Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter

January 2025

For RE support, please contact Ed Pawson at efpawson@gmail.com . Church schools contact: Jo Hunter jo.hunter@exeter.anglican.org

Time for Stillness

In the November newsletter I wrote about the idea that 'all things are in a state of flux'. The world is constantly changing, nothing stays the same. For this reason, it is often helpful to seek opportunities for stillness. The world's religious traditions each, in their own way, create pathways for people to draw aside from their busy lives to seek silence, giving opportunities for spiritual reflection.
Try setting up reflective sessions where pupils can experience stillness, whether in the classroom or in a forest school context. Here are some suggested sites to explore. I continue to recommend New Methods in Religious Education Teaching: An Experimental Approach by Hammond and Hay, but more recent books are also available. Mary Stone's Don't Just Do Something, Sit There is full of practical wisdom.
Here are some sites that might be helpful:
Quiet Garden stilling exercise
Stillness in schools
Ignatian Christian stilling exercise
Buddhist stilling exercise
Contemplative toolkit videos

New RE syllabus for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth schools

The new syllabus (pdf) can be downloaded here.
Password: DevonREsyllabus2024 or PlymouthREsyllabus2024.

RE Hubs

Visit the new RE Hubs website for all your RE needs: accredited School Speakers, Places of Worship, Advertise RE Jobs, Resources, Calendar of CPD Events, Local Groups.
Access local Religion and Worldviews visitors for RE

MAT RE leaders' network meeting
Do you lead RE across a MAT? 4-5.30pm 1st April
Local network leaders' meeting
Do you lead a local RE hub group? 4-5.30pm 15 May

Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE, Area 1)

LTLRE hub (twilight) meetings are free and open to all teachers of RE, primary and secondary. See LTLRE website for full details.
South Devon and Torbay hub: Thurs 23rd Jan 2025
North Devon hub: Thurs 23rd Jan 2025

RE Calendar Dates

The RE calendar on the REonline site has a useful RE Calendar for festivals and religious observances.
Awareness Days is a useful site for cultural events.
World Religion Day is on 19th Jan. Links
Martin Luther King Day is on 20th Jan. Resources
St Brigid's Day is on 1st Feb. Celebrating the creativity of women. Info
World Hijab Day is on 1st Feb. Resources
Darwin Day is on 12th Feb. Resources
Ramadan will be taking place from Fri 28th Feb to Sun 30th Mar 2025. BBC resources

Primary RE: support resources

RE Today offers a set of all-inclusive primary resources, crafted by expert teachers, to provide complete support to teach the new syllabus.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

The theme for HMD 2025 is: For a Better Future.
Book now for Exeter events, taking place on Monday 27/1/25.
Evening meeting 7pm Tues 18th Feb.
Adam Jones - Evoking Genocide in Photography.
The Mint, Exeter. See flyer on P6 below

Spirited Arts 2025

Join hundreds of schools worldwide participating in this year's NATRE Spirited Arts competition. Entries are welcome in almost any art form. This year's themes are:
1. Living in a diverse world
2. Stories that change lives
3. Thinking about God?
4. Sacred Places
5. All God's Creatures?
6. Making sense of life

TrueTube videos

There are some great new videos on TrueTube. Here's a link for visits to Places of Worship on Holy Cribs. This short film explains Christian denominations. This one explores the way different denominations celebrate Holy Communion. There are some useful clips on Pilgrimage. Other useful film links are here.

Farmington Scholarships open

Farmington scholarships are now open. This gives primary and secondary teachers funding to spend up to 30 days out of school, researching a fascinating RE topic, with someone else paid to take your classes! Closing date: 26th Jan 2025.

US teenager becomes Buddhist teacher

Read about how an American teenager has left his life of sport and love of rap music to embrace his identity as a reincarnated Buddhist lama. His goal is "to become a leader of peace," following the example of the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela and Gandhi.

The Kumbh Mela

The World's largest spiritual gathering! The Kumbh Mela 2025 is scheduled to take place from 13 Jan to 26 Feb 2025 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India. This 'grand' iteration of the Kumbh Mela is a once-in-144-years event scheduled to last 44 days. It is estimated that it will draw about **400 million visitors** in total.

The Ramayana retold: re-evaluating Sita

In her latest blog, Nikki McGee explores how, rather than being seen as a dutiful, unquestioning wife, Sita can be understood through a feminist and Dalit lens. The Ramayana is not just a tale of gods and demons - it can be read as a story that continues to challenge and transform society today.

GCSE RS group

Join the NATRE RS GCSE virtual network meeting at 4pm on Wed 5th Feb for sharing tips and revision strategies. To take part, message Matt Pitcher on X (formerly Twitter) at @re_runner
See flyer on P4 below

A level RS group

Join a meeting for A Level RS teachers at 6pm on Tues 26th Jan. Contact k.steele@worc.ac.uk
See flyer on P5 below

Primary RE subject leaders

The NATRE Primary Subject Leader toolkit, is a FREE resource for primary school RE subject leaders. Access a whole number of resources and links to support your role.

Develop your Subject Knowledge

The Govt has withdrawn funding for subject knowledge enhancement courses (SKEs) for those applying to RE PGCE courses. In their absence here is a list of largely **free** online courses, podcasts, webinars and websites which might be useful to anyone who wants to develop subject knowledge prior to enrolment onto teacher education courses. Or for anyone who wants to improve their knowledge of the subject.

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Learn Teach Lead **RE**
Improving quality: building community

AN INVITATION TO THE

LTLRE South Devon and Torbay &
North Devon Primary & Secondary Hub Meeting

Twilight RE Network Group

4:00-5.15pm on Thursday 23rd January 2025 – virtual

RE Knowledge and Disciplinary lenses through Characters

Ofsted's report (2021) refers to pupils getting better at RE both at primary and secondary level by 'knowing more and remembering more' and identifies three types of knowledge that underpin this; namely, substantive knowledge (the 'stuff'), disciplinary knowledge (ways of knowing), and personal knowledge (personal viewpoints).

Join us as we explore the types of knowledge, with a focus on disciplinary lenses. Meet our three child-friendly characters: Sophie, Theo and Livvi, and find out how they could enhance provision in a KS1, KS2 or KS3 setting.
Welcoming primary and secondary teachers of RE/RS.

Please RSVP using the Google form link -https://forms.gle/fRUNuCHur1WnH91x9

Join us! Topic: LTLRE Hub meeting Zoom Meeting
Time: Jan 23, 2025 04:00 PM London
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82164134719
Meeting ID: 821 6413 4719

Free and open to all teachers and HLTAs teaching RE. Everyone is very welcome!

If you would like more details, please contact:

Belinda Twiggs belinda.twiggs@stmichaels.education **Laura Twamley** ltwamley@kingskerswell.devon.sch.uk

Hubs are affiliated to the National Association of Teachers of RE www.natre.org.uk/

For further details of our programme and its partners, please visit our website www.ltlre.org

LTLRE hubs are funded through an award from The St Luke's College Foundation. www.stlukesfoundation.org.uk/

