

'Chaplaincy Matters' March 2010

Chaplaincy Matters is compiled by Becky Ayers-Harris, of Sherborne Girls' School, (rah@sherborne.com) and Anthony Buckley, of Alleyn's School, (buckleyag@alleyns.org.uk). Please keep ideas/responses coming in!

UP AND COMING EVENTS!

- 2010 Bloxham Conference 12th-14th April 2010
- 2011 National Conference at Hope University Liverpool 16th-18th June 2011
- 2012 SCA conference 28th-30th March
- The SCA are looking into a day hosted and run by the Farmington Institute, at Harris Manchester college Oxford. The Farmington Institute also offer fellowships for teachers and Chaplains looking to take time in school or out of it, for further study on an R.S related topic. Look on line for more details.

Lent, Holy week and Easter

Becky Ayers-Harris writes:

Many of us will be familiar with the potential, the possibilities and passion that Holy week and Easter worship contain within a parish setting. However, we are also very aware of the difficulties of transferring some of that passion within a school setting. With a changeable Easter, term can sometimes fall within Holy week or Easter week, but not with any great regularity. Some of us may have an end of term service, sometimes a civic one, requiring a service that reflects the fact that it is the end of term and that Lent is still in full flow. By the time that we return Easter is forging on ahead, at least in student eyes and many opportunities for worship that Easter Day represents have passed.

I can say from personal experience that there is nothing worse than trying to present something of the nature and purpose of Lent, in a school hall, during the prize giving, sandwiched between the Heads speech and awards for House hockey matches. . However, one of the joys of a Chaplaincy Association is that we should not have to re-invent the wheel. In this issue are suggestions from various schools and Chaplains, of ideas that might prove useful, if not this year then perhaps next,.(when Easter is very late.)

Please do E mail any of your service ideas that you try, preferably with a short evaluation on how it went in your situation, and we will circulate at a later date.

· One idea, prompted by a thought from Andrew Haviland at Bryanston School, is to use the visual art department. Basing art work on the fourteen stations of the cross, these

could be set up around the school grounds, either indoors or outside if space and materials permit. They could be used creatively, through worship, or individual meditation, and would serve as an on-going visual reminder of Lent. It would also promote a community feel, using other departments effectively.

- Seiger Koder is a recommended artist if you are looking for accessible paintings/pictures to use within a meditation.
- Manchester Cathedral are currently displaying line drawings based on the Lenten theme, and would lend themselves very well to a service sheet based on visual representations of Easter.
- One point to note - be aware of copyright!

Lent and Easter - some initial ideas to share.

- 1) As well as giving things up, ask people to consider taking something up
- 2) Use the Stations of the Cross - options include:
 - physically around the school,
 - in Easter services,
 - in assemblies
- 3) Tell the Easter story from different viewpoints (eg, a Roman soldier)
- 4) Ensure there is a focus on the Resurrection, as well as the Cross
- 5) Arrange a special showing of "The Miracle Maker" (check copyright etc)
- 6) Ask pupils to discuss why Christmas is more popular in our culture than Easter
- 7) At the end of term, say "Happy Easter" as much as we would say "Happy Christmas" at the end of the Autumn term!
- 8) A palm cross is a very versatile visual aid!
- 9) As are eggs!
- 10) Ask the pupils to "pause" for a moment when they get to Easter Sunday - and then tell you next term if they have done so. (One Chaplain tried this at Christmas, with surprisingly positive effects)