

Spring 2010 newsletter



Federation of RE Centres

www.recentres.org.uk

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Letter from the Chair



The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that this is not the usual professional and eye-catching newsletter that Ian Knight produced like clockwork for the group twice a year. Sadly, because of reduced staffing levels at the Diocesan Office, the Winchester Diocesan Resource Centre has had to be closed until it can be relocated to the Cathedral Education Centre. Ian, the former administrator, has been redeployed in the Department of Discipleship and Ministry. We will sincerely miss his active involvement with the group extended as it did over many years, as well as his extensive contribution to our meetings, and we wish him all the very best for the future.

Also on a sad note, after financial cuts which affected the Resource Centre, Mary Bryceland has left Leicester City and has just started a new job, in the library at a local FE college (she asks that her e-mail address be removed from your contact lists). The situation of the Resource Centre remains unresolved – discussions between RE advisor, SACRE & Diocesan RE adviser are ongoing – which may result in a resource centre in the new Diocesan centre, but this is still in the planning stage. She asked me to pass on her best wishes on to the other members of FREC.

So changes are all around us, and most imposed by financial restrictions during this time of recession. Sadly, none of us are immune from these cutbacks, which seem to me to be very short-sighted in terms of the positive impact our centres make on the lives of children, parishes, interfaith networks and SACREs.

On a positive note, Fauzia Ali from CFER (previously CRERC) in Croydon is organising our summer conference this year, to be held on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 July. Please see next page for further information on this two day event, which looks really interesting. Do sign up!

There is also a short report on our meeting in Nottingham in November – thanks very much to Ken Johnson for organising this for us. Ken has suggested that we may all benefit from sharing our knowledge about the publishers and suppliers we use to resource our centres, so I have included a short questionnaire which I would encourage you to complete and return to me.

My sincere thanks to Ron Upton, our Treasurer, and Sue Bloomfield, who manages the membership and subscriptions, for all their invaluable help over the past year.

Best wishes and looking forward to seeing you in Croydon in July,

Lydia

Invitation to the 27th annual summer conference Thursday 1 July – Friday 2 July 2010

Programme includes:

- Lunchtime arrival on 1 July at Croydon Faith Education Resources Centre, view resources, followed by visit to nearby [Sikh Gurdwara](#) or alternatively Charles Darwin's home at [Down House](#).
- Dinner, business meeting and overnight stay at the [Emmaus Centre](#), West Wickham with plenty of time to network and share resource recommendations.
- On 2 July, after breakfast, visit *Journey through a Labyrinth* at [St John's Church, Croydon](#). Depart after lunch (packed lunch included).

Cost £55 per person which includes lunches on two days, dinner, bed and breakfast.

Any enquiries about the programme or travel to Croydon, contact Fauzia Ali at CFER
email: resources@cferinfo.org.uk .

To book your place, please send form/payment by **31 May 2010** to Ron Upton, Treasurer,
St Albans Diocesan Education Centre, Holywell Lodge, 41, Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HE
Please advise any access or special dietary requirements.

Report on autumn meeting

We had a really useful and inspiring day in November at the Nottingham Bluecoat School with Ken Johnson. Having browsed the Stapleford Centre resources, Ken showed us round the chapel, resource room and gave us a taster of the *Hindu Experience*, offered to local schools, including a film of interviews and the arti ceremony (part of a *Faith Experiences DVD* project funded by CDF).
<http://www.rsresources.org.uk>



After lunch and the business meeting, we travelled to the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Laxton where we visited the new exhibition, *The Journey*, bringing the Holocaust alive for primary school children. How we wished we could all have such a resource on our doorstep. <http://hcentrenew.aegisdns.co.uk/>

Kathryn Bliss, Sheffield Diocesan Resources Centre, wrote in November

Just a note to say thank you all so much for all your hard work towards yesterday. Thank you Ken for making the day so interesting – you have worked wonders with the Centre. If you do ever 'sell' copies of the film I would be interested. The Holocaust Centre was so interesting – and moving – I just wished we could have had longer. I really enjoyed the day and it was lovely meeting you and all the group. I really appreciate you

organising the meeting 'in the North' and am aware that many of the group had long distances to travel. Thank you all.

