

# The ATCRE National RE Conference 2021

'A discussion on the RE curriculum'



**10.00am - 3.45pm  
Saturday 2nd October 2021**



**Main speakers:**

**David Wells**



**Philip Robinson**



**Venue:**

**Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College, Urban Road, Altrincham, Greater Manchester, WA15 8HT** (A five-minute car journey from Junction 7 on M56.)

**A thought-provoking and practical day designed to support you in your classroom:**

- Stimulating keynote speakers
- Choice of 12 seminars to choose from
- A range of exhibitors • Networking and connections
- Lunch and refreshments included

Cost £60 - Bookings: <https://www.atcre.co.uk/events>

# Programme - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Time	Activity
9.00 am	Registration, refreshments, exhibitions, and networking
10.00 am	Welcome by Julia Cunningham, ATCRE Vice-Chair
10.05 am	Liturgy led by David Wells
10.20 am	<b>Keynote - Philip Robinson</b>
11.05 am	Break - Refreshments, exhibition, and networking
11.25 am	<b>Seminar A</b>
12.10 pm	Break - Refreshments, exhibition, and networking
12.30 pm	<b>Seminar B</b>
1.15 pm	Lunch - Refreshments, exhibition, and networking
2.00 pm	<b>Seminar C</b>
2.45 pm	Break - Refreshments, exhibition, and networking
3.00pm	<b>Keynote - David Wells</b>
3.45 pm	End

**We intend to have a face-to-face conference, if needed due to government requirements, it will migrate online.**

# Keynote speakers



## A Hidden Presence: Why RE does a bigger thing than most people realise! Lessons from the Life of St Joseph to enlighten and encourage us.

### David Wells

Years ago, I was sitting at a desk as a young RE teacher waiting for parents who wanted to talk to me about their children's progress. I was half the parents age and not much older than the sixth formers. The Maths department assigned next to me in the hall had a queue going out of the door. Why were my appointments fewer than theirs? What was this? Not every parent sees RE as the core or heart of the endeavour. In fact, very few do. This is the year of St Joseph – a hidden presence, a man who "Never made himself the centre of things". How can his example, as the Patron Saint of the Church be a relevant and practical example to us as teachers? As important, how can his example help us to raise our gaze, raise our game and dare to cheer up a bit!

David began his teaching career in 1985. Since then he has worked for the Catholic Education Service and served two Dioceses as an Education Adviser. He has guest lectured in Universities in the UK, Europe and North America. Known for his unique blend of theology and humour, David speaks at conferences all over the world. He is the author of 3 books, has appeared in numerous on-line and video resources and appeared on national television. He has worked with 10,000 people in arenas and 10 in musty parish halls. He takes each as seriously. Find out more at [www.davidwellslive.com](http://www.davidwellslive.com)



## What do we think we're doing? Reflections on how the Religious Education Curriculum Directory should frame the intent for our subject.

### Philip Robinson

For the last eight years, Philip has served as the Religious Education Adviser to the Catholic Education Service, which acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to promote and sustain Catholic education in the 2,209 Catholic schools in England and Wales. Before that he was the Religious Education (RE) adviser for the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Prior to both advisory roles he was a teacher of RE for fourteen years, including five years leading a department of an inner-city Catholic comprehensive school. In addition to his professional commitments, Philip is also currently in the fifth year of his doctoral studies, focusing on the question of whether Catholic RE can remain authentically Catholic while still meeting the external societal and legal demands that are placed on it.

# Seminars

A key part of the day will be an opportunity to discuss Catholic RE with our seminar speakers. Note that the speakers do not necessarily align with the views of ATCRE.

Seminar A choices 11.25 am - 12.10pm	Seminar B choices 12.30pm - 1.15pm	Seminar C choices 2.00pm - 2.45pm
<b>A1</b> - EYFS, Primary  <b>RE at the heart of the Early Years Foundation Stage.</b>  Julie Rourke	<b>B1</b> - Cross phase  <b>The new National Inspection Framework</b>  Nancy Conoboy	<b>C1</b> - Primary  <b>'More than a Picture'</b>  Sinéad Valente
<b>A2</b> - Cross phase  <b>Listening with our eyes - contemplating Scripture through image</b>  Sr Gemma Simmonds	<b>B2</b> - Cross phase  <b>To lead as Jesus led</b>  Gareth Rein	<b>C2</b> - Cross phase  <b>Aid to the Church in Need (ACN): Connecting the classroom with the faithful round the world</b>  Marie Fahy
<b>A3</b> - Cross Phase  <b>The social mission of the Church in a post-Covid society and what it might mean for the Catholic school</b>  Raymond Friel	<b>B3</b> - Secondary  <b>Making every RE lesson count</b>  Dawn Cox	<b>C3</b> - Cross phase  <b>A Scripture led curriculum: Catholic Scripture Scholarship and the traditions of Religious Reading</b>  Bob Bowie
<b>A4</b> - Cross phase  <b>Religious Education and Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework</b>  Richard Kueh	<b>B4</b> - Sixth Form  <b>Aquinas: The Missing Metaphysics</b>  Paul McHugh	<b>C4</b> - Secondary/Sixth Form  <b>100 Ideas for Secondary RE Teachers: An Overview</b>  Andy Lewis

