

## Welcome to our first Newsletter

This newsletter is to keep everyone who is interested in CelebratingRE up to date with ongoing plans and developments, which may inspire you to plan your own events, or to mark events in your diary to attend next year.

We need contributions from you. This will be a good way to publicise your events and for the coordinating team to keep track of developments. See contact details at the end.

## Faiths in Action funded project

**In the current financial climate it is not easy to feel confident about the possibility of obtaining funding for local projects.** However the RE Council made an application to the government's Communities and Local Government department for a £6000 grant under the Faiths in Action banner and has just heard that the bid was successful. Members of the REC's CelebratingRE planning group will work with the Waltham Forest Faith Communities Forum on a project designed to promote learning outside the classroom and to improve links between schools and local faith communities.

The project will bring together 6 – 8 men, women and young people from 5+ faith groups in Waltham Forest for a training project aiming to help them make provision for visitors such as teachers, pupils and local community members. Three evening

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sessions will provide a package of training designed to increase faith group awareness about the nature and purpose of school RE. The sessions will also look at appropriate ways of increasing understanding of the faith groups and their activities amongst school students and teachers. Following the training sessions, participating faith groups will be asked to hold an open day or evening during Celebrating RE month to which teachers from all local schools will be invited.

After the programme has been run and evaluated, the training materials will be made available on the REC's website and publicised to inter faith groups and SACREs across the country. Visits to the five or more places concerned will be written up as an 'RE trail' and uploaded to the national RE trails website [www.retrails.org.uk](http://www.retrails.org.uk).

The funding scheme is administered through the Community Development Foundation and it is still possible to apply for grants for projects which meet its criteria –so if you act fast you might be able to secure funding for a partnership project for Celebrating RE month. See [www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk) for further details.

# Celebrating RE Nationwide

## Manchester

**A day's free INSET at Manchester Cathedral and Manchester Buddhist Centre is being offered by ClearVision for 15 teachers from Salford and Manchester.**

This is part of the Sacred Neighbours project funded by Faiths in Action. It will take place on 4th March. [www.sacredneighbours.org](http://www.sacredneighbours.org)



*Lotus Hall, Manchester Buddhist Centre*

There will also be a multifaith afternoon for staff from places of worship and sacred spaces working with schools in Manchester, designed to share experience and good practice. Hosted by Clear Vision at Manchester Buddhist Centre, this event is for places of worship already welcoming school groups and those who are considering doing so. Manchester Jewish Museum, Manchester Cathedral and Manchester Buddhist Centre/Clear Vision will be represented and it will take place on 31st March from 2-5pm.



*Being still*

## Warwickshire

**Warwickshire SACRE were lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the NASACRE/Westhill Foundation awards for 2010/11 for their 'Celebrating the Community in RE' project.**

The aims of the project are to promote the national initiative Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC); recognise the work that schools are doing to develop links with the wider community; recognise the work of SACRE to support teachers in planning visits to local places of worship; encourage schools/teachers to think about links to the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus and the requirement that pupils should encounter people from a range of traditions; and to take part in the national Celebration of RE. Warwickshire SACRE have launched a competition inviting teachers to submit details of an event/activity they have organised that involves the wider community. This could be for example, an RE trail, a visit to a place of worship or inviting a visitor from a particular faith into school. Teachers have been encouraged to run their own competitions at school, and to select one example of a pupil's work that has been produced as part of, or as a result of the event. Prizes will be awarded to both teachers and pupils at a Celebrating RE event on Friday 25th March 2011. Details for the event are yet to be confirmed but it is hoped this will be held in a local place of worship with an inspirational guest speaker who will present the awards to the prize winners. Pupils from schools in Warwickshire will also be involved in performances and presentations.

Funding awarded from NASACRE and the Westhill Foundation will be put towards staging the event, however the majority will be put back into schools as teachers who submit winning entries will be given money to purchase resources for their RE department. Prize winning pupils will receive book tokens and certificates. Details of the competition are available on the Warwickshire website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre) and details of the celebration event will be added once confirmed.

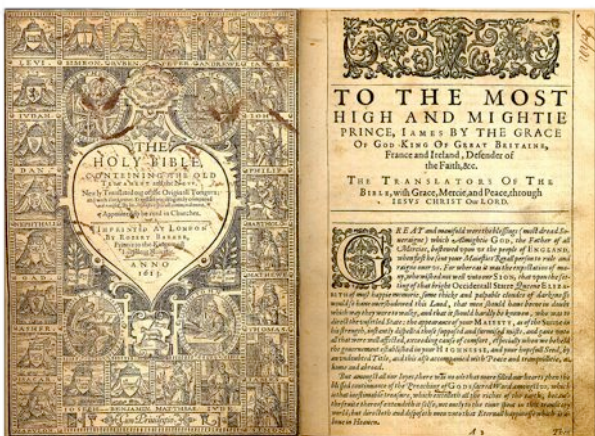
# Denbigh

## The Mass through Dance

A dance teacher will be offering a workshop to schools to 'Dance the Mass'. The session will invite pupils to learn the various elements of the mass through dance. The relevance and meaning behind the Mass will be explored through movement and music and it will be filmed to create a lasting resource. For more information contact Phil Lord - [philip.lord@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:philip.lord@flintshire.gov.uk)

