

The Shap working party on World Religions in Education



Paul Hopkins



I was first involved with Shap after being heavily involved with advising the RE world on the use of technology and the development of on-line materials. This involved sitting on or being an advisor to most of the RE organisations (NATRE, NASACRE, AREIAC, AULRE, REC and EFTRE). I was then asked to support the development of an on-line presence for Shap and to make its resources more widely available. I was also invited to become a member of the working party so as to share this expertise more widely.

It has been enjoyable to be involved with an organisation that has had such an impact on the teaching of Religious Education over 50 years, and to help shape its engagement with the technology of the last 10. By helping it to change and evolve, I have become more fully involved, becoming simultaneously webmeister, treasurer and then chair. As treasurer I helped keep Shap fiscally alive in some difficult years and have brought it back to some financial health.

I hope I have contributed to the development and evolving of Shap from an organisation that was more “paper” based to one that is now much more involved in the e-world. As a member of the calendar working party I have helped to move the calendar into its current e-version, and in the development of the new wallchart, as well as overhauling the method of managing our data handling processes. Ironically I have also been involved in the closing down of the working party.

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