



NEWSLETTER July 2017

Federation of RE Centres

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

FOCUS ON A CENTRE

FREC CONFERENCE 2017

THE DAY WE WENT TO BEAMISH

NEWS FROM MEMBER CENTRES



**FREC in the North East
2017 Conference Reports**

Dear FREC members,

The second overnight conference held in Durham in May proved an enjoyable and valuable opportunity to meet up with colleagues from the world of RE. With grateful thanks to the inspirational and varied work done by Karenza Passmore and her team at the two-centred [North East Religious Resources Centres](#), it was a really worthwhile couple of days.

Mindful of how difficult it is to escape from our centres at times, I must say once again that I found the effort to be definitely beneficial! Sincere thanks and gratitude must go to Sean Smith for organising the conference once again and to Karenza for her time, energies and guidance over the two days. You can read more about the conference in this edition.

In this newsletter you will find a spotlight on the Gloucester Diocesan Resource Centre. It is fascinating to read from Hannah the focus of her work in the Diocese, parishes and schools, and the evident fulfilment it brings. If you would like your centre featured in a future edition of this newsletter, please contact Ken.

Sadly I must report that our numbers are continuing to diminish with the closure of CREC in Croydon, and the closure of Bath and Wells Diocesan Resource Centre .

<http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2017/06/reduced-use-brings-closure-resource-centre/> .

I'm sure I speak for all of us in passing on our sadness to Sheila, and particularly to Veronica who is facing redundancy. After so many years of good work and collaboration, which should of course be celebrated, it is clear sadly in these straitened times that none of our centres are immune.

From recent emails, you will also have gathered that our organisation has put forward submissions to the [Commission on RE](#) and has recently put a further detailed submission to Commissioner Joyce Miller about our dwindling numbers.

Many thanks to those who support the Federation – with its finances, membership, subscriptions, newsletters and minute-taking, and to Dave Mohan for his ongoing support maintaining our website.

We are looking for a centre/venue in the south for our next FREC meeting or conference – would you like to host a small gathering at your centre? Please do let me know.

Further to recent emails to you, and at the time of writing, we are currently looking for a new Treasurer to enable Karenza Passmore to take over the position of Chair in January 2018. We very much hope that this opportunity to re-arrange roles will result in new energies and ideas to drive FREC positively into the future. We look forward to hearing from you.

I would like to continue to represent FREC at the RE Council meetings, but realise I've held this privilege for some years now. If any of you would like to attend on behalf of FREC at the biannual meetings (held mainly in London), please get in touch.

