Quarterly Update

Children, Schools and Young People Framework

March 2020

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‘Prayer is our heartbeat. Prayer is our oxygen...’
Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin
I returned from study leave three weeks ago and inevitably found myself immersed within a whole variety of thought-provoking and pressing issues (see the COVID-19 note below), but am also delighted to reflect on a number of matters which are a definite cause for thankfulness and celebration.

Firstly, I am deeply grateful to Niki Paterson, who has been Acting Director of Education in my absence; skilfully managing our team and strategic developments, sustaining high quality engagement with schools and partners and addressing some issues which were neither expected nor welcome! Furthermore, I had the privilege of attending a celebration event at Lambeth Palace on 4th March as Niki received recognition in completing the national Diocesan Education Leaders Programme, a significant commitment and achievement. Niki co-presented some fascinating research findings relating to school placements for curates, a conversation she has already initiated within the diocese and which we hope bears fruit, helping to equip curates for their future ministry with children, households and communities.

I am also delighted to make two announcements regarding team appointments:

We are very pleased to welcome Kira Hedley-Smith, who joined us in February as CSY Team administrator and events co-ordinator. Kira is already involved in communications, managing resources and the organisation of training and events, and in due course will provide administrative support to our ChYP’s Ministry Adviser. If you have any questions about the above matters, please contact Kira via email - khedley-smith@diocant.org

On 27th April, Nathan Wilson will take up the role of Children and Young People’s (ChYP’s) Ministry Adviser. Nathan is currently Missioner in the Ashford Town Parish, involved in the leadership of projects such as Ignite and Make Lunch, and has previous experience as a Christian Schools Worker. He is keen to promote networking and collaboration and will be championing the Growing Faith vision, discerning and supporting discipleship pathways for children and young people and helping to raise our perception of them as leaders and ‘fellow pilgrims’ within intergenerational worshipping communities.

Following on from this exciting news, may I ask you to share yours? It is always encouraging to promote ministry with children, young people and schools through diocesan social media, e-mailings and other communications—please forward photos or written reports to any of our team members!

With my prayers and all good wishes,

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please note that our team is not circulating separate advice to schools or children and young people’s ministers about Coronavirus (COVID-19); please see the most up-to-date advice from The Church of England (Guidance for parishes) and the Department for Education/Public Health England (Guidance for Educational Settings).

However, we are providing some resources for worship (for whole school and smaller groups), included in this update and to follow by email in due course.
Each member on the CSY team is praying for a list of school so as a team all 103 schools are being prayed for. Below is an example of a prayer written by Niki Paterson

“Dear Lord
Look after our school leaders in Ashford Deanery who are a blessing to their schools and answer their prayers. Keep them strong as they give comfort and encouragement to others. Grant them with wisdom and creativity as they seek to deliver education in an ever evolving format. May they never self-doubt or feel judged as they make difficult decisions. May they find community and support from one another and their wider diocesan family. Give them the energy and hope to face every new day. And may they know that they loved. Keep them well, Lord, I pray.

Amen

Reading:
“ I will give you every place where you set your foot...... Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go” Joshua 1:3,9”
You may notice that the Diocesan website looks a little bit, well, different. We’re relaunching the site with a brand new look and feel - and a more user-friendly structure.

For the first time, it will also be responsive, which means that it should display nicely on your smartphone and tablet as well as your desktop!

Letters for Creation, being delivered in partnership between the Church of England and Christian Aid, invites children and young people (under 30) to write their own ‘letters’ for creation (which can take any form — videos, photographs, poems etc. all welcome), reflecting on what caring for God’s creation means to them and what they’d like to say to leaders from around the world about climate justice.

Selected letters will then be showcased as part of a touring exhibition, beginning at the Lambeth Conference, visiting a number of UK cathedrals, and hopefully ending up at the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

For more information about the project and resources for schools, visit the Christian Aid website or the Creationtide resources on the Church of England website.

Many of you will have met Jonathan Mann, our Children’s Society representative, at the conference last October. The Children’s Society is currently offering training to provide further insight into Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery, Vulnerability factors and Resilience of Children and Young People. These sessions will also seek to explore best practice when supporting young people.

