

NEWSLETTER

MANCHESTER DBE SPRING 2026



I have just returned from a few days in Marbella enjoying some winter sun with family. It was a real treat especially as it meant I missed the snow showers at the beginning of the week.

Whilst there, many locals were also on holiday as the celebrations for Epiphany or '3 Kings Day' are huge in Spain. A highlight was the welcoming parade for the 3 Kings. Families thronged the streets to watch as the 3 kings and their battalions walking through the streets of Marbella old town, carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. There was a real excitement in the air. A sense of gifts being brought for all to share. A reminder of God being born as a baby, bringing hope for us all. The decorations were magnificent too and totally centred around the nativity story. It was refreshing to see and experience such an important Christian festival as Epiphany being recognised and delighted in.

My thoughts were drawn to how we live in our schools. It is always encouraging to see how, with your support, they remain distinctly Christian, celebrating Christian festivals, teaching Biblical stories, delighting in faith and grounded in Anglican traditions. Places where all are welcomed, where exploration of religion and faith is encouraged and nurtured. As we begin 2026 may we be as bold as the '3 Kings' parade was. May we prioritise this distinctiveness both individually and collectively. May our schools be places where adults and children can explore faith and their personal response. May we delight in each other's beliefs and religious practices. May we all be welcomed into the Church School family.

As we remember Jesus said *'I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'*
John 10:10 New American Standard Bible 1995

Deborah

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 19 January 2026 – Heads & Chairs Briefing ([online](#)).

Wednesday 28 January 2026 – New Headteacher Induction 3

Wednesday 11 March 2026 – New Headteacher Induction 4

Wednesday 18 March 2026 – [RE Conference \(Global Approaches\)](#).

Wednesday 22 April 2026 – New Headteacher Induction 5

Tuesday 5 May 2026 – Retiring Headteacher Evensong at Manchester Cathedral

Thursday 18 June 2026 – [Collective Worship Conference](#)

Monday 22 June 2026 – New Headteacher Induction 6

Save the date: Friday 2 October 2026 – Manchester DBE Annual Schools Conference

SHADES TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



- **Are you passionate about racial justice and Christianity?**
- **Do you work in a Church of England school?**
- **Are you concerned about racial tensions within your school, church or community?**
- **Do you want support in creating a safe and welcoming environment for all?**

If you are working with children and young people in a school or church setting and are committed to embedding anti-racist practice in your work or ministry please book a place on one of our sessions this term.

Shades Hub – Bolton

Date: Tuesday 27 January 2026

Location: Longsight, Harwood, Bolton

Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

[Booking Link](#)

An Introduction to Anti-Racist Practice in Education – Half Day

Date: Thursday 29 January 2026

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Location: St Johns House, Bury

[Booking Link](#)

Train the Trainer – Leading a Shades Ambassadors Group

Date: Tuesday 10 February 2026

Time: 09:30am – 1:00pm

Location: St Johns House, Bury

[Booking Link](#)

CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Do you know a boy or girl aged 6–9 years old who'd like to experience life as a Manchester Cathedral Chorister?

The 'Be a Chorister For A Day' experience takes place on Saturday 17 January from 12.45pm–3pm!

The day involves fun musical games, a tour of Chetham's School of Music and meeting & performing with the Cathedral Choristers at Manchester Cathedral. Best of all, it's completely FREE.

Booking details in the link below – all places must be booked in advance and children must be accompanied by an adult.

[Be a chorister for a day | Chetham's School of Music](#)

RE CONFERENCE

GLOBAL APPROACHES TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Conference 2026

WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH 2026

ST JOHNS HOUSE, BURY, BL9 0ND
9:00AM TO 3:00PM



BOARD OF
EDUCATION



flourishing
church



TODDLER HUBS

Introducing our new Toddler Hubs: Encouraging, Equipping and Inspiring Toddler Ministry

We are excited to announce our Deanery Toddler Hub gatherings designed for toddler group leaders, volunteers, children's workers, and anyone passionate about early years ministry. These hubs will provide a welcoming space to connect, share ideas, and grow together as we serve families across our communities.

