

Newsletter – JULY 2026

Farewell & Thank You!

Thank you to school staff and governors who have served our church schools and are moving on or retiring. All of us at the diocese are grateful for your energy and commitment to leading your schools to be places for flourishing. We wish you well in your next role or a very restful and enjoyable retirement!



Bishop's Badge Awards

21 children received Bishop's Badge awards this year. The children were nominated by their headteacher for their generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. The children and their families were invited to receive their award from Bishop Jackie at a service on 15 June, held at Derby Cathedral.

Pupils from Brailsford CE Primary School led the congregation in prayers and the school's choir delighted everyone with their wonderful singing.

New Headteachers and Heads of School

The DBE funds an induction programme for all headteachers and heads of school. We encourage anyone who is new to headship in a church school to access all parts, regardless of whether you have worked in a church school in the past.



Diary Date

Induction & Welcome Commissioning Service

Wednesday 30 September 2026, 10:00 - 16:30 at Church House and Derby Cathedral



Contact Details

It is important that we hold the correct contact email addresses – assistant headteachers, office staff, RE and CW co-ordinators, chair, clerk and foundation governors.

If you have people leaving at the end of this academic year, do please remember to tell us and email [DBE Office](#) with details.

Admissions - Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies

Please ensure that your 2028-29 Admissions Policy is an agenda item for your autumn term meetings. If your school is an academy in a MAT, liaise with your central team to check arrangements.

VA schools should send the DBE a copy of their draft policy by 30 November. VA schools that need to consult, should send the DBE their draft policy by 01 November. Schools must have a public consultation at least every 7 years.



Schools who subscribe to our [Partnership Agreement](#) benefit from detailed advice on their admissions policy. General guidance is available on our website [HERE](#)



Partnership Agreement ****EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT****

Sign up before the end of summer term to receive 10% discount.

We are a family of church schools & partnership is a fundamental principle of being a church school. We are very aware of the constant demands on schools' budgets & seek to provide all support for partnership subscribers at an affordable level. Schools which access our support usually recoup the cost of signing up.

All details are on our website [HERE](#).

Creationtide

Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, takes place in the church calendar from 01 September to 04 October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Creationtide began in the Orthodox Church in 1989 and has been supported by a growing number of churches across Europe since then, including the Church of England.



Schools could include ways in which they mark the return to school in September and explore creation present in all learning. This season is often celebrated with the harvest. Other activities could include renewing commitment to carbon reduction and courageous advocacy in the face of the climate crisis, including involvement in campaigns like "[Let's Go Zero](#)."



Education Sunday

For over 100 years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales - a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.

The theme is devised by an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations and organisations.

Since 2016, it has been celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in September, coinciding with the start of the school year (prior to this it was celebrated on the 9th Sunday before Easter). The resources [HERE](#) are intended to be used as a springboard for a variety of events on or around Education Sunday.

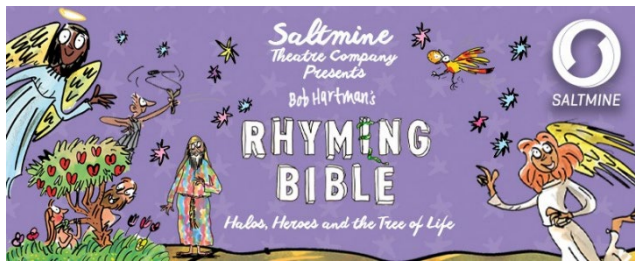
Foundation Governor Nominations

All nominations (both new and re-elected) must be assessed and formally approved by the DBE Board.

Please ensure your clerk knows the term of office dates for foundation governors. If there are any which are due to expire before spring 2027, you need to act now! All the relevant forms and guidance are on our website [HERE](#). If you have any questions, [email](#) Lindsey Bowe.



The nomination process needs to start well ahead of time to allow applications to be written and endorsed by the headteacher, incumbent and PCC (where applicable, please refer to your Instrument of Government). When a parish is in vacancy or where PCC meetings are infrequent, **we recommend starting the process 6 months in advance.**



Saltmine Theatre Company

Saltmine Trust is a Christian charity and theatre company that creates and tours missional and educational productions to schools, churches, theatres and festivals around the UK. See their website [HERE](#).

Inspired by Bob Hartman's popular 'Rhyming Bible' book, ***Rhyming Bible: Halos, Heroes and the Tree of Life***, is an hour-long musical which brings key Bible stories (including Daniel in the Lion's Den, Jonah and the Whale and Zaccheus meeting Jesus) to life through singing, innovative staging and non-stop action from just four actors playing multiple characters.

If you would like more information, call 01384 454800 or email creative@saltmine.org

Time to Rest & Recreate

We hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer break and look forward to working with you again in September. We have some ideas on our website [HERE](#) for restoration, recharging and recreation.



The DBE staff team are available during the summer holidays, so do feel free to get in touch if you need us.

Supporting our Schools to TRANSFORM – GROW – BUILD

Showing **generous faith, courageous hope & life-giving love**, Derby DBE's actions will be to:

- affirm and strengthen our relationship with school leaders and governors,
- offer a high-quality training & development programme for school leaders, governors, clergy, RE & CW practitioners.

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance. Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).