We would like to hear from schools who are interested in attending training so that we might organise a central event. Please email Kira Hedley-Smith with expressions of interest by April 30th.

You can read the Children’s Society full report ‘Counting lives: Responding to children who are criminally exploited’ here:

Leaders might be interested in the results of a new report by Barnardo’s Scotland called ‘Supervision in Education – Caring for the carers’ which includes a case study and findings from research carried out at Canterbury Christ Church University. Since 2014 a group of academics and practitioners in the Faculty of Education have been providing, researching and developing a model of supervision for education professionals. Church schools in Canterbury Diocese have benefitted from this service brokered through the Diocesan Board of Education.

The full article can be read here

https://blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/expertcomment/supervision-in-education/

Please contact Niki if you are interested in finding out more.

The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership is committed to underpinning all of its work with an academically rigorous approach to research at all levels. Through a range of strategic Higher Education partnerships, it commissions and resources research projects on a range of scales and scopes.

They have partnered with the Centre for Real World Learning at the University of Winchester to publish 'Christian Leadership in Schools', an incisive and inspirational insight into the literature and thinking about Christian approaches to leadership in education.

The report is free to download here : https://www.cefel.org.uk/research/
Creating a distinctive Christian Vision

This training is OPEN to any school which has not already attended.

School leadership teams will be lead through activities and discussions to begin the process of discerning and building a distinctively Christian vision, which is underpinned by a biblical narrative.

**Wednesday 21st October 2020**

9.30am—3.00pm @ Seasalter Christian Centre, CT5 4AX

[https://www.canterburydiocese.org/events/creating-a-distinctive-christian-vision-october/](https://www.canterburydiocese.org/events/creating-a-distinctive-christian-vision-october/)

Book your

**Book your place using the hyperlink above.**
Below is a poem I saw on Twitter, I hope it reminds you that there is hope amongst these dark and challenging times. Take care and see you on the other side! Rebecca 😊

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM
March 13th 2020
School property can take up a lot of time for governing bodies; technical procedures, legislation, funding issues, programming and the inevitable disruption to the academic community during building work all have high impact on the life of a school. It is my role to support and assist schools to meet these challenges. If you would like any advice or further guidance regarding buildings and capital projects, land law, project planning, schools funding, academy conversion policy and processes or admissions, please don’t hesitate to contact me via rford@diocant.org.

**2020-21 School Budgets:** This year’s budget incorporates the views of the schools who responded to KCC’s school budget consultation, launched in October 2019, and the views of the Schools’ Funding Forum (which the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education has representation on).

The key headlines this year are as follows:

- **KCC continues to maintain a higher lump sum for Primary schools of £120,000 to protect our smallest schools.**
- **KCC is introducing a falling roll fund to offer temporary protection to mainstream schools who experience a sudden reduction in their pupil numbers, and the school places in that area are needed in the near future. Please contact me if your school is eligible.**
- **KCC is transferring 1% of the Schools’ budget into the High Needs budget to help incentivize greater inclusion of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) into mainstream schools.**
- **KCC has been able to increase the basic entitlement for all schools, with the aim of all schools benefitting from the additional funding.**
- **KCC has been able to increase the low prior attainment factor to 100% of the national funding formula, which should represent a significant increase in funding for those schools with the greatest additional educational needs challenge. The Council believes that this factor is the most accurate of all the formula factors in providing schools additional funding for special educational needs. Increasing the funding through this factor, as KCC has done, supports their strategic objective of trying to increase the number of children and young people with EHCPs into mainstream schools.**
- **KCC is providing the government’s minimum per pupil funding levels of £3,750 in Primary schools and £5,000 in Secondary schools.**
- **KCC has set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +0.5%, the first positive increase in many years.**
- **KCC is increasing the High Needs funding rates for Special Schools, Specialist Resource Provision, Observation and Assessment centres and for Mainstream Top Up by 4% from 1 April 2020.**

**Capital Funding for Voluntary Aided Schools:** The Diocese is awaiting confirmation of the School Condition Allocation (‘SCA’) funding which will replace LCVAP this year; in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at the earliest opportunity if you have identified any new potential capital projects.