Toddler groups remain one of the most accessible and transformational ministries in the life of the Church. Week after week, they offer parents, carers, and little ones a safe place to belong. They foster friendship, support, play, faith-building conversations, and gentle pastoral care. Yet those who serve in this ministry also need encouragement, inspiration, and opportunities to refresh their vision.

Toddler Hubs will be interactive and practical, shaped around the real joys and challenges of toddler ministry. Each gathering will include creative ideas for sessions, opportunities to share successes and challenges, topical training, worship, prayer, and encouragement, alongside networking with others.

As we continue to invest in early years and family ministry across the Diocese, we want to champion those who give their time and compassion to this vital work. Please check diocesan e-news bulletins and social media for dates and venues.

johaslam@manchester.anglican.org



CHILDRENS OFFICER

Collective Worship Resources

2025 has been such a joy! Sharing collective worship with schools across the Diocese has brought so many highlights. From creative assemblies to videos with Bishop Mark exploring the Ascension and even discovering the bees living on top of Manchester Cathedral—what a year! These moments remind us how worship can spark curiosity and wonder.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to keep building on this creativity. We'll be offering new resources with fresh ideas for Lent, Easter and Pentecost, plus something special for the end of the school year.

Your feedback really shapes what we do, so please keep sending your thoughts and suggestions. Together, we can make collective worship even better.

Leaver's Services 2026

June 2025 was brilliant! We loved celebrating with Year 6 pupils as they prepared for the next big step into secondary school. The joy, the music and the sense of community made it unforgettable.

Now, we're gearing up for this year's event at Manchester Cathedral, and it's going to be even bigger and better! This year's theme is "Life in All Its Fullness"—a chance to explore what Jesus meant by living abundantly. Expect plenty of actions, inspiring messages from Year 7 young people and the energy of iSingPop leading us in songs that will fill the cathedral with joy. Spaces are limited, and they're going fast! If you've already booked, get ready for an amazing experience. If not, don't miss out—click this [LINK](#) to check availability.

Let's make this a celebration to remember. We can't wait to see you and your pupils in the cathedral!



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NPQ Update



Applications for this years NPQs has now closed. We had a tremendous response for places resulting in 150 places being offered across the range of courses. The inductions and welcome sessions have already begun with participants ready to start their courses this term.

We recently received the results of the leadership courses we offered in Cohort 7 with a pass rate of over 97%. This has been achieved through the hard work of participants and the knowledge and skills of our excellent course facilitators.

LOUISE MORLEY

NATRE SPIRITED ARTS 2026

Get creative through this cross-curricular competition! Join hundreds of schools worldwide participating in this year's Spirited Arts competition! It's a fantastic way to engage teachers and students while boosting the profile of RE in your school. Some schools integrate the competition into RE lessons with a 'Spirited Arts' unit or an RE/arts week.

NATRE welcome entries in (almost!) any art form your pupils can think of, including:

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching, etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture



Now in its 20th year, Spirited Arts has attracted over 450,000 entrants (averaging 25,000 annually!) since 2004, with 3,000 entries sent into NATRE each year for judging. Hundreds of UK schools get involved, and we get entries from as far afield as Hong Kong, Australia, Thailand and Bahrain.

MORE DETAILS >

CAPITAL BUILDINGS OFFICER

SCA Bids

All bids for the SCA 2026 funding cycle have been submitted to the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE). The DBE will spend the next few months carefully considering each bid. Successful bids will be announced in May 2026, once the final allocation amount from the Department for Education (DfE) is confirmed. The DfE typically announces SCA allocations in the spring and CIF (Condition Improvement Fund) outcomes around May each year. Some preparatory or information-gathering work related to the bids may be carried out in the meantime to strengthen the submissions.

This message is part of the standard process for allocating capital funding for school building maintenance and improvement, which involves a formulaic allocation and competitive bids.

New VA School Resource

A new resource for School Business Managers and Headteachers of Voluntary Aided (VA) Schools will be distributed later this term. This resource will consist of a series of documents designed to provide clear guidance on the maintenance and management of VA school buildings. Included within these documents will be detailed facts, processes, checklists, and questions with corresponding answers to assist in the effective operation and upkeep of the school's physical infrastructure.

Additionally, the resource will offer an overview of the historical context behind these processes, as well as an explanation of the legal responsibilities of both the school and the Diocese Board of Education (DBE).

