources

Thank you to everyone using the Collective Worship Resource across our Diocese. We're delighted to hear the wonderful stories of how children and staff are engaging with these materials. It is our sincere hope that these resources continue to bless and encourage all of our schools throughout the Diocese.

The resources have been designed with flexibility in mind and can be utilised in various settings. Whether you're planning a whole-school collective worship assembly or looking for quieter classroom reflection moments, these materials can be adapted to suit your needs.

We're pleased to share that we've recently distributed the Ascension Collective Worship Resource, which features Bishop Mark and Rick exploring this important story and discussing its significance for us today. Their thoughtful conversation offers valuable insights that connect this biblical narrative to our contemporary lives and experiences.

Please note the list, which highlights the scheduled release dates for our upcoming resources.

As always, we welcome your feedback and stories of how these resources are being used in your school community: <https://forms.office.com/e/CKvReN8pRT>



Pentecost	W/B 5th May
End of Year	W/B 9th June
Creationtide	W/B 23rd June
Harvest	W/B 7th July
Advent	W/B 6th Oct
Christmas	W/B 3rd November
Epiphany	W/B 17th November

Leadership Development

Louise Morley

NPQ update

Once again, both the NPQH and NPQ SEN have been oversubscribed. We are delighted that these courses continue to be popular across Manchester and the neighbouring dioceses and that our partnership with the National Society remains strong.

We will hopefully hear about the course allocation for 25/26 before the summer break. All Headteachers will be contacted as soon as this information is available to us, to enable you to plan staff CPD for the next academic year.

Growing Younger Together – A Joyful Morning of Vision and Inspiration!

In February, over 60 people from across our churches gathered for the Bury and Rossendale - *Growing Younger Conference* - a vibrant Saturday morning filled with worship, wisdom, and a shared passion for reaching the next generation. The morning kicked off with energy and joy through *Wiggle Worship*, led by myself and Dan Caffery, our Diocesan Transformation Director. We danced, we sang, and we praised with the joy only children can inspire! I had the privilege of delivering the keynote talk on the vital importance of connecting with under 5s and their families—a mission close to all our hearts.

Attendees then had the chance to join inspiring workshops covering ministry with children and young people from birth to 18. Topics included:

- *Toddler Groups: Getting Started or Taking the Next Step*
- *Planting Seeds, Growing Faith: Strategies for Children's Ministry*
- *Intergenerational Worship*
- *Sacred Spaces*
- *Christianity, Mindfulness and Wellbeing*

We ended the morning with a moving interview with two young people who courageously shared their faith journeys—stories full of hope and honesty. Bishop Mark closed the gathering with a heartfelt blessing that left us all encouraged and inspired. It was a morning of connection, imagination, and deep faith—a true sign of God at work in our Deanery.



Lift Off – Learning in Faith Together: Launching Little Lives with Big Faith!

I was delighted to welcome over 25 enthusiastic participants from our schools and churches across the diocese to our first training sessions of 'Lift Off' this term. Lift Off – Learning in Faith Together, is a vibrant Christian faith-based transition program designed to support young children and their families as they begin their adventure into primary school. This unique initiative brings churches and schools together to nurture the hearts and minds of children under 5, helping them grow in faith and confidence during this important time of transition.

Rooted in Christian values, Lift Off offers a rich blend of age-appropriate Bible stories, prayers, and hands-on



activities that help young children discover just how much God loves them. Through engaging storytelling and interactive experiences, the program builds strong faith foundations in a way that's both fun and meaningful—helping children, families, and church communities connect faith to everyday life. Looking ahead, I am also planning to offer additional local training opportunities in partnership with mission communities and trusts, so stay tuned for more dates! If you would like more information or would like to book some training for your school

or church, please contact me on joannehaslam@manchester.anglican.org. Let's keep lifting off together – building faith, community, and a bright future for our youngest learners!



