

Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

6 Jan	Epiphany (Western Christian)
6-7 Jan	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian, Rastafarian)
23 Jan	Yuan Tan/Chinese New Year (Chinese)
27 Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day (National)
2 Feb	Candlemas/The Presentation of the Lord (Christian)
4 Feb	The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Muslim)
6 Feb	Teng Chieh (Chinese)
12 Feb	Darwin's Birthday (National)
21 Feb	Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)
22 Feb	Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)
22 Feb-7 April	Lent (Western Christian)
27 Feb	First Day of Lent/The Great Feast (Orthodox Christian)
1 March	St. David's Day (National)
4 March	Women's World Day of Prayer (Christian)
8 March	Holi (Hindu)
8 March	Purim (Jewish)
8 March	International Women's Day (International)
17 March	St. Patrick's Day (National)
21 March	Nawruz (Bahai)
1-7 April	Holy Week (Western Christian)
4 April	Ching Ming (Chinese)
5 April	Mahavira Jayanti (Jain)
6 April	Good Friday (Western Christian)
7-14 April	Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
8 April	Easter Day (Western Christian)
13 April	Baisakhi (Sikh)
15 April	Easter Day (Orthodox Christian)
19 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day (Jewish)
21 April-2 May	Ridvan (Bahai)
23 April	St. George's Day (National)

Please send your contributions or comments to;
 Linda Papaioannou
 Democratic Services Officer
 Northumberland County Council
 County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
 Telephone 01670 533213
 E-mail: Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk

For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at www.nasacre.org.uk

SACRE

Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council
 for Religious Education for Northumberland

Issue 19
 Jan 2012

Please display on your school notice board

Morpeth All Saints CE Aided First School, National Book Week 2011 and the Bible!



When Morpeth All Saints CE Aided First School celebrated National Book Week in 2011, their book of choice, for a creative week, was The Bible. Children and staff took part in a variety of activities, and welcomed Gordon Innes from the Mustard Tree Project, Don White from the Schools' Library Service and local clergy to share in a celebration of the 400th Anniversary of The King James Bible. Parents were invited to share a celebration worship during which each class presented an aspect of their learning. The week ended with all staff and children dressed as biblical characters. Moreover, everyone enjoyed a "Biblical Buffet" for lunch, a feast of food inspired by The Bible!



An innovative approach to chaplaincy at St. Benet Biscop High School in Bedlington

Richard Crulley and Ellie Marshall, are the School Chaplains at St Benet Biscop Catholic High School in Bedlington.

Their main aim is to develop the school's ethos and spirituality. One of the areas which is considered a priority is the liturgical life of the school. Every year, a number of liturgies are held (a time for reflection and prayer) alongside assemblies with students and their form tutors. There are several masses throughout the school year that they help to compose and facilitate. In addition to this, they work with the staff by assisting them with resources during festivals of celebration.

They have organised spiritual days of reflection, often away to various locations such as Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire. These are offered to staff, Year 10 and the 6th Form. It is an aspect of work they would like to further develop by having a sustainable retreat programme. They have also worked with the enterprise sector of the school within the 6th Form, which plays an active role in the work they do.

This year they have worked with some of the Catholic partnership schools on exploring World Faiths. This enables students to learn about religions that differ to their own, and to have a better insight into how each religion engages in worship and celebrates. Working

within partnership schools allows students to get to know the chaplains before they get to the High School.

The chaplains are also involved with transition days for Years 6/7 and Year 9. They work with the Heads of Learning and the form tutors on how best to welcome the new students to the High School and offer support of a pastoral nature.

An area which they would like to develop next year is working with the parishes and forming a stronger relationship with them. A newsletter will be produced to inform them of the school chaplaincy news.

Northumberland County Council's new RE Agreed Syllabus

For three months now, the County's new, significantly enhanced, RE Agreed Syllabus has been accessible via the Northumberland County Council (NCC) Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) webpage, which is itself accessible via the NCC website (www.northumberland.gov.uk). The Agreed Syllabus is available only in this easy-to-navigate electronic version: no hard copies have been produced, for reasons both economic and environmental. However, schools can easily copy those parts of the syllabus that are most useful to them, or access the copy to customise documentation for use in the classroom. The units of work relating to the various key stages and religions are, understandably,

the parts of the syllabus that schools most often wish to customise, so that programmes of study can be quickly generated that are in sympathy with the requirements of the syllabus itself.