The resource will be sent via email, with downloadable attachments. Colleagues are encouraged to either print the documents for reference or retain the files digitally on their desktop for quick and convenient access.

CIF Bids & Diocesan Approval

The deadline for CIF bids for 2026 cycle has passed and notification of successful bids should be announced in Spring 2026. Please can we take this opportunity to remind all MAT that permission is needed from the MDBE for all capital projects over £50k.



NEW NETWORK: TACKLING POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE TOGETHER

The Growing Faith Foundation will be partnering with Tees Valley Education and colleagues from Parachurch organisations, schools and churches to bring you a new Growing Faith peer support and learning network. Join them online each month February–July 2026 as they take a contextual dive into this important issue through the lens of church–school–home partnership.

Topics will include:

Knowing poverty and disadvantage: Understanding the complexity of these terms and navigating them in your role

Beyond the headlines: Challenging myths and misconceptions about poverty through service to communities

Lived and living realities: Understanding and responding to the acute needs of those who face poverty-related barriers to learning, living and growing in communities

Service in place: Knowing and responding to local contexts

Ganging up on the problem: Growing effective place-based partnerships and systems for tackling the problem of poverty together

Awareness to action: Embedding poverty-informed practice in schools, churches and community settings

Faith in tackling poverty: Strengthening church and school partnerships to tackle poverty and inequality at scale

Changing realities: sharing project insights, learning and further action

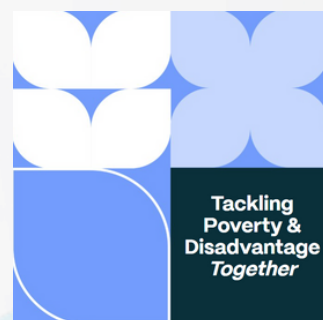
This network is for adults who work directly with or have strategic oversight for children, young people and families across the spheres of church, school and home.

All are welcome to join!

Sessions will be practical and interactive in style; you do not need any relevant experience to be able to make use of these tools. Sessions will be adapted according to the needs of colleagues as much as possible. You just need to be curious about inequality and have a desire to work collaboratively for impact.

Sessions will be held online at the following times:

- Wednesday 18 February 10:30–12:00pm
- Thursday 26 March 11:–12:30pm
- Monday 27 April 1:30–3:00pm
- Thursday 21 May 10:00–11:30am
- Wednesday 24 June 13:30–15:00pm
- Tuesday 7 July 12:30–2:00pm



This network is free. In order to join and receive Zoom invitations, please sign up here: [Tackling Poverty and Disadvantage Together](#)

For further information please contact Hannah.Persaud@churchofengland.org

MDGF EARLY YEARS ADVISER

Early Years Conference Bursts with Energy and Inspiration that Refreshed and Refilled!

On Saturday 8 November, the Diocese of Manchester hosted its inaugural Early Years Conference, welcoming over 60 delegates from across the Diocese and beyond. This faith-filled gathering was a joyful affirmation of the diocesan strategy of Growing Younger, highlighting the central role of Early Years Ministry in shaping the Church's future.

Keynote speaker Caroline Montgomery, Refresh Pioneer, inspired delegates with her innovative toddler group model that nurtures both children and accompanying adults, offering a compelling vision for holistic family ministry. Carolyn Edwards, Ministry with Children and Young People Officer from the National Church, shared profound insights on "Holiness in the Early Years," emphasising children as holy spiritual beings and the importance of play in spiritual growth. Delegates left renewed in spirit, equipped with fresh ideas, and united in vision.



Introduction to Wiggle Worship

It was a great pleasure to support the Early Years staff at St Philips CE Primary, Atherton last term in introducing and embedding Wiggle Worship as part of their regular worshipping pattern in EYFS, weaving it seamlessly into their weekly rhythm and helping children to experience worship in a way that feels natural, fun, and deeply meaningful.

To mark the end of term, along with the Early Years team, we led a special Christmas Wiggle Worship Celebration, inviting families to join in the experience. The atmosphere was filled with joy and community spirit, as families joined together in celebration of faith and learning.

"Just wanted to thank you for the WONDERFUL Wiggle Worship Celebration that you helped us to share with our families on Monday. It was so special and we have had lots of lovely feedback from the parents!"

– Lucy Caldwell, EYFS teacher.



JO HASLAM

MANDIO GROWING FAITH TEAM

My first year in the role has been wonderful, but there are new ministries to offer – I'm especially interested in exploring prayer spaces, and opportunities for outdoor and forest church. Getting new ministry opportunities for young people underway in Miles Platting and Newton Heath.

Deepening relationships with the schools I've worked with, exploring the ways I can support them that work best for the pupils, and helping to create and strengthen links with their churches.

Ken Peden | Manchester North and East Deanery



Experience Christmas at St James Gorton



2025 in Oldham and Ashton saw fresh vibrancy and new shoots in worship and discipleship activities. Brick Church was formed by the team at Oldham Parish Church, enabling children and young people to explore the Christian faith through everyone's favourite building bricks. Down the road at St Luke's CE Primary School, Chadderton, Sensory Worship has been developed so that all pupils and those with additional/sensory needs have opportunity access worship, prayer and creativity together.

"The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there."
Zechariah 8:5

My prayer and hope for 2026 across the Deanery is that children, young people and their families might further explore faith and grow in it through purposeful play. Joy and play are Kingdom attributes and if we are to see heaven on earth I say more play! The continuation of Brick Church as we step into the Lenten season, the growth of Sensory Worship, not just at St Luke's, but in more churches and schools across the Deanery for all people. My final hope for 2026 is that more children and youth ministry leader/volunteer gatherings take place. That in their places they are encouraged, supported and can grow in the ministries they so passionately serve.

Laura Tebay | Oldham and Ashton Deanery

As Deanery Enablers, we've experienced that changes within Mission Communities are common—and often challenging. New places, new people, and new momentum require not only adaptation but also finding ways to flourish.

Following Easter this year, after moving to a new Mission Community, months of networking have led to exciting new collaborations. We held our first Forest Church gathering at St Thomas' Church, Newhey. St Andrew's CE Primary School & Nursery in Rochdale has decided to apply for the Diocesan Planet Savers award and register for Eco-Schools—we're ready to make a big impact in the new academic year! Thanks be to God for His timing, and thank you all for your trust and support as my companions in Rochdale.

Loretta Leung | Rochdale Deanery



SUSIE MAPLEDORAM

Astley St. Stephen's Primary School and St. Stephen's Church Astley have joined together to develop new opportunities for worship, both for the school and the church. This new "Outdoor Worship" space has been an excellent collaborative project between the school, church and school families, raising money through a grant and a family sponsored walk. The school are looking forward to using the space for worship activities, and the church is looking to use the space for a possible afterschool family worship time, forest church, etc. We are looking forward to Bishop Mark blessing and opening this new venture in January.



In the coming months, we are looking forward to partnering with the Shades Team to develop opportunities to explore ways in which we can promote racial justice. Several schools in the Leigh area have already attended training and are looking to start a Shades Ambassador project within their schools. We are also hoping to introduce the Plant Savers Award scheme to many of our schools in our area.

We have had several new headteachers, clergy and a new Area Dean join us in recent times. This is giving us a wonderful opportunity to explore more ways to engage with Schools, Homes and Families in order to build valuable relationships and opportunities to share our faith in new and creative ways.

Sandra Morris | Salford and Leigh Deanery



My year has been summed up in the picture of this tree, I have been blessed enough to be involved with so many different things, like the new green leaves they have begun to grow and spread and shine. In other areas the roots are growing and developing and with all the things I am involved in ensuring it is rooted in prayer. The growth sometimes takes place below the ground in order for it to be fruitful. It might not always be straightforward trying new things and it can feel like a tangle but with God we have seen some amazing growth in the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale. The tree also reminds me of the outdoor worship/ campfire church/ woody/ muddy church that takes place across the Deanery.

Three things I am looking forward to this year are developing my collective worship delivery, exploration of Youth Sacred Spaces across the Deanery and working alongside the Places Project Youth Team to organise and run a youth event in the summer term for the Bolton Archdeaconry.

Amelia Brummitt | Bury and Rossendale Deanery

We come to the end of this year giving thanks for the opportunities that we have been given to share the hope of Jesus across the deaneries of this diocese through the work of MDGF. As we move into 2026 we will be looking for a new Deanery Enabler for South and Stretford as the brilliant Ruth Gent moved on to new adventures at the end of 2025. Ruth first joined the Diocese of Manchester in January 2017 as an administrator in the Education Team, supporting work in our schools and parishes, organising conferences and visits, supporting the work of the team in a caring, exuberant and thorough way.

In 2023 Ruth moved into a new post with the ManDio Growing Faith Team as Deanery Enabler for Manchester South and Stretford. Ruth has helped to create and strengthen youth and children's ministry across the deanery, bringing her energy, positivity and determination to everything she has been involved in. Ruth has been pivotal in developing services for families of neurodivergent children, particularly This Is Church at St Luke's Benchill, and has also been key to the evolving work on Forest Church across the diocese.

So many of her colleagues from across both Manchester South and Stretford Deanery and the wider diocese will miss Ruth's warmth, great sense of humour, love of Arnold Schwarzenegger and passion for children and young people to come to know Jesus.



Susie

Sparks Mentoring Programme .

Over the past seven weeks, we have had the joy of working with a fantastic group of Year 9 students from St James's High School in Farnworth, through the Sparks Mentoring Programme. This programme is designed to help young people grow in confidence, self-esteem, and essential life skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, all while encouraging them to explore their sense of vocation and future aspirations through a positive, faith-centred lens.

Students worked closely with our trained mentors to develop practical skills they can apply both in and outside the classroom. Each session combined reflective discussions with hands-on activities, giving students opportunities to identify their strengths, consider how they can support their peers, and recognise the unique value they bring to their school and wider community. From group activities to guided reflection, students showed tremendous growth. Their ability to think creatively, support each other, and engage meaningfully in conversations about their futures has been inspiring. We are incredibly proud of what they've achieved in just seven weeks.



Welcome Julie !

We are thrilled to welcome Julie to the team as our new Children's Worker in the Children and Families Team. She's already diving into all the festive activities! Here's what Julie shared:

"I am delighted to be the new Children's Worker in the Places Project and very excited to see what God has in store for this new adventure. I couldn't have asked for a warmer welcome to the Places Project and I'm really looking forward to working closely with the team to help nurture children's faith journey."



Journey from Bolton to Bethlehem .

On Saturday 13th December, we were excited to partner once again with Bolton Parish Church for a fun-filled family event as we journeyed from Bolton to Bethlehem. Families enjoyed refreshments, took part in Christmas crafts, and even had a chance to win some festive prizes.



SHADES TEAM

New Team Members

Kateko Idiegbe (left)

Deanery: Salford & Leigh

What are you most looking forward to? *I'm looking forward to bringing the BHFT to Salford & Leigh in 2026 and starting Shades Ambassadors groups in the area.*

Luke Nelson (centre)

Deaneries: Manchester N & E and Manchester S & Stretford

What are you most looking forward to? *I am desperate for the love of God to permeate today's youth culture and change the trajectory of the nation towards the feet of Jesus.*

Louisa Dokyi (right)

Deaneries: Oldham & Ashton and Rochdale

What are you most looking forward to? *As Shades has finally spread across Manchester, I'm hoping to see a lot of schools opening their doors to Shades and I am looking forward to start working with new schools/churches in my deaneries.*



Black History & Faith Tour

As we look back on a wonderful term, and the culmination of Part 1 of the Black History & Faith Tour, we are so thankful for the powerful stories shared, the important conversations and space to reflect on how, together, we can contribute to building a society that allows all to flourish and be celebrated. This year, for the first time, we supported churches alongside schools which was wonderful to see the joy and wonder on the children's faces and to see families unite together in standing against racism. The worship, the joy, the spirit of unity reminded us of God's kingdom here on earth and how we all have our part to play.

Canon Slade Ambassadors Shine Bright

A huge thank you to our Canon Slade Shades Ambassadors for boldly delivering the Black History & Faith Tour in their own school. The group is made up of students across Years 7-10 and their courage and leadership turned an important message into a powerful experience for their peers, sparking conversations about racial justice, equality, and faith in action.

As one Ambassador shared: *"All of us got through it and we gained more confidence from it. Students have approached us in the hall and have given us a lot of praise since."*

These reflections show the impact of stepping up and leading with purpose. By creating space for dialogue and pledging to challenge injustice, our Ambassadors proved that young voices can inspire real change.

Next, we're excited to see our Shades Ambassadors bring the same passion to St Maxentius, St James Farnworth, St Peter's, and St John's primary schools, shining the light of the Gospel. Together, we're building a courageous movement of faith, courage, and allyship.

NI-COLA SCOTT

The Bible Course

Schools Edition



The eight sessions of The Bible Course are delivered in two days. These sessions explore what the Bible is, what it means, and what story it tells. It shows how the books of the Bible are part of one big story and how the key events and characters in them fit together. The purpose of this course is to help you to acquire a wider knowledge and understanding of the Bible. This will support your delivery of the diocesan syllabus and enhance leaders' sharing of the biblical themes through collective worship.

Location: St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND

Session 1: Wednesday 11 March 2026

Session 2: Wednesday 22 April 2026

Time: Arrival from 9:30am for 10am start, closing at 3:30pm.

Cost: £50 for both sessions (including lunch & resources)

Booking link (automatic enrollment in session 2): [How does the Bible inspire Leadership](#)

FAITH IN THE NORTH - PILGRIM PATHWAYS



Faith in the North have an online webinar coming up for schools to hear about new resources around the themes of Pilgrimage & the Northern Saints.

These free resources will include:

- A set of collective worship resources entitled "Pilgrim Pathways".
- A new resource for school visits to churches, giving children an interactive experience as they explore the building.
- A new song from the team at "Songs for Schools", helping children understand the themes of Pilgrimage.
- A newly developed resource from the education advisors "Light from the Past, Hope for the Future", helping children explore the Northern Saints.

Dates for the webinar are Tuesday 3 February and Wednesday 4 February 2026 at 4pm.

Sign up here [What's On - Faith in the North](#)

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

Natre Spirited Arts Competition Winner



St Paul's CE Primary, Crompton Street were thrilled to learn that they had won one of their chosen categories of the Natre Spirited Arts Competition 2025. Their Year 1 class chose to enter artwork into the "Stories that change lives" category using the parable of The Lost Sheep as their inspiration. The class, supported by Miss Beveridge and Mrs Forrest, created a piece of art titled 'Even one Sheep'.

"We read the parable called 'The Lost Sheep' and looked at different versions of the story to understand the meaning. We talked about how the sheep represent people of the world and the Lost Sheep could represent someone with a fixed mindset. We think the shepherd could represent Jesus or God. We shared our thoughts about the story. 'Even if you have lots of friends, you never leave anyone behind.'"



National Award Winning Primary School



Hindsford CE Primary have recently won two national awards. Pictured is the team collecting their Silver award for Making a Difference - Primary School of the Year at the Pearson National Teaching Awards. The award recognises the school's tireless work to ensure that the children feel valued, loved & respected so that they are able to live out the school motto of 'Our Best, Always, Everywhere'. Their extensive enrichment & personal development programme was also recognised for equipping the children to become all-round amazing individuals and responsible citizens of society.

The school has also been presented with the Manchester & Northwest Primary School of the Year Gold Prestige Award.

Huge congratulations to headteacher Elaine Holden, the staff, governors, students and parents at Hindsford CE Primary for this fantastic achievement.

Remembrance Day Reflections

This year, Brian Clarke Academy drew inspiration from the Remembrance resource provided by Manchester Diocese Education Team. They chose the theme “Peacemakers” and asked their community to consider: How do we turn acts of Remembrance from a passive activity into an active mission? They also reflected on what happens after the one-minute silence—when we open our eyes again. The focus verse was Matthew 5:9: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

They explored examples of peacemakers in the Bible, including Jesus himself, and then looked at young people today who have dedicated their lives to bringing peace into challenging situations. They also considered the peacemakers within their own school community, with many students choosing to recognise the wonderful pastoral team.

Staff and students were invited to write their reflections on white doves, which were then displayed over camouflage netting to create a striking “cloud of white.” This formed a powerful installation placed in a central area of the school for all to see.