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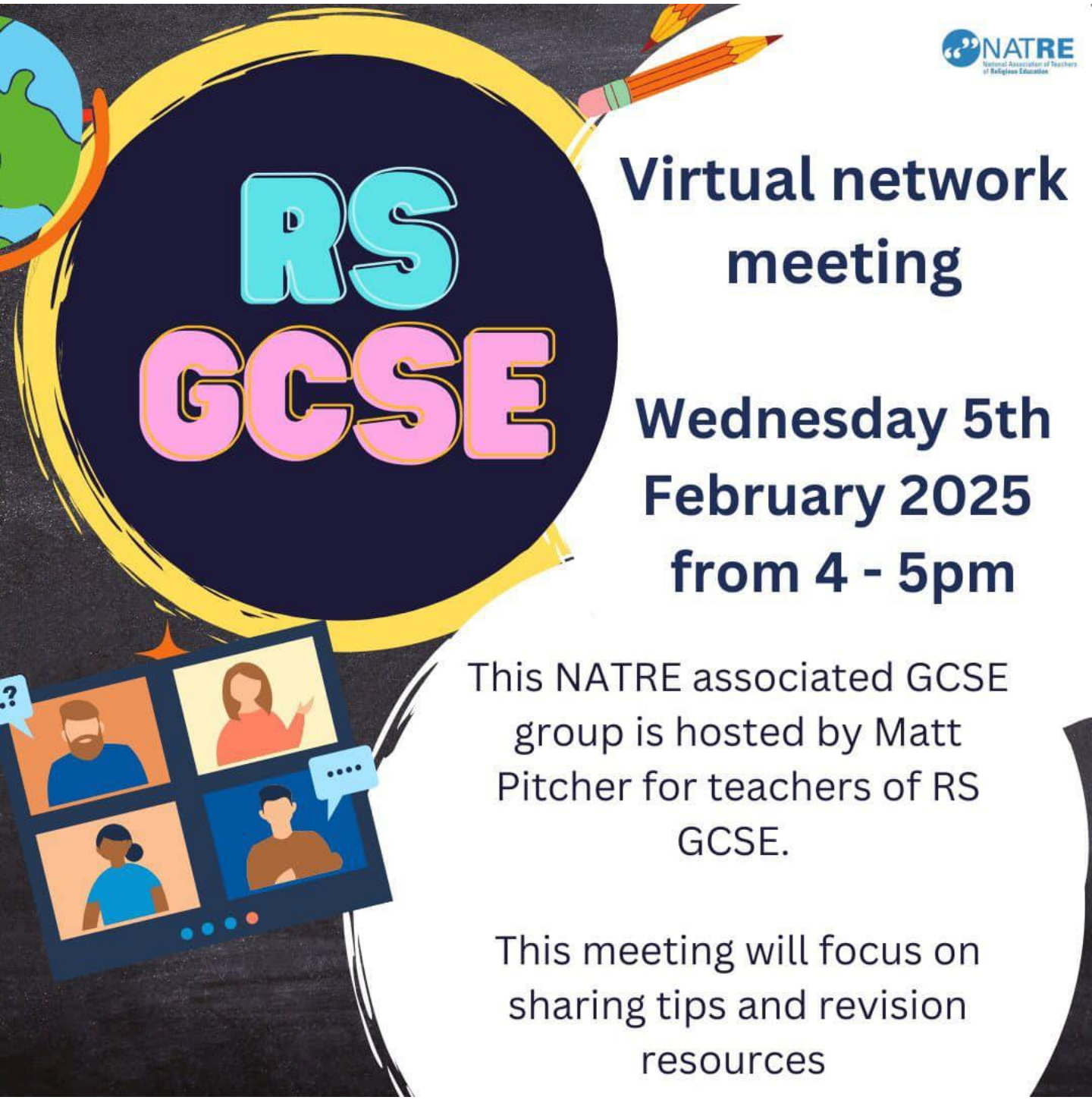

To join, message Matt Pitcher on X (formerly Twitter) at @re_runner

Or through the Teams link here

Meeting for teachers of A-Level Religious Studies

Tuesday 28 January 2025 6-7pm

This is a FREE CPD opportunity
– everyone welcome!

Agenda

Agnes Slusarska is a teacher and researcher. She has been working on an inquiry based approach to teaching Ethics + DCT for the OCR A level. She will be sharing resources for guided and open style inquiry which use technology to promote good researching practices at A level.

Joe Kinnaird is Head of RE at the Coopers Company and Coborn School in East London. He's going to share some strategies to support evaluation and essay writing.

Meeting to be held online– link sent in advance

Email if you are not already signed up to the A-level NATRE Group and would like to.

k.steele@worc.ac.uk

NATRE
National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

HMD 2025 Theme: For a Better Future

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

Adam Jones
Evoking Genocide in Photography

- The Mint Church, Fore St, Exeter
- 7.00pm Tues 18th February 2025
- Free event
- Booking here

In this talk, Professor Adam Jones will introduce his work on photographing sites and evidence of genocide and discuss the wider context of how photography has been so crucial in making society aware of instances of mass violence. There are nonetheless challenges with how the camera has been used in this context, and Jones' talk will consider some of the complications of how the concept of genocide has developed alongside photography.

Adam Jones is Professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia in Kelowna. He is best known for his work in the field of comparative genocide studies. He is the author or editor of numerous books on genocide and crimes against humanity, including the recent 4th edition of *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*

Booking here
More info from Ed Pawson: efpawson@gmail.com