The new RE Agreed Syllabus officially replaced the old one from 1st September 2011. Do remember that, to comply with the views expressed by the great majority of teachers who used the old syllabus, **the units of work in the new syllabus are exactly the same as those in the old one** (although they are now presented in a much more attractive manner). Consequently, if your school already uses successful programmes of study and/or schemes of work based on the units of work in the old syllabus, you should find that day-to-day

teaching of the subject changes very little. This is because changes to the syllabus relate to the introductory pages, which provide a context for RE in the contemporary era, and to the Guidance, which makes it even easier than in the past to engage in exciting and challenging RE. This said, it is pleasing to report that some schools have already arranged consultations or training about the new Agreed Syllabus. Should you feel that a consultation or training session for some or all of the staff would be beneficial, contact Gillian Halliford gillian.halliford@northumberland.gov.uk or Phil André phil.andre@ntlworld.com who will help you plan and organise the event.

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2012

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is, as always, on 27th January, and we are confident that many Northumberland schools have already planned events to coincide with the national commemoration. The theme for this year is "Speak up, Speak Out", and it is likely that many events will feature at some point the remarkable poem by Pastor Niemoller which begins with the line, "First they came for the communists, and I did not speak up", and ends with the line, "And then they came for me, and there was no-one left to speak out for me". The poem reveals to us the responsibility we all have to speak out when we see injustice,

discrimination or persecution, no matter from whom such injustice, discrimination or persecution derives.

If your school has yet to confirm how HMD will be commemorated, we suggest that an outstanding starting point for ideas is the HMD Trust website (www.hmd.org.uk), where, among other things, you will find out what is happening in other parts of the country and access a wealth of excellent teaching and learning materials. Every year, the Trust publishes new information packs which are free of charge until stocks run out. The website will advise if any such packs are still available.

Above all, HMD is designed "to challenge prejudice, racism and discrimination, and to promote diversity, equality and harmony between communities". Consequently, schools which address HMD confirm their commitment to community cohesion.

If any schools wish to share with a larger audience what they did to commemorate HMD, send a summary to Phil André at phil.andre@ntlworld.com and we will publish the article in a forthcoming SACRE Newsletter.

The North East Religious Learning Resources Centre: an invaluable lending library on our doorstep!

At a time when school budgets are under so much pressure, it has never been so important to know how best to utilise finite financial resources. To inexpensively access outstanding RE resources to supplement those already in school, teachers should consider joining the North East Religious Learning Resources Centre with its facilities in Percy Main, North Tyneside, and Durham City.

Many NCC teachers (or schools on behalf of their teachers) have already joined the Centre because they know that, once a member, they can access 38,000 items addressing a host of different religious and belief systems. Such items include text books, posters, photo packs, audio-visual material including films and documentaries, copies of RE

agreed syllabuses and diocesan RE syllabuses, and, perhaps best of all, religious artefacts. There are also many books designed to ensure that acts of collective worship are stimulating and worthwhile educational experiences.

In recent years, Karenza Passmore and her staff have ensured that the ever-expanding collection not only covers the six religions we must teach (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism), but also some of the faiths and secular world views which, in years to come, may well be added to today's "required" list. Thus, the team have excellent resources relating to, for example, the Bahai Faith, Jainism, Rastafarianism and Humanism.

Before deciding to join the Centre, you may wish to pay a visit to see what you have missed out on for so long! Staff at the

Centre are happy for visits to take place at times convenient to all concerned. Moreover, the Centre has sensible and flexible opening hours; opening hours which can be confirmed when you make contact with the staff.

For more information, contact the Centre in Percy Main on Tel: 0191-270-4161. The postal address is NE Religious Learning Resources Centre, Church House, St. John's Terrace, Percy Main, North Shields, NE29 6HS.

To access additional information about the Centre, and to find out in more detail about all the services staff provide, visit the Centre's excellent website: www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk