

# Learn Teach Lead RE newsletter



April 2025



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

## Remembering Pope Francis

Over recent weeks, much has been written about the remarkable life of the late Pope Francis. RE teachers will have their own views about which of his ideas are most significant for the classroom. He was an outspoken advocate for the rights of the [poor and marginalised](#) in society and he declared that destroying the environment is a sin, warning that humanity was turning the glorious creation of God into a [polluted wasteland](#).

My favourite story features a little girl with [Downs Syndrome](#) who wandered forward during a service he was leading. Security quickly approached to bring the child back to her mother, but Francis stopped them and asked the little girl to come sit by him. So, she climbed up next to him and held his hand while he continued his homily.



One of the reasons Pope Francis's popularity extended from Catholics to other Christians (and beyond) is that he seemed to 'live out' the Gospel in his own life. In Matt 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" and in Luke 5:30 the Pharisees criticise Jesus for enjoying the company of 'sinners'.

## Primary RE survey

**Primary teachers:** please complete this [short survey](#) to tell us about RE in your school.

## We Are The Church

This [short film](#) explains that, rather than a building, a better understanding of the word **Church** is a community of people who meet to worship, learn and encourage one another.

## Learn Teach Lead RE



LTLRE hub (twilight) meetings are free and open to all teachers of RE, primary and secondary. See [LTLRE website](#) for full details.

**Cornwall hub:** Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Jun

**North Devon hub:** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Jun

**SWIFT professional community:**

**South Devon and Torbay hub:** Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> June

## LTLRE conference 2025

**Embracing Diversity and Inclusion through a Religion and Worldviews approach to RE**

St Mellion, nr Plymouth

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Oct Cost: £80

Book [here](#). See flyer on P3

## RE CPD

**Primary CPD:** Ed Pawson is leading **high-quality teaching and learning in [primary RE](#)** on Tues 10<sup>th</sup> (Ivybridge) or Fri 13<sup>th</sup> (Exeter) June

**Secondary CPD:** Ed Pawson is leading **high-quality teaching and learning in [secondary RE](#)** on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> (Exeter) or Wed 18<sup>th</sup> (Ivybridge) June

**RE Today:** Lat Blaylock is leading a [training day for secondary RE teachers](#) at Exeter School on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

## RE Hubs

Visit the [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

## Visiting Exeter Mosque

If you are trying to book a visit to Exeter Mosque, you can use this email: [enquiries@exetermosque.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@exetermosque.org.uk)

## RE advisers' conference 2025

Teachers are invited to attend the **AREIAC (RE advisers) and AULRE (RE lecturers) conference** at Exeter University on 26/27 June. Booking information [here](#).

All teachers are welcome to attend the **free** Robin Shepherd lecture on Thursday late afternoon, given by [Anna Strhan](#) (more details to follow).

## Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam

This is an extensive [new resource](#) exploring lived Islam, using the voices of contemporary Muslims to open up what it means to be Muslim in Britain and beyond. The religion and worldviews approach applies different disciplinary tools, drawing on authentic sources from within Islamic tradition.

## Audio Book of Religious Terms

The [Shap audio book](#) is a comprehensive directory of religious terms. It includes a link to hear the accepted pronunciation for words you may encounter in RE.

## The Bible in a Nutshell

The Bible in a Nutshell - High Bickington, North Devon EX37 9PN on Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July.

This **free** [course](#) will take you from Genesis through the Old Testament. See [page 4](#) for full details.

## Pilgrimage on the BBC

Seven celebrities of differing faiths and beliefs immerse themselves in a [journey](#) following the Austrian Camino, a revived medieval Catholic route.

## Sikh supporters club

Manchester United is delighted to welcome the [Stretford Sikhs](#) to its growing family of 329 official supporters' clubs across 90 countries.

## I belong to Jesus

Liverpool player Cody Gakpo [reveals](#) 'I belong to Jesus, message.



## In conversation with Ofsted

One year on from the publication of 'Deep and Meaningful', what is Ofsted doing and what do we need to know? Join Hazel Henson for a free 'in conversation' with Fiona Moss.

5-6pm on Tuesday 13th May

Hazel Henson HMI has responsibility for RE at Ofsted. Register [here](#)

## Spirited Arts: do it!

From a recent post on an RE Facebook page: I ran a [Spirited Arts](#) day with Year 11 for the first time and before I started, I was sceptical whether it would work ... But the engagement, enthusiasm and the detailed and thoughtful work absolutely blew me away! If you are on the fence about trying it in your school, don't be ... Thanks to Lat Blaylock and NATRE. See post on P5

## A Level RS teachers' meeting

Free CPD. Join Karen Steele for a [meeting with A level RS teachers](#) 6-7pm on Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> May: revision tips and making links with Universities. [Email](#). See P6 for details.

## A level RS webinars

Join the Chester University [Theology and Religious Studies](#) Webinars for A-Level students for Season 6.