The Church of England's Racial Justice Unit has recently been awarded the Diocese of Manchester funding to support our work on racial justice. We are now able to launch the Diocesan Racial Justice Programme. Across the Diocese of Manchester this funding will support four key initiatives including:

1. The rolling out of the Shades diversity and anti-racism programme beyond its successful pilot in Bolton Deanery, making it available for children and young people in our schools and parishes throughout Manchester diocese.
2. Support for Global Majority Heritage Congregations
3. Clergy and Lay Leader Training
4. Grants for Local Parish Projects

The [Shades Project](#) helps schools and churches create an inclusive culture enabling children and young people from all racial backgrounds to thrive. The project creates safe spaces which empower participants to celebrate diversity, champion differences, and live out the love of Christ. This project was developed out of the Places Project in Bolton Deanery and includes Shades collective worship, Shades Safe Space Workshops, Shades Ambassadors (discipleship) groups and Shades CPD sessions for school staff teams. Responding to the news of this additional funding, Catherine Anderson, Headteacher at St James' CE High School in Bolton commented

"It's impossible to convey the positive impact the Shades Project has had in our school. Both our staff and pupils have been fortunate to benefit from this caring, faith-driven programme focused on racial equality for young people. I'm delighted that Shades will now be extended to more schools in our diocese."

With the expansion of the project we are inviting you to get involved in this programme by attending our online launch event. The event will provide the opportunity to learn more about our racial justice programme, meet some people already involved in this work, find out about the grants available to parishes, and discuss the new job roles, (including 3 Shades worker posts), currently being advertised. If you know of anyone who might be interested in these roles, please encourage them to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

The online event will be held on Thursday, 1st May 2025, from 6 pm to 7.30 pm. You can [book your spot here](#).



Dear Headteacher,

As the Summer term starts, we recognise your focus is directed toward the significant events in the final part of the academic year. Primary schools are navigating SATs, Year 6 leavers services, and preparing students for secondary education, while also planning for incoming nursery and reception classes. Secondary schools are managing GCSEs, guiding students through subject selection, and preparing them for post-secondary transitions, all while anticipating new Year 7 students in September. Combined with the daily responsibilities of school administration, these obligations create an extensive list of priorities.

Amid these numerous responsibilities, consideration of building compliance matters—such as legionella management, asbestos monitoring, or fire safety equipment maintenance—may receive less attention. You may currently engage multiple service providers for these essential compliance requirements, potentially at considerable expense. We would like to present a solution: a single organisation capable of maintaining comprehensive records, coordinating all inspection schedules, and ensuring your school remains fully compliant.

DBE Services is owned by six educational charities (Dioceses) established to support head teachers and governors in school building maintenance and development. The organisation provides comprehensive property management services encompassing capital development, regular servicing, and responsive maintenance. Their high-quality service has demonstrated significant cost reductions for schools, achieving an overall 10% decrease in expenses during the past year, with specific areas such as legionella management seeing reductions exceeding 50%. For capital projects, fees are only incurred upon project completion.

The organisation offers consultation and support regarding any facility-related matters and participation in the Total Property Management scheme is not a prerequisite for accessing advisory services. DBE Services maintains relationships with numerous contractors capable of addressing all potential school requirements.

As an organisation owned by educational charities, DBE Services delivers high-quality services at costs consistently below those of Local Authorities and alternative providers. Recent survey results from over 300 participating schools indicate that 94% considered the service value for money, 99% reported consistently helpful staff interactions, and 93% expressed satisfaction with servicing management.

The Total Property Management program functions as a comprehensive service available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, accessible via telephone, email, online submission, or various digital platforms according to your preference. All documentation—including reports, service records, quotations, invoices, advisories, and service schedules with contractor information—is maintained on a web-based portal for convenient access during inspections. Reactive maintenance is provided at three response levels: mission-critical issues (typically addressed within 4 hours), urgent matters (within 24 hours), and standard requests (within 5 days).

For each new participating school, DBE Services conducts a building assessment to identify specific servicing and maintenance requirements.