## Seminar A choices - 11.25 am - 12.10pm

<b>Julie Rourke</b> Julie is a Primary Religious Education Adviser and Inspector for the Archdiocese of Liverpool and works alongside a close team of supportive colleagues. Prior to this she was a primary school teacher for many years. <b>A1</b>	<b>RE at the heart of the Early Years Foundation Stage.</b> The aim of this session is to show how the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory can be adapted to suit and support the pedagogy of teachers, further enhancing their unique specialism as Early Years practitioners. This will include an exploration of how the Early Learning Goals incorporating the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' can be used to develop children's religious knowledge, skills and understanding. Recognising how classroom management, practice, organisation and the environment differ from other Key Stages.
<b>Dr. Gemma Simmonds</b> Gemma Simmonds is a sister of the Congregation of Jesus, a teacher, missionary, university and prison chaplain, simultaneous translator and a lecturer in theology at Heythrop College. She is a senior research fellow in Cambridge, lecturing in pastoral theology and Christian spirituality. Gemma is a regular broadcaster on BBC radio. <b>A2</b>	<b>Listening with our eyes -contemplating Scripture through image</b> 'A picture is worth a thousand words' is a common saying in journalism, but it is also true with regard to prayer and understanding the Scriptures. Images are not just illustrations but the facilitation of a deeper and more instinctive understanding of the significance of Scripture. We see, feel and respond with different senses and through our conscious and unconscious reactions. In this way seeing becomes believing.
<b>Raymond Friel</b> Raymond is the CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, the agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for domestic social action. He spent most of his professional life in Catholic education, as an English teacher, headteacher and CEO of two multi academy trusts. He has written a number of books on Catholic education, including Gospel Values for Catholic Schools. <b>A3</b>	<b>The social mission of the Church in a post-Covid society and what it might mean for the Catholic school.</b> In the light of the pandemic, Pope Francis has called upon us to "dream big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek" (Let Us Dream). In this session we will explore in what ways the mission of the Church needs to be reimagined in a post-Covid society in which inequality and vulnerability have been exposed. We will also look at the implications for the Catholic school which seeks to form 'agents of change' who will build up the kingdom of love, peace, and justice.
<b>Dr Richard Kueh, HMI</b> Richard Kueh is Ofsted's subject lead for religious education. He is a qualified teacher and holds masters degrees in theology and religious studies, a doctorate in philosophy and a PGCE. Before joining Ofsted, he taught in maintained schools, independent schools and universities. He has senior experience as director of a regional school improvement partnership, director of teacher training and development for a multi-academy trust, deputy headteacher of a secondary school and associate headteacher of a primary school. Richard's areas of expertise include curriculum, assessment, teacher development, inclusion and initial teacher education. <b>A4</b>	<b>Religious Education and Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework</b> Description: In this session, Dr Richard Kueh HMI will explore factors that can affect quality of education in Religious Education, viewed through the lens of Ofsted's 2019 Education Inspection Framework. The session will explore Ofsted's 2021 Religious Education Research Review.

## Seminar B choices - 12.30pm - 1.15pm

### Nancy Conoboy

Nancy is the Chief Inspector of Schools for Westminster Diocese. Prior to taking up this post she spent twenty years as a teacher and senior leader in London schools.

**B1**

### The new National Inspection Framework

The aim of this seminar is to provide an overview of the new National Framework for the inspection of schools, colleges and academies. This will include an exploration of the Handbook and Self Evaluation Form whilst considering the logistics of an inspection.

### Gareth Rein

Gareth has been a headteacher for over ten years across two Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Cardiff. He is also a Section 48/50 inspector and a regular speaker at education conferences and events across England and Wales. He completed an MA in Catholic School Leadership at St. Mary's University in 2010.

