

Time Travelling Volunteer Conference – 9th October 2010

Over forty of us enjoyed a really useful morning, focusing on Child protection, working with special children and Time Travelling and R.E. in schools.

The Dean welcomed us all and opened with prayer. He then introduced Roger Dobson who had just returned from his cycling pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela having cycled 500 miles. He chose to raise money for Time Travelling and nearly £1500 has been pledged/donated.

Our first speaker was Nick Harding who updated us with an 'ABC' for child protection and safeguarding. As far as CRB is concerned, we will carry on checking all the volunteers until a decision from government is made.

Ellen Hill, recently retired from a career teaching in special schools gave us some good pointers for when we work with special groups (and indeed the suggestions would apply to all children). The essence of her talk reminded us to give children time to explore and process, to make the staff welcome as well as the children and visit the school beforehand if you can.

After a refreshment break with lovely cakes and biscuits made by Diana's daughter, Lizzie, we welcomed Anne Lumb, Diocesan Schools Adviser who gave us insight into how R.E. is taught in schools and how Time Travelling supports this. Anne gave us 4 practical tasks based on materials in the R.E. syllabus which could be used as follow up after a Time Travelling visit and everyone joined in with the usual enthusiasm! Anne reminded us that younger teachers learn from us at TT and thanked us on behalf of the Diocese for the work we do at Time Travelling to engage children in R.E.

To sum up, the speakers reminded us that Time Travelling's best assets are: TIME, A SACRED SPACE and OURSELVES.

Canon Ed Pruen closed the conference with a song and prayer:

Father, through Time Travelling, you call us to show your love,
worth and value to each and every child who comes among us.
Help us to open the doors of faith to the younger generation.
Help us to welcome each child as welcomed by you.
Help us to see each child as through your eyes.
Give us patience and sensitivity,
a sense of fun and creativity,
listening skills and compassion.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

More detailed notes from all our speakers can be found following the links.