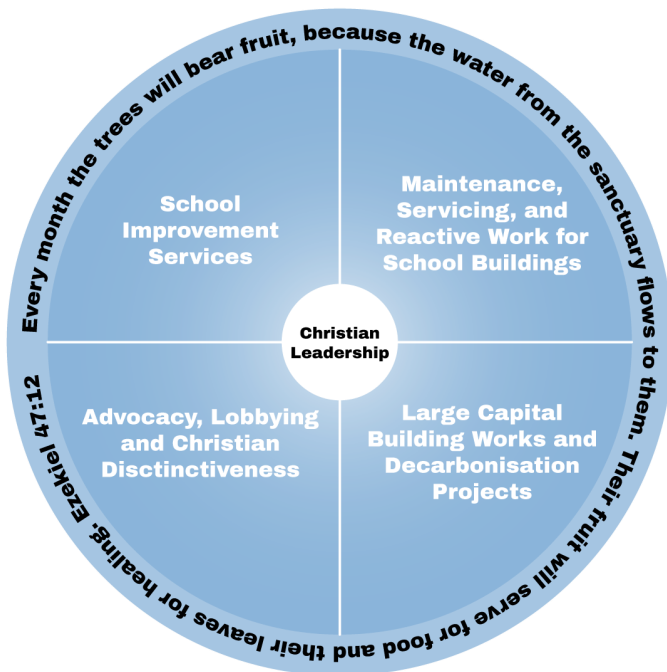
While this is an introduction to these services, we wish to express our strong endorsement of DBE Services' work, as Manchester Diocese is among the organisation's owners. Fundamentally, DBE Services exists to alleviate the burden of building compliance management and provide reassurance that professional assistance is available during facility emergencies, such as roof leaks or heating system failures. Their purpose is to enable you to focus on your primary responsibility—serving as headteacher of a Church of England School.



T | 01254 958850

E | info@dbeservices.co.uk

W | dbeservices.co.uk



"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"
Hebrews 10:24



The B Tales Christian Theatre company based in the North West have been working with schools and churches for 10 years, bringing the Bible to life to young people!

We support schools in a range of projects including:

Collective Worship in a day, Bible Based drama workshops, Full School productions for Anti Bullying, Christmas, Easter and Science and Faith, EYFS productions and story telling events.

For more information you can find us @thebibletales and www.btales.co.uk

Or get in touch to receive discounted offers for Manchester Diocese at hello@btales.co.uk

Modern Christian Artwork



Founded by Nick in the North West, The Christian Poster Company produces wall art and stationery with an aim to make God's word an accessible and visible part of our daily lives. With over 90 designs to choose from, the posters are a great way of refreshing your spaces, with colourful typography that centres on God's word. There are also bulk-packs of bible verse postcards - ideal for handing out to pupils and colleagues. Find out more at www.thechristianpostercompany.com

MAN DIO Growing Faith Update

Manchester North & East Deanery - Ken Peden

Since taking up this role in January it has been an exciting, eye-opening time getting to know people in churches and schools across the deanery. I was expecting different from the jobs I've had before, and that's certainly been true.

It's been a pleasure to explore what is already established, as well as what could get off the ground soon. If I have had the chance to meet you, thank you for your welcome; if I haven't I hope to meet you soon.

It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm that's so apparent in many places to share the good news of Jesus in so many different ways. Welcoming children to Experience Easter sessions in Gorton, meeting the young people at the Sacred Space, and sharing worship in different congregations makes the job joyful.

So I'm really looking forward to the summer term, building links with more schools, celebrating the transition to secondary school, and being alongside young people as they discover what it means to be faithful disciples.

Get in touch - kenpeden@manchester.anglican.org

Bury & Rossendale Deanery - Amelia Brummitt



Last term was a busy term as I continue to get to know the schools and churches in the Deanery. The Holocaust Memorial event was a special service and great to see all the children's hard work creating beautiful activities to reflect on the events that occurred.

We commenced a prayer group with the Worship Team at Christ Church Ainsworth CE Primary School, which is a weekly session looking at lots of different aspects of prayer. The children have enjoyed doing different crafts and sharing their ideas about prayer.

This term I am very excited to be working alongside the rest of the Man Dio Growing Faith Team to be doing our first Emerge transitions morning with some of our schools within our Deaneries. I am also very much looking forward to my first Year 6 Leavers services at the Cathedral, during my time in this role I have heard so much about them and am excited to see them in action. I am also looking forward to seeing ideas growing in churches for new ways for children and families to experience church.