**B2**

### To Lead as Jesus Led

In this seminar, Gareth will provide an exploration of the distinctive nature of Catholic school leadership through an examination of Jesus as the ultimate role model.

### Dawn Cox

Dawn is a Head of RE and SLE in Essex. She is a blogger and author.

**B3**

### Making every RE lesson count

Dawn's session will be based on her recent co-authored book 'Making Every RE lesson count' (Crown House publishing). She will include ideas and teaching strategies from the book that are appropriate for colleagues teaching RE to students aged 11-18. These will be based on the 6 making every lesson count principles of Challenge, Explanation, Modelling, Practice, Feedback & Questioning.

### Paul McHugh

Paul's background is in Catholic secondary RE and resource development. He recently completed a doctoral thesis on St John Henry Newman's philosophical outlook. In doing so, he has also had the opportunity to delve quite deeply into medieval philosophy. Paul's current post is as an education adviser in Northampton Diocese.

**B4**

### Aquinas: The Missing Metaphysics

Though St Thomas' Five Ways are a staple of A-level Religious Studies courses, texts don't always do justice to the metaphysical outlook and logical paradigm key to Aquinas' approach. The danger is that his arguments are set in dialogue with later arguments with scant regard for shifts in metaphysical outlook between scholastic and later eras. This seminar sketches Aquinas' arguments within his own metaphysical frame and attempts to recover something of their freshness and power.

## Seminar C choices - 2.00pm - 2.45pm

<b>Sinéad Valente</b>  Sinéad is currently an Assistant Headteacher, Head of RE and Prayer and Collective Worship at a Catholic Primary School in Coventry. Having led YOUCAT groups for Secondary school and young adults, as well as teaching EYFS, KS1 and KS2, my faith is at the centre of all I do.  <b>C1</b>	<b>'More than a Picture'</b>  Religious art is a wonderful way of engaging primary pupils in RE lessons, Worship and Prayer. But how much do we use art as a tool beyond engagement? The session will delve into art as an instrument to draw conclusions, explore Scripture, arrive at judgements and give pupils opportunities to question and understand art with Scriptural purpose. We will focus on subjects that cross all Primary and give tangible ways of using art as 'More than a Picture'.
<b>Marie Fahy</b>  Marie is Resources Officer at Aid to the Church in Need and devises inventive resources for primary and secondary schools. A former lay chaplain and experienced RE teacher, Marie is also a media speaker for Catholic Voices, advocating for Catholic schools on the BBC's 'Sunday Morning Live', 'The Big Questions', Sky News and LBC radio.  <b>C2</b>	<b>Aid to the Church in Need (ACN): Connecting the classroom with the faithful round the world</b>  From lessons and assemblies to fundraising campaigns and chaplaincy activities, this session will showcase our materials which you can access online and use free of charge. This session will introduce some of our current initiatives for secondary and primary schools and unveil exciting plans for the future. ACN resources encompass a wide range of topics supporting the RE Curriculum Directory, CST, the Catholic ethos of your school and British Values. Please come along to find out more!
<b>Bob Bowie</b>  Bob is Professor of Religion and Worldviews Education at Canterbury Christ Church University, Director of the National Institute for Christian Education Research ( <a href="http://www.nicer.org.uk/">http://www.nicer.org.uk/</a> ). He writes RE textbooks and once upon a time was an RE teacher in a Catholic secondary school.  <b>C3</b>	<b>A Scripture led curriculum: Catholic Scripture Scholarship and the traditions of Religious Reading</b>  This session builds on the work of Texts for Teachers (see <a href="http://www.nicer.org.uk/">http://www.nicer.org.uk/</a> ) to develop principles for the application of Catholic Scripture Scholarship and the traditions of Religious Reading into Catholic school curricula. It will introduce the progressive approach to using disciplinary tools promoted in <i>Dei Verbum</i> and <i>The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church</i> (Pontifical Biblical Commission 1993) and provide suggestions for how to implement this in the classroom.
<b>Andy Lewis</b>  Andy is Deputy Headteacher at St Bonaventure's in East London. He is author of several Catholic GCSE and KS3 textbooks and regularly writes about Catholic RE, education and leadership.  <b>C4</b>	<b>100 Ideas for Secondary RE Teachers: An Overview</b>  Andy Lewis provides an overview of some of the thinking behind his bestselling book, "100 Ideas for Secondary Teachers: Outstanding RE Lessons". He will share and discuss some of the best "ideas" including examples from the classroom with time for Q&A.