# Southwark Diocese

**Southwark Diocese are drawing three important celebrations together and among their individual celebrations schools will be working with the Diocesan Board of Education to produce some new RE units of work on the Bible for use in primary schools.**



During Celebrating RE month, March 2011 we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of church schools and the 400th anniversary of the King James' version of the bible. Discover more on: <http://www.natsoc200.org.uk/> and [www.2011trust.org](http://www.2011trust.org)

## CelebratingRE website

This site is being regularly updated and added to, so do keep an eye on it. Also mention it to colleagues as this is a good way to promote CelebratingRE month and may help others to get involved. [www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org)

# Zoroastrian Centre, Harrow



**Many activities planned for Celebrating RE month will be local and take place within individual schools.** However there will be large

scale events as well and we are delighted to say that we have been offered the use of the Zoroastrian Centre in Harrow for an evening reception on Wednesday 23rd March.

The event will focus on RE and creativity and a major part of the evening will consist of performances by children and young people from local schools, to include music, dance, drama and poetry as well as exhibitions of work. The keynote speaker has still to be confirmed but the event will include the award of prizes for some of the many competitions taking place as part of Celebrating RE.

We appreciate the generosity of the Zoroastrian community in offering the use of this venue for up to 700 people, and also in the very welcome donation they have made towards funding the core costs of Celebrating RE. This event will provide a great opportunity for children and young people, parents, SACRE and faith community members and teachers to visit the centre and increase their awareness of the Zoroastrian presence in North London.



## Competitions and prizes

From September, look out for the great range of competitions, some local and some national which offer all schools an opportunity to be part of the national event and win some great prizes.

Details of how your students can get involved will be published very soon, so watch this space. We are lucky to have been offered a range of prizes, some of which will benefit groups of children in off-site experiences.





# Stuck for ideas?

Then have a look at the Celebrating RE website!

In the What can we do? section, RE practitioners from across the country have put together a rich spread of ideas and possibilities. There is an article apiece for early years, primary, secondary, SEN and gifted in RE. There is another on social media and also one on using wise sayings, together with a treasure chest of sayings from the world's religions and philosophies which can be put to good use in your classroom or school. Another article lists ideas for SACREs to think about.

There are more coming up very soon, including articles for other contexts and situations. Examples include, working with trainee teachers, ideas for local communities or faith communities. Two are planned for inter faith and inter school activities and one for schools with a religious character. Very important practical aspects aren't neglected – look out for the article on fund raising and on publicising your events. Yet another will be on Learning Outside the Classroom which goes beyond thinking about visits just to places of worship and considers other places you might visit with children and young people as part of the Celebrating RE month.

When you've got your plan in outline, you can publicise it by entering it on the Celebrating RE calendar. Take a look at the calendar if you haven't already. Just click on the left hand button 'What's on', and then select the events which may be of interest to you and your students by using the toggles to find out when events are happening.

<b>Who is it for?</b>  Everyone! Celebrating RE month provides an opportunity for all those involved in religious education to share the impact that RE is making. <a href="#">Read more...</a>	<b>What is available?</b>  This website contains a range of ideas: for classroom activities, but also for SACREs. Be inspired by the 'Wise Saying' which appear on this page. <a href="#">Read more...</a>
<b>How can we get involved?</b>  Share events that you are organising by using our events calendar. From September, look out for competitions to enter and win prizes for your school! <a href="#">Read more...</a>	<b>Where can we get help?</b>  Want to make a splash in the local press or get TV coverage for your event? How can we use social media? Needing to raise funds? <a href="#">Read more...</a>

Find out more by visiting the Celebrating RE website. [www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org)

# Celebrating RE in the media

**March 2011 will be an opportunity for everyone involved in RE to share in and celebrate the unique contribution that RE can make to the lives and futures of the nation's youth.** It will highlight through media coverage and national activities, the crucial role that multi faith RE plays in promoting understanding and respect between communities. It is intended that the celebration month will help to raise the subject's profile, and will help improve public awareness of its role. It will highlight its distinctive contribution to society and social cohesion, as well as engaging nationally with faith and community leaders. We hope to encourage the involvement of thousands of children, teachers, community and faith leaders in England and Wales.

Large regional events are already being planned for the month, with keynote speakers, audience involvement, awards, displays and demonstrations. This will provide a public focus that is aimed to extend beyond the immediate world of RE and will be of interest to all members of faith groups. It is hoped that the media interest these events will attract will serve to raise public awareness of the distinct contribution that RE makes as part of the curriculum. Future newsletters will highlight how we will involve the media to gain coverage for our national events, and how you can engage with us through social media platforms, to let us know what's going on in your region, and how your preparations are developing.

## Newsletter



Please send us information for inclusion in next month's newsletter, by September 15th, to [newsletter@recelebration.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@recelebration.org.uk) Please keep your contribution brief, two paragraphs is ideal, and be aware that we may edit your piece to fit. We would love to have photos to use in the newsletter – make sure that you have permissions to use these, particularly if they contain images of young people. Any queries, email the editor on the email address above.