**Consent for Capital works:** A gentle reminder for all schools, please make sure you that you obtain permission from your site trustees prior to undertaking any capital work on church school sites; I can assist you with this.

**Admissions:** Please note that we have updated guidance on admissions policies to assist governing bodies in the process of reviewing policies by asking key questions for consideration, please see: [https://www.canterburydiocese.org/content/pages/documents/1583856609.pdf](https://www.canterburydiocese.org/content/pages/documents/1583856609.pdf)
Where meetings can be held electronically, decisions can be properly taken via that system. If a meeting cannot be convened (or a quorate meeting cannot be convened) the written resolution process can be used – this can include an email sent to all trustees with them returning a copy duly noted as agreed. Under Article 137 trustees can make rules about their meetings. I would recommend that a rule is made that says that the chair or the clerk on the chair's direction (or whatever works for the charity) can circulate emails for decisions where no electronic meeting is possible. This would apply to trustee meetings, committee meetings etc. The rule might also deal with timescale for responding etc.

In time of emergency schools and trustees may wish to delegate decisions to a smaller group or raise financial thresholds for decisions. Obviously we can advise individual schools on their situation. The most important thing in a time of crisis is to record WHY a certain process was followed.

For information about school governance please follow the advise on the government [website](http://www.gov.uk).
On 16th November 2019, Canterbury Diocesan Synod passed the following motion:

‘This Synod recognises the Environment and Climate Emergency, and commits to the following:

1. Learning the facts about today's environmental degradation and human-induced climate change;

2. Speaking the truth about the Emergency and the change that are needed to safeguard the environment and mitigate climate impact

3. Taking the necessary action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030, and to model ways in which our faith and congregations can enable all of God's creation to flourish;

4. Fighting social injustices caused by the environmental crisis;


6. Including our Care for the Environment within our diocesan Changed Lives—Changing Lives strategy.’

**Empowered, children and young people can be our most effective missional disciples when it comes to caring for God’s creation.**

We must encourage them to be courageous advocates for change; looking beyond themselves, thinking globally about life, developing an understanding of the exploitation of the natural world and engaging in social action and challenging injustice.

There are many inspirational examples of environmental awareness in schools, and churches striving for people of all ages to seek transformation and grow in service together.

On the next page, we have included some examples of energy saving and food growing projects which we hope may be worth pursuing!
Energy Saving and Food Growing

Robyn Ford  rford@diocant.org

What is Untapped?
Untapped  https://untappedschools.com/ is a Government funded initiative which supports the development of tools to help schools to save money through energy efficiency.

What does it offer to your school?
It offers advanced analytics that will enable you to optimise your energy saving, regular prompts and tips showing clearly how to reduce your energy use, suggestions of sources of funding and a suite of lesson plans and ideas across 4 key stages, written by subject specialist teachers.

Salix Finance Ltd. provides interest-free Government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills.
Its partners include Ashden — The LESS CO2 programme is a free programme supporting schools across the UK to reduce their energy use, engage with their staff and students about energy, and teach about sustainability  www.ashden.org/programmes/less-co2

Sustain  See their campaigns at https://www.sustainweb.org/

♦ Practical food growing encourages children to connect with food, and to try new foods
♦ Food growing provides outdoor physical activity, and has also been shown to have a positive effect on mental health, in particular helping develop confidence and self-esteem.
♦ Practical experience of food growing teaches children about where their food comes from and how it is produced
♦ The practical nature of food growing can connect children with the living environment
♦ By its nature, the produce of school gardens is local and seasonal, the ultimate example of healthy and sustainable food
♦ School gardens can promote biodiversity, teach sustainable waste management techniques such as composting, and support and inspire good habits both at school and at home.

Endeavour  is Kew's free online learning platform, full of teaching resources for Key Stages 1-5.

...Plan a plant hunter expedition, investigate plants used in medicine and explore habitats under threat.  ...  Endeavour can assist in delivering engaging lessons in plant science and the environment.