Get in touch - AmeliaBrummitt@manchester.anglican.org



Rochdale Deanery - Loretta Leung

A fantastic ministry team from St John's Thornham celebrated their fourth GIFT (Grow In Faith Together) service in March and are preparing for the fifth one in May. The GIFT service is an intergenerational worship gathering that focuses on celebrating God's creation. Almost the entire team participated in the EQUIP training for Intergenerational Ministry. With such dedication and heart, I believe St John's Thornham will continue to flourish.

St John's CE Primary School Thornham is organising a Clothes Upcycling Competition, creating a meaningful link between the church, the school and the local community (including the charity shop). The event aims to raise awareness about protecting our planet.

Following the Easter holiday, there has been a shift from Rochdale Middleton (Mission Community 1) to Rochdale East (Mission Community 4). The Benefice of Milnrow and Newhey is excited to launch a Forest/Outdoor Church, with the first gathering planned for June. They have experience in similar services, such as the Dawn Eucharist on Easter Sunday, which has been a cherished tradition for years.

Get in touch—LorettaLeung@manchester.anglican.org

Oldham and Ashton Deanery - Laura Tebay

Wiggle the Bible Book Worm has made a home at St Anne's CE Primary School in Royton where the whole of KS1 enjoyed Easter worship with him before the break. Angela Mitchell (Reception Teacher and RE Lead) did a superb job at leading, with myself and other staff supporting. We are excited to see where Wiggle takes us on his adventures as we step into Pentecost and Summer.

At the other end of Broadway in Chadderton, St Luke's CE Primary School Y1s and their families engaged with the first Sensory Worship for the school. The team delivered an Easter Celebration with singing, interactive story, prayer paths and dancing. We look to Pentecost and End of Term time now for more Sensory Worship opportunities for more of the children of the school and their families.

We prepare for "Emerge Transition Celebration" for schools in MC3 which will take place at Oldham Parish Church. We are expecting 175 young people to celebrate stepping up to high school at this local celebration. I continue to build relationships with the youth of Mission Community 3 and will be attending church in May to consult with them on possible leadership opportunities within their church and also further work and conversation around Youth Sacred Spaces.

Get in touch—LauraTebay@manchester.anglican.org

Manchester South and Stretford Deanery - Ruth Gent

Together on the first Sunday of each month at 4pm St Paul's, Withington had a special sensory meal with prayers to think about Martha and Mary's party for Jesus, and a picnic party as it might be on a mountain walk to celebrate the transfiguration of Christ. Intergenerational and very inclusive worship enjoyed by everyone.

Experience Easter took place across south Manchester at Christ Church West Didsbury, St Clement's Chorlton, St Paul's Withington and Holy Innocents Fallowfield, thank you to so many church volunteers! Pupils and teachers really enjoyed their time in church. One teacher said, *'Please never stop organising this, it's the highlight of our school year and the children speak about it and refer back to what they've seen and learned all year long.'*

Upcoming events

This is Church! St Luke's Benchill, Wythenshawe - A new afternoon opportunity on the first Sunday of the month from 1.45pm – 3pm for everyone to explore what happens in church. This neuro diverse and additional needs friendly church time is aiming to give a genuine welcome to all, inspired by the story of a group of friends making a hole in the roof to make access for their friend to meet Jesus.

Get in touch—RuthGent@manchester.anglican.org



Salford and Leigh Deanery - Sandra Morris

I'm delighted that the Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common Benefice has launched their Open the Book adventure. Volunteers from the 3 churches are delivering Open the Book sessions to pupils within the 3 schools in the Benefice.

It is exciting to visit schools and work with them to develop some new opportunities to enhance the Christian ethos with pupils, staff and families. A couple of the initiatives are:

*Values Days to help embed the school "Vision and Values" with pupils and families.
The Lord's Prayer, interactive prayer station day, to help pupils and families understand the Lord's Prayer.
Exploring ways a Sports Council can link their games and sports to Bible Stories.*

One particular activity I'm very excited about is introducing "Dance Worship" This would be an Ethos style group. This is a simple way for pupils to engage with a little Bible study alongside being creative. This involves choosing a hymn or worship song which maybe could be linked to a school value. For half a term the pupils would look at the words in the hymn / song, see where they might come from in the Bible, explore what the words mean. Alongside doing this they choregraph a dance routine which could be performed at a Collective Worship session. The pupils could explain the wording in the hymn / song and perform their dance routine at the Collective Worship.