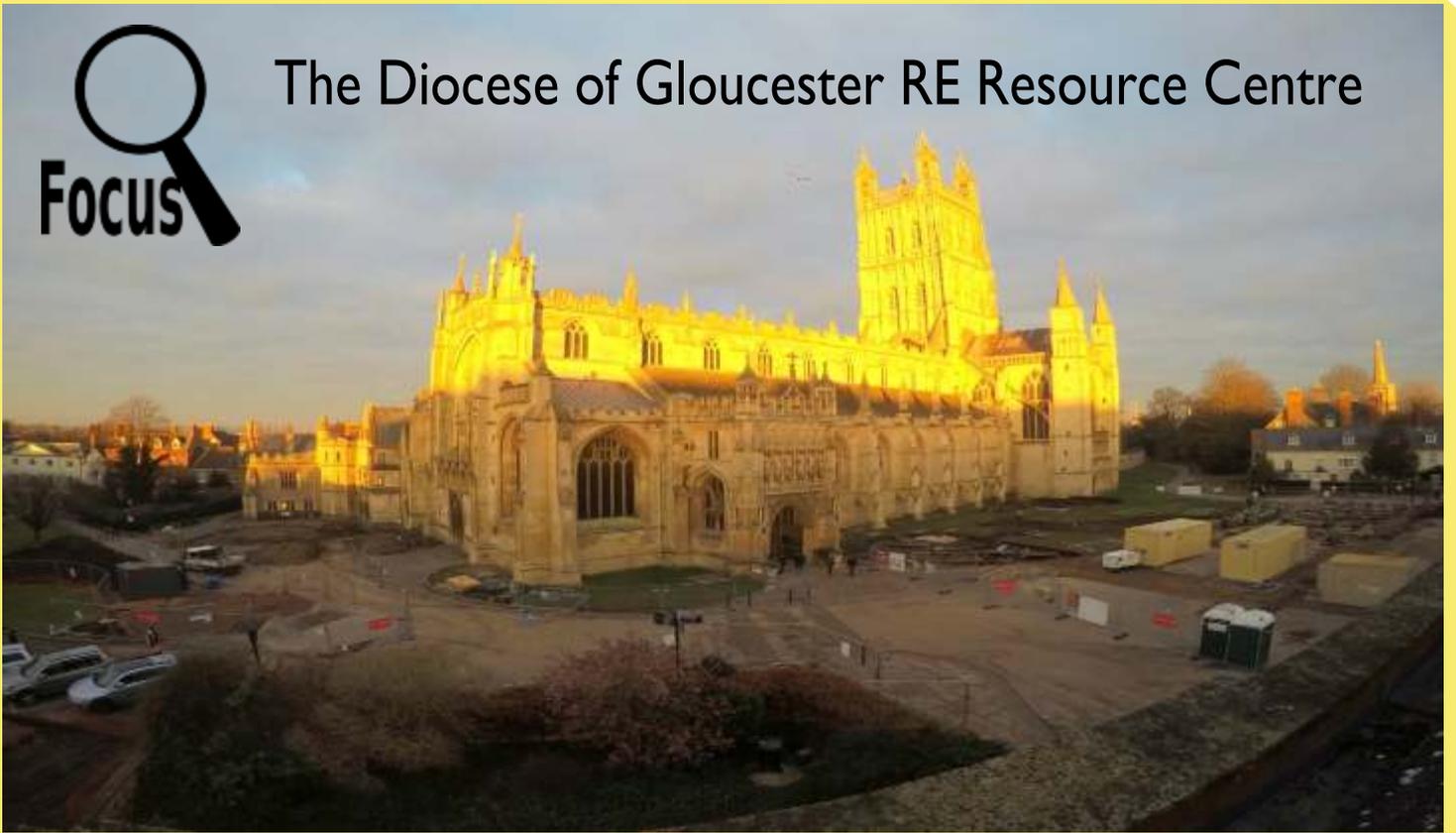
With very best wishes,

Lydia





The Diocese of Gloucester RE Resource Centre



The Diocese of Gloucester RE Resource Centre is based downstairs in a lovely Georgian house in the grounds of Gloucester Cathedral. It is our privilege to work in such a beautiful setting – an oasis of peace in the city centre – and it’s about to become even more beautiful, as a major landscaping project is currently underway to transform the former car park into a green space.

The Resource Centre houses three operations:

- † a lending and information service to support RE and collective worship in schools
- † a lending library for groups and individuals from local churches
- † a publishing house, Jumping Fish, producing a range of resources for schools and churches, which are sold nationally by mail order.

The Resource Centre is staffed by a full time manager, a part time assistant and a loyal volunteer. A colleague from the diocesan Education team, Education and Resource Development Officer, is also based here. There are about 12,000 items in stock, arranged using a custom classification system, and managed using Softlink’s Oliver LMS (cloud hosted). Alongside books, the collection also includes DVDs, posters, CDs and equipment, as well as religious artefacts for RE in schools.

Schools pay an annual subscription for using the Resource Centre, which directly funds our resource budget and contributes to our day to day running costs. Borrowing of the “church” resources is free for members of the Church of England within the diocese; other individuals can join for a small fee. (Some RE resources, such as the artefact boxes, are only available to subscribing schools.)

Our recently re-furbished RE room includes a seating area for our borrowers to spread out whilst browsing resources, allowing them to have a really good look at what’s on offer and to select the resources that best meet their needs.

Materials are loaned to churches for work with children and youth (eg “Sunday School”, holiday clubs, youth groups) as well as more generally – Bible study, ideas and material for church services, practical information, and other useful things including puppets.

Some of our borrowers are happy to browse, but we do handle a lot of very specific enquiries – detailed indexing via our catalogue records is very helpful with this!

Our RE webpages (www.gloucester.anglican.org/RE) include documents to help with lesson planning, details of the resources that are available to borrow for each unit, and deep links to useful and relevant web material, which has been quality-assessed by us.

We offer a “click and collect” service whereby teachers can pre-select resources from a list for each unit of the RE syllabus, which we then pack ready for them to collect.

Colour printing and laminating up to A2 size are available for a small charge. We lend display boards for church events, as well as puppets, games, story bags and inflatable globes. We also have a badge making machine, a lovely piece of cast iron engineering, which is very popular for Messy Church, fetes, holiday clubs and children’s events (sometimes grown-ups have been known to make badges, too).

Jumping Fish publications support primary schools with values education, RE, spiritual development and collective worship, as well as all-age worship. Our experience journeys series, including Experience Easter, help to promote links between churches and their local schools – church congregations set up the displays and host the event, confident that the framework provided in the pack ensures that the topic is covered in a way which is appropriate for RE: the recently published *Experience Church* includes RE learning outcomes for each station.

The newest addition, *Eucharist Journey*, uses the series’ interactive and creative format to engage children in learning about the Eucharist. Although designed to support the RE curriculum, it could also be adapted for use as part of the preparation for confirmation.

Details of Jumping Fish publications, including sample pages, can be seen on the Jumping Fish web pages at www.gloucester.anglican.org/jumping-fish-publications

Looking to the future, we are currently engaging with a new agreed syllabus for RE and the *Understanding Christianity* materials, ready to offer new resource sets in the autumn term. As a diocese, we are exploring new ways for churches to engage with their church schools, and celebrating the many ways in which this is already happening; we will be reviewing our resources later on this year, so that we are continue to offer the best support for this very important work of nurturing creative connections between churches and schools.



RE
Resource
Centre ■ ■ ■
DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

Hannah Hauxwell
Gloucester RE Resource Centre



CONFERENCE 2017 REPORT



This year the FREC Conference returned to the North East where we found Durham Cathedral undergoing renovations as well as being the site for filming but it was not for the FREC Conference! but the Avengers!!

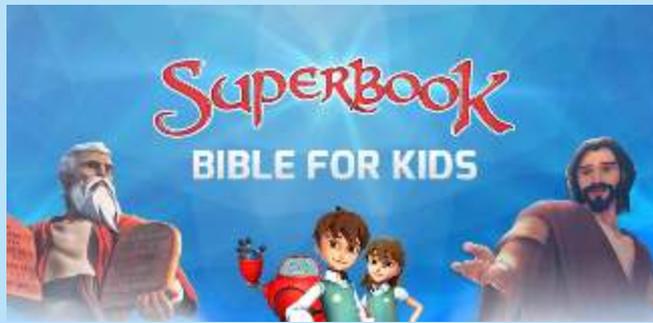
Though delegates stayed in the City of Durham we were on tour visiting and exploring different locations.

Our first day, was hosted by the North East RE Centre based in Cuthbert's House.



Here we discovered some of the resources available. Lydia went for the Joseph look whilst Sean demonstrated his puppetry skills and we found out about the creation of the story bags at Durham - see more under Centre news.

As well as the business meeting during which the accounts were presented, membership reviewed as well as receiving updates on the work of the RE Council, we met and heard of the work of Superbook Schools - see more on the next page...



Superbook Schools is a FREE online resource for primary school aged children.

Superbook Schools aims to be an interactive platform for children to learn more about the Bible and the Christian faith. All content has been designed to meet the National Curriculum requirements for KS1 and KS2. Each unit contains lesson plans and an assembly for KS1 and/or KS2.

Superbook Schools resources contain easily accessible and downloadable videos, activities, PowerPoints and worksheets. The content for each unit has been carefully considered and created by experts in the field.

Teachers can either follow the lessons plans exactly as they are presented or they can explore the library of content and select individual elements to use within many different schemes of work.

Superbook Schools currently has six units available which each enable pupils to investigate, and evaluate a particular Bible story and understand how it fits into the bigger picture of the whole Bible.

Currently the resources cover:

Creation, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments, David and Goliath, Christmas and Easter.

The Superbook Schools team were invited to meet FREC at the Conference to present their resources and gain valuable feedback from them.

Milly Smart, Superbook Coordinator said:

"It was so great to meet and hear from RE experts across the UK!

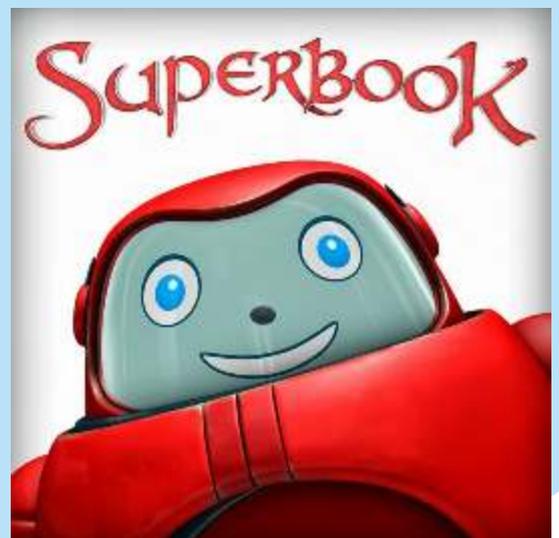
We're excited to see where our partnership with the FREC will take us in the future.