To register, go to  https://endeavour.kew.org/app/registration
Over the last year or so, Ronni has been researching what enables young people to flourish, working in secondary schools and youth groups around the diocese. Her report will be part of the smorgasbord that is the Bishop’s study day on ‘Growing Faith’ originally planned for June 30th (We will let you know the new date asap.) Thank you to the groups who contributed - she is busy writing up what is proving to be a fascinating piece of work.

If you would like Ronni to help you discover how to use Godly Play within your school or church, please contact her via the Diocesan office. We hold a good selection of Godly Play resources - and Kira, our new administrator, would love to lend them to you once you have done some basic training. For details of longer training courses, take a look at www.godlyplay.uk

If your cupboards have either the Creation or Holy Family Godly Play sets in them, please bring them back—we won’t ask for any explanations, we would just like to see them returned! We are also missing the book ‘Young children and Worship’ by Berryman and Stewart.

Due for publication on 17th April, Ronni would like to highlight her new book on Children’s Spirituality and how we can facilitate it in households, schools and churches.

It includes a chapter on Growing Faith as well as the value and importance of Play (and purchasers can of course request their copy to be signed by the author!) Pre-orders can be made through Amazon (and almost certainly other good booksellers).
In the New Year, the team returned to discuss the vision for Zeal Youth Hub and the months ahead. Feeling inspired by one another and motivated on behalf of the young people in Sittingbourne, we started off January with the Youth Alpha Course. This saw 10-20 young people dedicate their Friday nights to sitting down for a free meal (like KFC!) and engage in a series of conversations about the meaning of life and asking questions about the Christian faith.

In response to this, we hosted an Alpha Day during half term to watch further episodes of the series and flip pancakes in celebration of Shrove Tuesday – the pancake mix may, or may not have ended up all over a staff member’s leg! Our Worship Day was also well attended and had a great impact on all those that participated in creative dance, music and crafts. The young people learnt what it means to worship and explore different ways to do this. Pizza was enjoyed and a lot of fun was had.

Everybody agreed they knew more about worship than they did at the start of the session.

The back hall refurbishment is well underway – it is amazing how a lick of paint can transform a space. We’ve had vertical seating installed which has created a ‘learning zone’ to deliver workshops and sessions. The young people were very excited when the seating was unveiled as it has meant they now have an area to listen to encouraging talks at Zeal on Friday nights. So far, we’ve had five of our youth share their personal stories of how they’ve come to faith, read from the Bible or do a talk on a theme from the Bible. We think it is awesome that these young people have approached us to ask if they can do this, without any prompting from an adult.

With exam season fast approaching and school-related anxieties ever on the rise, we recognised the need for a quiet space to revise and do school work away from the distractions at home. Zeal Youth Hub has opened for an additional evening in order to accommodate this and feedback from the attendees has confirmed that without it, they would otherwise go home and procrastinate. This has also been a useful resource for local youth that aren’t currently in education but still want to access educational support.
Looking to the future to how we want opportunities like this to grow, we are always considering ways in which we can remain sustainable. We are delighted that we have recruited five more volunteer young leaders to assist in the delivery of the activities and events we offer at Zeal Youth Hub.

Having a new sound system installed meant each of these could get involved in our first fundraiser which saw over 30 people from the community arrive for Zeal’s Family Cinema Evening – The Lion King on the Big Screen. The team worked tirelessly in the kitchen preparing hot food orders with others counting the money raised from Penny Wars – Battle of the loose change. The evening was such a success that we are already discussing further fundraisers!

Together, we have achieved so much more than this over the last quarter too, with new youth arriving every week and Zeal Youth Hub’s social media increasing to over 400 followers across Facebook and Instagram. Each week we visit local Primary Schools, assisting in the classroom, supporting assemblies and helping at an after school club run by a local church.

It is beyond amazing to witness the friendships that have developed between our youth, with young people often referring to each other as being part of their ‘Zeal Family.’ We identified that a growing number of young people wanted to get more involved in supporting this project, not only volunteering around the Youth Hub and mentoring their younger peers, but also in developing their faith and leadership skills by committing to the CPAS Young Leaders Course.
**Key Contacts**

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