If you would like any further information about any of the above activities please do not hesitate to contact me. Myself or your Deanery Enabler would love to support you in introducing any of these activities into your school.

Get in touch—SandraMorris@manchester.anglican.org

We are delighted to announce the rebranding of the Children Changing Places Project, as we mark a new chapter on our journey. Our new project name is *Places Project* and it comes with a refreshed logo and brand that speaks of who we are and who we are here to serve. It reflects our mission, which remains the same, but gives us the opportunity to give clear definition to our purpose and direction.

At the core of our rebrand is our purpose statement:

To create places and pathways for children, young people and their families, to experience, explore and follow the way of Jesus.

This statement reflects our ongoing commitment to creating places where children, young people and families can grow together in faith within their home, church and school communities, in and around Bolton. We are eager to continue creating discipleship pathways that support and nurture the faith of the next generation, enabling them to explore the teachings of Jesus and walk alongside each other on their spiritual journey.



Children & Families Team

Over the last term, our Children and Families team have focused on supporting Bolton parishes as they grow relationships with local families. Our 'Love your School' initiative has encouraged parishes to develop new and creative ways of growing their connections with local school communities. For example, St Peter's Church (Halliwell) opened their doors to invite families from local primary schools to come along and share delicious refreshments and to take part in an exciting treasure hunt to explore the building. For many it was their first time in church; one Dad was reluctant to come in but ended up staying a while and as they left his child said,

"See Dad, I told you it was going to be brilliant!"

Rev. Hannah Lane at Bolton Parish Church was keen to partner with the team to open the church for families around Easter and so created the "Easter Eggsploration" day, which enabled visitors to engage with the Easter story through the senses. After completing the activities, one boy said, *"I am best friends with Jesus now."* It was wonderful to welcome so many new families to the church and we look forward to many more opportunities to come.



Youth Team

We are excited to share with you a new project launched at Canon Slade Church of England Secondary school, aimed at growing connections between the school community and local churches. In January, each Year 8 form group was twinned with a local church community and commissioned in a service in school, led by Revd. Simon Cook (Area Dean, Bolton).



Since then, the Year 8 form groups and church leaders and volunteers have collaborated on developing innovative plans of action to engage young people with the local church. It is so encouraging to see a new sense of partnership and belonging growing between the young people and local churches.

One form group is planning to support two 'open door' sessions at St Andrew's church, Over Hulton. The young people will lead social activities for the local community, as well as serving refreshments. Other groups are planning a range of activities with local parishes, which include serving in church cafés, supporting baby and toddler groups, even a chair aerobics class with the over 60's group! This will provide the young people with the opportunity to develop intergenerational relationships as well as to gain valuable experience of volunteering.



The Shades Ambassadors at Bishop Bridgeman CE Primary School have recently launched the first episode of their podcast. This series is dedicated to celebrating the remarkable contributions of our Shades Ambassadors, exploring the origins of the Shades Project and highlighting its ongoing positive impact within our community.

In Episode 1, the ambassadors introduce the project and listeners have the opportunity to hear directly from them. Future episodes will reflect on the success of recent Shades Days, feature conversations with ambassadors from St. James CE Primary School and local secondary schools and

include a special discussion with Bishop Mark about how other schools within our diocese can get involved with the Shades Project. We invite you to listen to the first episode here: <https://www.bishop-bridgeman.bolton.sch.uk/shades>

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS!

Young environmentalists at St Augustine's CE Primary, Pendlebury

Livia Silverdale, City of Trees project has provided a nurturing environment for our young environmentalists to enhance their green skills and help to tackle climate change.

St Augustine's primary pupils from years three and four have been nurturing their green skills, whilst also boosting their wellbeing and making their local community greener.

City of Trees is a local Manchester based community forestry charity that plant trees for people; to create better, greener places; boost health and wellbeing; to enhance green skills; and tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency. They are rooted in Manchester making our region even better, one tree at a time.

In 2023, pupils were able to participate with City of Trees at Silverdale, planting a selection of trees to introduce more biodiversity and enhance their local environment. The experience was so inspiring that the children eagerly requested to return. This year, St Augustine's staff were able to arrange a maintenance day, allowing the pupils to return to the area and care for the trees they planted. This also included learning about the wildlife that now calls the area home.

