

Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

5 January	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar)
6 January	Epiphany (Western Christian)
6 - 7 January	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian, Rastafarian)
13 January	The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Muslim)
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day (National)
31 January	Yuan Tan/Chinese New Year (Chinese)
2 February	Candlemas/The Presentation of the Lord (Christian)
12 February	Darwin's Birthday (National)
14 February	Teng Chieh (Chinese)
1 March	St. David's Day (National)
3 March	First Day of Lent/The Great Feast (Orthodox Christian)
4 March	Shrove Tuesday (Western Christian)
5 March	Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)
5 March - 19 April	Lent (Western Christian)
7 March	Women's World Day of Prayer (Christian)
8 March	International Women's Day (International)
16 - 17 March	Purim (Jewish)
17 March	St. Patrick's Day (National)
17 March	Holi (Hindu)
21 March	Nawruz (Bahai)
5 April	Ching Ming (Chinese)
13 April	Baisakhi (Sikh)
13 April	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
13 - 19 April	Holy Week (Western and Orthodox Christian)
14 April	Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh Nanakshahi Calendar)
15 - 22 April	Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
18 April	Good Friday (Western and Orthodox Christian)
20 April	Easter Day (Western and Orthodox Christian)
21 April - 2 May	Ridvan (Bahai)
23 April	St. George's Day (National)
27 - 28 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day (Jewish)

Please send your contributions or comments to;
Linda Papaioannou, Democratic Services Officer, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
Telephone 01670 622615
E-mail: Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk
For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at www.nasacre.org.uk and www.multifaiths.com

SACRE

Northumberland
 Northumberland County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council
 for Religious Education for Northumberland

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Please display on your school notice board

Inter-Faith Week and Anti-Bullying Week are inspirational at Dr. Thomlinson Middle School, Rothbury



18th to 22nd November was Inter-Faith Week and Anti-Bullying Week, and Dr. Thomlinson Middle School planned a week of activities to mark both these important events.

On Monday 18th November and Wednesday 20th November we invited the NSPCC to school to work with our Year 5 and 6 students. The assemblies and workshops, linked to Anti-Bullying Week, were run by the Childline Schools Service, and the activities aimed to give children a knowledge of how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse and awareness of how to get help and sources of help, including via Childline.

On Tuesday 19th November our House Captains, together with a group of Year 7 students, visited Church House, the main administrative centre for the Newcastle Church of England Diocese. Church House also hosts the Religious Learning Resource Centre, and our students used some of the 37,000 items in the centre to further their knowledge of the Northern Saints. Working with Reverend Michelle Dalliston and Karenza Passmore - Karenza is the head of the Religious Learning Resource Centre - the students looked at ways to show how the saints were still very relevant to 21st Century Society. By the end of the day the students had lots of ideas to use with students

Continued overleaf



Inter-Faith Week and Anti-Bullying Week continued



A Dr. Thomlinson student pictured in front of the Ark in the Gosforth Orthodox Synagogue wearing the prayer shawl whilst holding a model of the Torah scroll



David and Katharine Lowrie, who completed a 6500 mile unsupported charity run across South America

in our feeder first schools to further their knowledge of these important religious figures. As well as this, they considered changing the names of the three Houses in their school from the male-dominated St. Bede, St. Cuthbert and St. Aidan to include a female Saint, St. Hilda.

On Wednesday 20th November our Year 8 students visited Newcastle University for a chemistry lecture. Our students really enjoyed the activity and, in Inter-Faith Week, it did much to create a sense of awe and wonder about the fantastic planet upon which we live.

Year 7 are studying Judaism in RE this term (Autumn), and, to help them gain understanding of the Jewish faith during Inter-Faith Week, the year group visited the Orthodox Synagogue in Gosforth **on Thursday 21st November**. Following on from the synagogue visit, we arranged an afternoon in the Sage at Gateshead where the children took part in a drumming workshop and had a tour of the iconic building.

Charity was a very important part of our Inter-Faith Week. **On Thursday 21st November** our Year 5, 6 and 8 students met David and Katharine Lowrie. On 29th July 2012, David and Katharine set out to run the length of South America to raise money for conservation projects, and to raise awareness of the dangers to wildlife and wild places on that continent. They ran over 6500 miles and regaled our students with tales of this adventure, as well as inspiring our students to raise money for charity. It was especially significant as David was a former pupil of the school.



Year 4 and Year 5 students make lanterns for Inter-Faith Week

The theme of charity in Inter-Faith Week was continued on Friday 22nd November, which was a non-uniform day for all our students. We marked the final day of Inter-Faith Week by raising money for Children in Need. All students who attended school in non-uniform or fancy dress were asked to contribute £1 to this very worthwhile cause.

During the non-uniform day, students also raised money through a host of different activities from a sponsored silence to a cake sale, and from a charity fun run to a rowing competition.

Light is one of the oldest and most meaningful symbols to be found in cultures and religions worldwide. To round off Inter-Faith Week, Dr. Thomlinson

Middle School hosted Year 3 and 4 students from Netherton, Harbottle, Swarland, Longhorsley, Thropton and Whittingham first schools on Friday 22nd November from 9am to 12 midday. Working in conjunction with the school's local parish church, All Saints, first school students, together with Year 5, had an opportunity to construct willow lanterns that would star in the switching on of the Rothbury Christmas Lights on Sunday 24th November starting at 5pm. During the morning, the school hired a traditional storyteller to regale the students with stories and myths about light from many different religions.

Article provided by the staff at Dr. Thomlinson Middle School, Rothbury.

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2014

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 "Journeys", and it is likely that many events will reach out to individuals or groups that differ in some way from the majority of pupils or students within the school. Some schools have already arranged to do work about kindertransports and Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, and others will foster links with local Muslim and Buddhist groups.

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 can 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. The website also emphasises that, although the Holocaust is the genocidal act most often examined during HMD commemorations, schools are urged to consider more recent ones which took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Nor should schools ignore the treatment of the Armenians in the crumbling Ottoman Empire from April 1915 onwards, the so-called "forgotten genocide".

Above all, HMD is designed "to challenge prejudice, racism and discrimination, and to promote diversity, equality and harmony between communities". Consequently, schools which 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 Religious Education Quality Mark

Given that a considerable number of schools in Northumberland engage in excellent RE, we thought you might like to be reminded about an exciting but relatively new initiative which will bring national recognition for such work.

The Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) is available to schools across the land following successful trials in selected regions of England and Wales. The REQM recognises outstanding learning in RE. It has been developed to celebrate high quality RE; to provide community schools, faith schools and academies with a framework to sustain good practice; and encourages the development and celebration of school-wide commitment to excellent teaching and learning within the subject.

How does the REQM work? The REQM has five strands:

- Learners and learning
- Teachers and teaching
- The curriculum
- Subject leadership
- Continuing professional development

There are three award levels, bronze, silver and gold. Schools applying for the REQM highlight where they think they meet the criteria. After applying for the REQM, an assessor will visit the school, interview learners, and meet the subject leader and a member of the senior leadership team.

To access more information about the REQM, simply type "REQM" or "Religious Education Quality Mark" into your search engine and the relevant website will come up.