



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Warwickshire SACRE Newsletter

To: Headteachers and Teachers with responsibility for Religious Education and/or Collective Worship

Issue 2  
5 April 2011

### Welcome to the second Warwickshire SACRE newsletter

#### New arrangement for RE Adviser

You will know that the Educational Development Service (EDS) has now ceased trading. Karen Steele has worked as an Adviser in the service for over two years and will continue her role as RE Adviser to SACRE and to provide advice and support to Warwickshire schools. The intention is for Karen to hold two twilight meetings for RE coordinators each year to provide updates and CPD. Dates for the autumn term are: **Central & South - Mon 26 Sep 2011; North - Mon 3 Oct 2011; East - Mon 17 Oct 2011.** Venues TBC. Karen will also respond to questions and provide advice via e-mail and phone. Where more substantial support is required by schools (or clusters of schools), Karen can be commissioned on an independent basis. Karen is also planning to provide courses for teachers and coordinators. Further details are at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre) Contact Karen at [readviser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readviser@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07582 110839. Queries can also be sent via the Clerk to SACRE at [ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk).

#### GCSE Religious Education and the English Baccalaureate

You may be aware following extensive media coverage that there has been considerable pressure for the inclusion of Religious Studies as a Humanities subject in the new Baccalaureate. Warwickshire SACRE has supported this call in a

communication to the Secretary of State for Education. At the time of writing this newsletter Mr. Gove has indicated that there may be a rethink of subjects to be included and an early day motion has been tabled. Watch this space!

#### SACRE Annual Report 2009/10

Look out for the 2009/10 SACRE annual report which is soon to be published. An electronic copy of the report will be sent to all schools and it can also be downloaded from the SACRE website.

#### 2011/12 Priorities for SACRE

SACRE's Development Plan has identified the Early Years Foundation Stage and Collective Worship as two key areas for development next year. If you are interested in being part of a working party for either of these areas please contact Karen Steele.

#### Assessment in RE

The assessment working party has been hard at work and has produced a guidance document, FAQs, child-speak versions of the Warwickshire 8-level scale of assessment and some examples of assessment in RE. Some of these are already up on the SACRE website and others will follow soon. Assessment in RE is challenging and it is hoped that these materials will help.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre)



## Celebrating RE

SACRE were delighted with the number of entries received to the 'REACTION: Celebrating the Community in RE' competition. Judges were so impressed with the standard and variety of entries and found choosing the winners a challenging task. It was encouraging to see so many examples of creative learning in RE across the county. Winners were presented with their awards at the Celebrating RE event on Friday 25th March at the Leamington Gurdwara by the Bishop of Coventry. Pupils from across the county contributed to the event with dance, drama and song. The Bishop talked about the value of Religious Education to young people, both as citizens of the world and in their personal development. The atmosphere was lively and reflected the success of RE in Warwickshire.

A list of the prize winners is on the SACRE website and it is hoped that the winning entries will also be published to enable the sharing of good practice [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre)



## Secondary NATRE Support Group

A number of Warwickshire secondary schools have been meeting to provide mutual support and share resources. This group has now registered as a National Association of RE teachers (NATRE) group. For details contact Gavin Collins at North Leamington School (01926 338711/6). There has been some talk of setting up a group in the north of the county. If you are interested please contact Karen Steele: [readviser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readviser@hotmail.co.uk)

## NATRE's 'Challenging RE' Conference for Teachers

The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) is holding a



conference for teachers of RE – primary, secondary and special – on 'Challenging RE'. Generously supported by the St. Gabriel's Programme, this conference offers a full programme of seminars and workshops featuring a whole host of specialists within this field. This is a two-day conference from 7<sup>th</sup> May (11am) – 8<sup>th</sup> May (3pm) at Burn Hall Hotel & Conference Centre, York. Cost is £100. Colleagues are encouraged to book early as places will be quickly snapped up. Visit [www.retoday.org.uk/courses](http://www.retoday.org.uk/courses) for details.



### Celebrating RE Event

**Left:** Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Primary School perform 'The Mystery Plays'. **Right:** The Bishop of Coventry reminds us of the importance of RE for young people

## Druidry Recognised as Genuine Religion



In September 2010, Druidry became the first Pagan practice to be awarded official charity status by the Charity Commission. This means that Druidry is now recognised as a legitimate religion under English Charity Law.

The move to charity status, which comes thousands of years after the first druids worshipped in Britain, secures equal status for Druidry with other mainstream denominations. It also recognises that The Druid Network (TDN) promotes the religion in the public interest, since its followers are keen to conserve Britain's heritage and preserve the natural environment.

The Charity Commission has recognised that Druidry's followers worship the spirit they believe inhabits the earth as well as forces of nature, and also believe in the spirits of places such as mountains and rivers, and "divine guides" such as Brigid and Bran.

The Charity Commission's final decision document notes that although TDN officially represents around 350 members, a BBC Inside Out report in 2003 claimed that as many as 10,000 people follow the ancient faith across the country.

## OCR Religious Studies Assessors

OCR are currently seeking Religious Studies Assessors for a range of their GCSE qualifications. This is a great personal development opportunity which will allow you to make a valuable contribution to the assessment process, network with colleagues and can also boost your income. Full training and support will be provided. If you are interested, further information on OCR's Religious Studies qualifications can be found at [www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications) and applications can be made online by visiting [www.ocr.org.uk/assessors](http://www.ocr.org.uk/assessors) You can also contact the recruitment team on 01223 552 558 for further advice.

## NATRE 'Art in Heaven' Competition

'Art in Heaven' is an annual competition run by The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) for 4-19 year olds, giving them the chance to communicate their spiritual ideas and thoughts creatively and imaginatively. There are five themes to choose from for 2011: Spiritual Words; Stories of Truth?; Journeys; Festive Visions; God: Who? Where? How? If? Prizes will be awarded to the winning entries. The deadline for submission is **31st July 2011**. For more details including the 'Art in Heaven' gallery and how to enter visit

[www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts](http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts)



'Art in Heaven' entries 2010.

**Left:** Lauren, 7, depicts 'A Day to Remember - When Jesus Died'

**Right:** Freya, 15, explores the Journey into her own spirit.

Thanks to NATRE for the use of these images

[www.natre.org.uk](http://www.natre.org.uk)

## Young People give thumbs up to RE



A study commissioned by the RE Council of England and Wales (REC), involving 1,000 young people aged between 16 and 24 years found that 80 per cent of respondents thought studying RE could promote better understanding of different religions and beliefs. This figure rose to 83 per cent amongst those who had studied RE at GCSE and was consistently higher for young women (85 per cent amongst the 19-21 year olds). There was notable support for this sentiment from all religions and beliefs, including 77 per cent of those who said they were atheists. For more details of this study visit [www.religiouseducationcouncil.org](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org)

## Sharing Good Practice in RE

SACRE would love to hear from schools about the excellent work going on across the county in RE. We would like to include cases studies of successful RE lessons or activities in future issues of this newsletter so that good practice can be recognised and shared with other Warwickshire teachers. If you would like to share your experiences, please contact Ruth Waterman, Clerk to SACRE, at [ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk). Any photographs/images of students' work would also be welcomed but please ensure you have

parental permission for these to be used before sending. The next issue will be published in the summer term so it would be great to hear from you before then!

## Would you like a member of the Baha'i community to visit your school?

The Bahai's are always happy to come to any schools to inform pupils about the Baha'i faith and the Unity of All religions. They have presented assemblies and contributed to Interfaith days at schools all over Warwickshire. Email Rocky Grove at [Rocky@merciland.co.uk](mailto:Rocky@merciland.co.uk) if you are interested.



SACRE members learn about the Baha'i faith and observe a short devotional prayer at their meeting in March 2011, from a member of the local Baha'i community who kindly invited SACRE into their home.

## Useful Websites

 [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)

This website, produced by the Christian Enquiry Agency, has recently re-launched and provides information for people who want to find out more about the Christian faith and its founder Jesus Christ. It offers a valuable insight into what a faith community wants other people to understand about it, what it believes, what it does and what it offers to enquirers. All of this is a useful resources for the classroom.

 [www.plainislam.com](http://www.plainislam.com)

This is a new site produced by the Islamic Society of Britain. The site aims to provide information on Islam and Muslims to non-specialist audiences in a way that is clear, simple and accessible. This excellent site is easy to navigate, well-presented and well-placed to support students and their teachers to understand the essence of Islam.





## Some dates for your diary:

### APRIL 2011

<b>3rd</b>	Christian	Mothering Sunday
<b>12th</b>	Hindu	Rama Navami - birthday of Lord Rama
<b>13th</b>	Sikh	Vaisakhi - Sikh New Year Festival
<b>14th</b>	Sikh	Birthday of Guru Nanak
<b>17th</b>	Christian	Palm Sunday
<b>19th</b>	Jewish	Passover starts
<b>24th</b>	Christian	Easter Sunday

### MAY 2011

<b>1st</b>	Pagan	Beltane
	Jewish	Holocaust Memorial Day
<b>9th</b>	Jewish	Yom Ha'atzmaut— Israel's Independence Day
<b>17th</b>	Buddhist	Wesak or Buddha Day
<b>23rd</b>	Baha'i	Declaration of the Bab

### JUNE 2011

<b>8th</b>	Jewish	Shavuot
<b>12th</b>	Christian	Pentecost - Whitsun
<b>16th</b>	Sikh	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
<b>21st</b>	Pagan	Summer Solstice
<b>26th</b>	Christian	Corpus Christi
<b>29th</b>	Christian	St Peter's Day

### JULY 2011

<b>5th</b>	Sikh	Birthday of Guru Hargobind
<b>9th</b>	Baha'i	Martyrdom of the Bab
<b>15th</b>	Christian	St Swithin's Day
	Buddhist	Asala - Dharma Day
<b>17th</b>	Jewish	17th Tammuz - an Important Jewish fast day
<b>23rd</b>	Rastafari	Birthday of Haile Selassie I

A copy of this newsletter can also be downloaded from the SACRE website:

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Any queries relating to the contents of this newsletter should be emailed to [sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk) or in writing to: Clerk to SACRE, Warwickshire County Council, Saltisford Office Park, Warwick CV34 4UL.

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