Thanks to the support of City of Trees, St Augustine's has been able to expand this initiative to include all KS2 children. Natasha Savage (Tasha), from City of Trees, has praised the children's enthusiasm and positive impact on the environment. Those who planted trees last year have clearly retained their passion for nature.



Louise Woolfenden, St Augustine's class teacher, commented, *'We're already planning a joint maintenance day for year 3 and year 4 later this year. This ongoing partnership with City of Trees is creating lasting memories and fostering a love for nature in our young learners.'*

These experiences provide our children with invaluable learning opportunities and joy. Tasha is passionate about her role, and this shows in the way she interacts with our children, which in turn enthuses them whilst planting trees and look after their environment.

School Library grants from The Foyle Foundation

Two Vantage Academy Trust schools have been awarded grants through The Foyle Foundation, a charitable organisation supporting school library enhancements. St Augustine's received £4,000 and St James was granted £6,700. Both schools are now planning how to use these funds to support current pupils while ensuring their library provisions remain engaging for future generations.



Easter at Westleigh St Pauls CE Primary



Four year old Kiera gave up sweets for Lent after reading the Little Lent Booklet—everyone at the school is very proud of her.

Rev'd Reg delivered an Easter themed worship for the school.



Forest School Easter Experience



Children at St Anne's CE Primary School in Waterfoot took part in an Easter experience forest school style in our forest school area.

They visited various stations where they experienced Jesus' last week on earth. Some of the stations were: bread and wine, crown of thorns, silver coins, crucifixion and resurrection. Children had an activity at each station to help them reflect on the events of Holy Week. Children were invited to partake in

a simple Eucharist by receiving bread and wine. At each station children collected a letter, Easter hunt style, which created an Easter phrase: 'He is Risen!'.

Thank you to our staff team for making this a wonderful Easter event.



If you have a good news story that you would like to share with us please send a short write-up and some photographs to joanneredding@manchester.anglican.org

DBE Administrators

Helen Cowley

Administrator (Governance)

0161 828 1408 / 07917 671174

helencowley@manchester.anglican.org

Jo Redding

Administrator (Schools)

0161 828 1401 / 07917 699496

joanneredding@manchester.anglican.org

Flora Nongomin

Financial Assistant

0161 828 1438

floranongomin@manchester.anglican.org

Edward Hirst

Administrator (Buildings / NPQ's)

0161 828 1411

edwardhirst@manchester.anglican.org

Additional contacts for the department

Applications for building projects

buildingprojectapplications@manchester.anglican.org

Admissions

admissions@manchester.anglican.org

General Administration and enquiries

DBEAdmin@manchester.anglican.org

Diocesan School Governance

dbegovernance@manchester.anglican.org

Website

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/schools/>

DBE Officers & Advisers

Deborah Smith

Diocesan Director of Education

0161 828 1429 / 07854 816639

deborahsmith@manchester.anglican.org

Rev'd Terry Hart

Deputy Director of Education (RE)

0161 828 1460 / 07826 872531

terryhart@manchester.anglican.org

Susie Mapledoram

Assistant Director of Education (Youth)

0161 828 1435 / 07967 657587

susiemapledoram@manchester.anglican.org

Louise Morley

Assistant Director of Education (Leadership)

0161 828 1436 / 07854 816572

louisemorley@manchester.anglican.org

Rick Otto

Diocesan Children's Officer

0161 828 1433 / 07854 989883

rickotto@manchester.anglican.org

Leona Brookshaw

Capital Buildings Officer

0161 828 1406 / 07436 139530

leonabrookshaw@manchester.anglican.org

Jo Haslam

Early Years Adviser (MDGF)

0161 828 1438 / 07436 035379

joannehaslam@manchester.anglican.org

Board of Education Training Collections

Simply click the link or scan the QR code to access relevant training sessions for your role.

<u>Chair of Governors</u>		
<u>Collective Worship</u>		
<u>Early Years</u>		
<u>Headteachers</u>		
<u>RE Leads</u>		
<u>Secondary Schools</u>		
<u>Wellbeing</u>		
<u>Youth & Childrens Workers</u>		