## Oracy in RE

Speak Up: Empowering Pupils to Find and Use Their Voice in RE. A [practical and thought-provoking blog](#) from Kelly Keatley with strategies to use with children from 7 upwards.

## Philosophy for KS2 on the BBC

Stephen Fry narrates this [illustrated series](#) where a community of animals living in a fictional savannah navigate some tricky philosophical questions.

## Questions about Judaism

RE teachers with [questions about Judaism](#): a chance to ask anything you like. Open to primary and secondary teachers. Zoom passcode: 260906 3.45-4.45pm Tues 13th May. See P7 for more details.

Teachers of RE in all phases of education are invited to attend the 2025  
South West Peninsula LTLRE 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**LTLRE Area 1 Conference 2025**  
**Embracing Diversity and Inclusion**  
**through a Religion and Worldviews**  
**approach to RE**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
**9.30-3.30pm**

St Mellion Conference Centre, Nr Plymouth  
Cost: £80

**Keynote speaker:**

**Revd Anjali Kanagaratnam:** Understanding  
the Rich Diversity of the Global Christian Community

**Workshops will include:**

- Religion and Worldviews: engaging with diversity
- Unpacking the new RE syllabus
- Ways of Knowing in RE: using disciplinary characters
- Consolidating knowledge for new RE leaders
- Unpacking Muslim worldviews
- Exploring global, diverse Christian worldviews
- Assessment in RE: a practical guide
- Oak Academy: introducing exciting new resources
- Teaching Core RE at KS4

**For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)**

Booking [here](#)

INTERACTIVE - MEMORABLE - FUN - ENGAGING

# Old Testament

in a...



## VENUE

High Bickington  
Community Centre  
Little Bickington Lane  
High Bickington  
Umberleigh  
EX37 9PN

## Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**9.30am - 3.30pm**

Please bring a packed lunch

For more information or to  
book your **FREE** place,  
contact Gillian or Michelle

## PROMOTER

Gillian Ashcroft  
gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.  
devon.sch.uk

Michelle Sampson  
msampson@piltonbluecoat.  
devon.sch.uk

## Old Testament CPD Day for Primary Schools

The Old Testament is massive, it takes on average 56 hours to read.  
It can be difficult to know how and where everything fits together.  
We are here to help!

Learn the whole storyline in a few hours in our engaging and memorable sessions.  
**Increase your subject knowledge and discover resources to support your RE lessons.**

Join us as we go from Genesis through to Moses and the Promised Land,  
the Kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon, and onwards to the Exile Period  
and the coming of the Prophets.



Walk Through the Bible is accredited by Understanding Christianity.

ENCOURAGING - INSPIRING - HELPFUL



Contact:

Gillian Ashcroft: [gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk](mailto:gashcroft@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk)

Michelle Sampson: [msampson@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk](mailto:msampson@piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk)

# REspect: The Subject Community for RE Professionals

Private group · 10.4K members



Pending post

1 post [Learn more](#)

[Discussion](#)

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**Heather Grindell**

19h · 🌐



I ran a [#SpiritedArts](#) day with year 11 today for the first time and before I started I was skeptical whether it would work... But the level of engagement, enthusiasm and the detailed and thoughtful work from y11 absolutely blew me away! If you're on the fence about trying it in your school, don't be... Thanks to [Lat Blaylock](#) and NATRE 😊



You, Lat Blaylock and 21 others

8 comments

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Find Kelly Keatley's Spirited Arts ppt [here](#)

# Meeting for teachers of A-Level Religious Studies

Thursday 8 May 2025 6-7pm

*This is a FREE CPD opportunity  
– everyone welcome!*

## Agenda

### **Making Links with Universities**

Hayley Ellen is the Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy at a large Sixth Form College. Since taking up this role she has built networks with a range of higher education providers. She will be sharing how she did this and talking to Dr Ralph Norman (Principal Lecturer in Theology at Canterbury Christ Church University) and Dr Tim Hutchings (Associate Professor of Religious Ethics at the University of Nottingham) about collaboration with HE.



### **A-Level Revision Bring and Share:**

A-level teachers Jennie Hartley, Arabella Saunders, Marianne Tallis, Eleanor Delaney, Charlotte Newman and others will be sharing their most successful revision strategies for A-level RS.

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**

# Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...  
**open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism**

Why don't all...  
What's the difference between...  
I don't understand which...



**Tuesday 13th May, 3.45-4.45pm**

**Any question answered**



by Anna Silver,  
Education Officer

**Virtual drop in Q & A session:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82192444118?pwd=Hg2EeHajKGKCKRLn4h5ZBaCEbkkOlcl.1>

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82192444118?pwd=Hg2EeHajKGKCKRLn4h5ZBaCEbkkOlcl.1>

Meeting ID: 821 9244 4118

Passcode: 260906