Be Still Day - Let your Light Shine



Pupils at Horwich Parish came together to take part in a special ‘Be Still’ day – a time of reflection, creativity, and togetherness inspired by the Lord’s Prayer. Throughout the day, the whole school embraced activities that encouraged them to explore faith through the values of love, respect, and inner stillness.

Children wrote teaspoon prayers (thank you, sorry, please), reflected on forgiveness, shared stories,

and pictured what heaven might be like. Each activity offered a moment to pause and connect, allowing every child to let their light shine in their own unique way. Pupils said ‘we loved the time to be calm and still’.

RE Lead Fiona McEwan shared, “Our school has spent the past few weeks deeply exploring the meaning behind the Lord’s Prayer. Today’s ‘Be Still’ day has been a joyful and meaningful celebration of everything we’ve learned. It’s been a chance for pupils to reflect, grow, and shine brightly.”

Horwich Parish School is proud of its strong links with Holy Trinity Church. Reverend Nicola Butterworth added, “We are incredibly proud of every pupil at Horwich Parish. It has been a joy to witness their light shining today through such love, thoughtfulness, and respect. We continue to give thanks for the strong partnership between the school and church—today and every day.”

The event was also supported by Places Project, further enriching this special day of faith, friendship, and reflection.

Performance Table Celebrations

Congratulations to all our schools who have finished in the top 10 of their local authority performance leagues this year.

Primary Schools (key stage 2):

- St Andrews CE Primary, Over Hulton
- Walmsley CE Primary
- Christ Church CE Primary, Walshaw
- Milton St John's CE Primary
- Didsbury CE Primary
- Wardley CE Primary
- St Andrew's CE Primary, Boothstown
- St Mark's CE Primary, Worsley
- All Souls CE Primary
- St Andrew's CE Primary, Dearnley
- St Michael's CE Primary, Bamford

Secondary Schools (key stage 4):

- Canon Slade School
- St James's CE High School
- Bury CE High School
- St Anne's CE Academy
- Lowton CE High School



flourishing
together through collective worship

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
CONFERENCE 2026** Thursday 18th June from 9am to 3pm

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Partnership for Children is a UK registered charity that helps children to be mentally and emotionally healthy – just as exercise, good food and sleep help them to be physically healthy.

They have developed a range of well-evidenced programmes to help young children across the entire primary school age range to

learn how to deal with difficulties, so that they will be better able to cope with problems and crises now and as teenagers and adults.

Modern life can be full of challenges for our children. We can't change this but we can help children to develop the skills they will need to cope with life's difficulties, to understand and manage their emotions and to develop resilience. To date over 2.8 million children have taken part in Partnership for Children's programmes around the world.

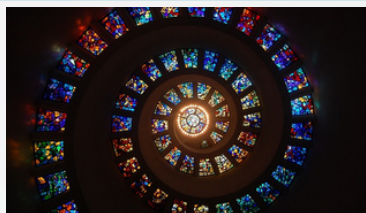


Training Calendar

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



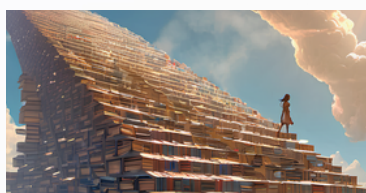
EARLY YEARS



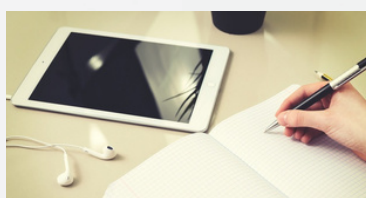
HEADTEACHERS



RE LEADS



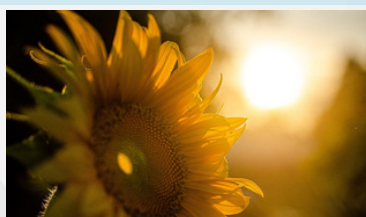
SECONDARY SCHOOLS



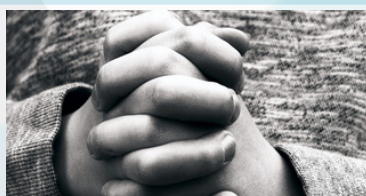
YOUTH & CHILDRENS WORKERS



WELLBEING



WHOLE CALENDAR



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