Jo Osborne, Slough RS Centre, wrote in mid December

Here are a few photos of our new look RE centre. We moved in November and I have now got it almost all unpacked and sorted so I thought that the others might like to see pictures of it.



Slough RS Centre is now located on the 1st floor of the IQRA school, Wexham Road, Slough SL2 5JW. This is a new voluntary aided Islamic school <http://www.iqraslough.co.uk/> . After all the moving I feel we are just settling in, the move went surprisingly smoothly in the end, with help from committee members. I am still sorting a few last books but all have been unpacked and out on the shelves. We are supported by Burnham and local deanery and Slough SACRE through the LEA; our funding comes from other local charities and various sources. We have no paid workers and I am the volunteer Resources Officer. Our opening times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays 3.30 to 5.30 pm, school term time only. Contact by leaving a phone message on 01753 822888 or email sloughrscentre@waitrose.com . Our users/clients come from schools local and further afield, and local churches; we also have private members who come from a variety of backgrounds and places. Visitors are always made welcome.
<http://www.sloughrscentre.org.uk/>

Questionnaire about publishers' and suppliers' discounts

Ken Johnson at RS Resource Centre, Nottingham Bluecoat School, asks

"I was wondering if we could share information more about suppliers at good prices - for example, as a follow up to our religious Experiences Project, I have been searching for places to get posters and artefacts from on Buddhism and Judaism which has led me to some shops in Manchester. Would it be worth in creating via the Federation of Centres a database which we could add to as we find places which offer items, advise and good value for money; perhaps even let the companies know we are doing this to see if any discount could be raised from orders?"

In order to progress this useful suggestion, I have put together a simple questionnaire in this newsletter. I would be happy to collate and distribute responses, if you could email me your replies by **31 May 2010** to lydia.revett@hants.gov.uk . Thank you.



Publishers/suppliers for RE resources

<p>Please name the regular suppliers you use for artefacts. Do they offer you any discounts?</p>	
<p>Please name the regular suppliers you use for books. Do they offer you any discounts?</p>	
<p>Please name the regular suppliers you use for DVDs. Do they offer you any discounts?</p>	
<p>Please name the regular suppliers you use for posters/visual materials. Do they offer you any discounts?</p>	
<p>Please name the regular suppliers you use for storage boxes. Do they offer you any discounts?</p>	
<p>Do you purchase resources from local shops and/or places of worship? Which would you recommend?</p>	
<p>If we were as a Federation to approach suppliers with the suggestion of a group discount, we may need to provide an idea of potential spending power. What annual budget do you have for new resources for your centre?</p>	
<p>Do you have any further knowledge about suppliers which you feel the other members of the Federation would find helpful?</p>	
<p>Your name and Centre address</p>	

'Housekeeping' – keeping the website up to date

Could you please take a moment to check your centre contact details are correct on our website <http://www.recentres.org.uk/pages/members.html> ?

If there are any amendments required, please email them to Sue Bloomfield at resourcecentre@bathwells.anglican.org

Other news from the world of RE

- The next **RE Council meeting** is on Wednesday 5 May 2010. Chris Boxley will be representing the Federation (email boxley@talktalk.net)
- The latest (April 2010) **RE Council newsletter** is available from <http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org/content/view/full/165/62>
- The **REsilience project**- *building confidence to handle contentious issues in RE* - is seeking to identify mentors. If you are interested, please visit the [website](#) for more information and to register your interest
- Do check out a [new website](#) for getting the most out of **partnership between local schools and local churches**, including tapping into church resources and involving members of faith communities in school life
- **NATRE Art in Heaven competition** is open to all pupils 4 - 19; deadline for entries **31 July 2010**. Visit <http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts/> for more information
- **Who do we think we are? week** is coming up **21 - 27 June 2010**. A range of updates have recently been made to www.wdwtwa.org.uk – an excellent website on identity and diversity

If you have any comments on or suggestions for the improvement of this newsletter, they would be most welcome by email to lydia.revett@hants.gov.uk