We're obviously really passionate about what we do but it's great to have professionals on board."

www.superbookschools.org



Milly Smart & Naomi Downs





Godly Play has been developed over many decades as an imaginative and creative way of helping people of all ages to engage with biblical stories, symbols and rites. From its origins in a parish setting it has grown into an experiential experience for the participants.

The Diocese of Newcastle is richly resourced in its experienced and nationally-accredited Godly Play trainers, including Mary Cooper who facilitated our morning visit. They offer training for schools, volunteer church children's workers and clergy. The Cathedral has a room dedicated to Godly play.

There is an active website which contains advice and information on Godly Play
www.godlyplay.uk

We also had a talk by the Dean of Newcastle, the Very Rev'd Christopher Dalliston and then some time to look around the cathedral before a wedding took place.



FREC continued its pilgrimage to Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Newcastle where we met Cloud. After covering our heads to show respect and removing our shoes we were taken into the Langar. As Cloud said no one leaves the Gurdwara feeling empty. It was amazing to learn that the Gurdwara is open from 4 a.m. to midnight showing hospitality to anyone who comes in through the door.



After our meal we entered into main divan and listen to an excerpt from the Guru Granth Sahib.



We then adjourned to one of the meeting rooms for a discussion about the Sikh faith in Newcastle and how the Gurdwara is bringing in young people to discover more about the Sikh faith. We also discovered how the community comes and meets in the Gurdwara.



FREC members then left to visit the Baltic centre for contemporary art. Looked at the views from the building



At FREC conferences there is always food which is where we socialise and discuss key issues.....



What was the value of the 2017 Conference?

Stephanie Madidson from Durham says...

"After 2 years in post the conference was a great chance to finally put names to faces - moving beyond the emails. I really enjoyed getting to know more about other members centres and their dedicated work."

Lydia, thought the highlights of the 2017 Conference:-

" Meeting Cloud Singh at the gurdwara - what a warm langar welcome, an honest and open talk about this faith. Being inspired by the varied work being undertaken by NERRC including several new products.

Meeting Mary Cooper, a Godly Play practitioner who demonstrated the Christian creation story at St Nicholas' Cathedral. The Cathedral itself, where there are stunning stained glass and new sculptures.

The supportive nature of FREC to colleagues who are going through tough times.

It was a personal 'pick-me-up'; a chance for CPD as well finding both space and time for mutual support."



Ken's reflections:

" A time for a small community to meet, share good news as well bad news, to find strength from each other and be inspired to hear of all the good things going on to support religious and spiritual development which encourages you in all you try to achieve. Discovering how Beamish incorporates people of all ages into its work and that this is a project which plans for the future and developments."



The Day FREC went to Beamish.....

Our final day of the conference saw us set out for Beamish.

When we arrived we had a chauffeur driven ride to the Education base at the Beamish Museum.



As we travelled along *Simon Woolley*, Head of Learning - explained something of Beamish to us. Beamish encourages enquiry based work and activities for young people. As it is in the North East there is a strongly Christian presence to the Museum. Beamish tries to interact with all visitors as this physical engagement is as seen as key utilising all the senses. The idea behind Beamish was conceived in the 1950's but it was in 1971 that it opened to the public after a lot of planning and consultations.

Simon said that they found talking about issues from the past made it easier for young people to speak out and share their concerns. He outlined some of the aspects of his work and role in visiting schools. It was interesting that he reflected that perhaps they should encourage more still and reflective moments in their work with young people on site.

We were taken to see some of the items in their store especially those connected with faith. He invited us to look at the houses as we toured round to see which had a Catholic emphasis or a Protestant emphasis.

The bringing of a church onto the site from a village further north had brought communities together and this was now used after it was dedicated by the Bishop of Durham. After our exploration of the stores and illustrated talk we went to explore the site and obviously tasted the fish and chips cooked in the traditional manner! We received food for thought as well as physically on this day.



NEWS FROM MEMBER CENTRES



We're delighted with some of the new resources our Religious Resources Centre has designed and produced this year.

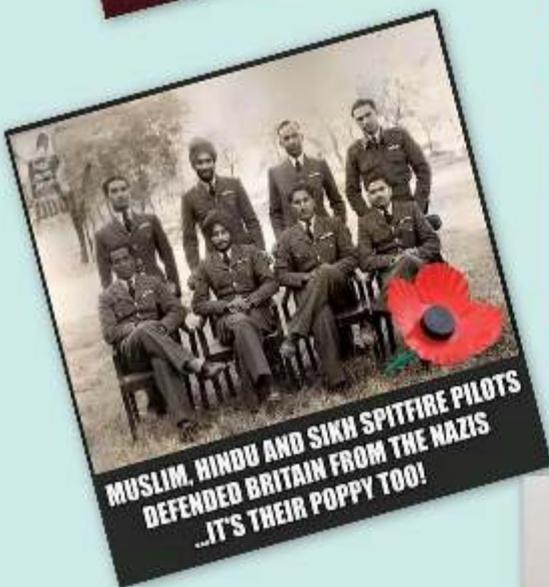
Our favourites include our 'How Shall we Remember Them?' topic bag looking at the contribution of faiths to WW1.

We love our new Saints bag on St Oswald - the latest in a series which now includes Saints Hild, Bede, Cuthbert and Aidan.

We've designed some New Testament resources on the disciples of Jesus called 'Saints and Followers' and we've lots more coming soon.

Karenza Passmore

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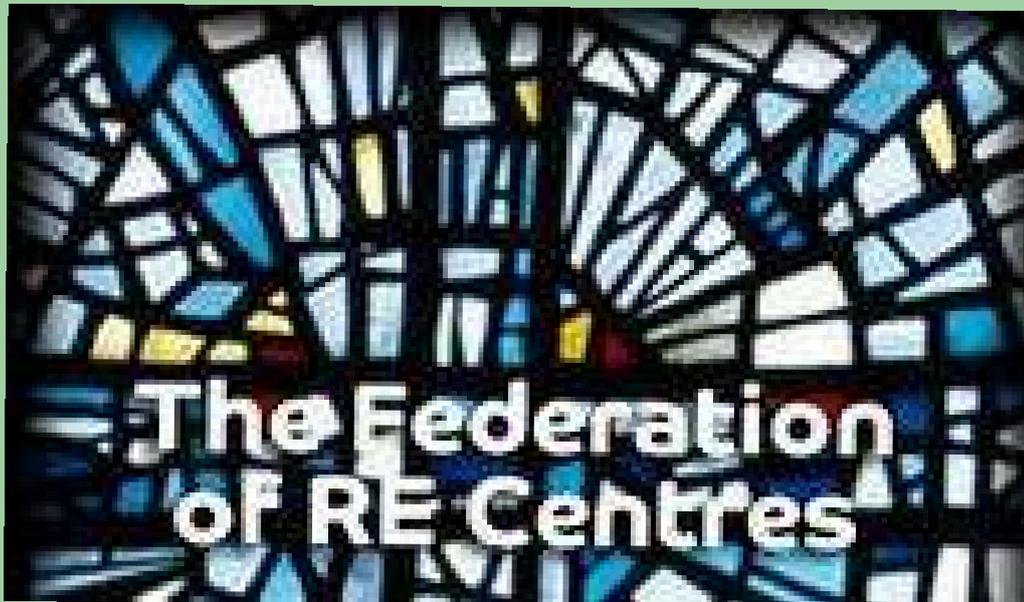
The Nottinghamshire RS Resouce Centre continues its role loaning our resources to schools and linking teachers with resources on a variety of topics.

Our growth has continued to be in our Faith Experiences. This is where we visit a school and give a make over to a classroom turning it into a replica of a place of worship- within a given faith. Over the current academic year we have been privileged to work with 3,400 young people in over 25 schools. We have visited Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, as well as Nottingham City, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire as well as Northamptonshire with experiences.

We have also been involved in running workshops for schools on British Values and RE. Recently we were invited to the Lincolnshire RE Hub to give a talk on our work.

Ken Johnson info@rsresources.org.uk





Directory

Chair: Until December 31st 2017 Lydia Revett lydia.revett@hants.gov.uk
From January 1st 2018 Karenza Passmore k.passmore@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Treasurer Until December 31st 2017 Sean Smith sean.smith@resourcescentreonline.co.uk
From January 1st 2018 Vacant as we publish

Membership Stephanie Maddison stephanie.maddison@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Minutes Mel Wilson- Claridge admin@bmresources.org.uk

REC reps Chris Boxley / Lydia Revett / Emma McVittie

Newsletter Ken Johnson info@rsresources.org.uk

www.recentres.org.uk

FREC Members

Please check your centre's contact details on the website:
<http://www.recentres.org.uk/pages/members.html>

Any amendments to Stephanie Maddison by email
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