



A journey of learning in the light of God's love

"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

The parable of the Mustard seed - Mark 4:30-32

Townlands Faith Newsletter

Our faith newsletter provides an opportunity to celebrate the Christian values that guide us at Townlands — faith, friendship, forgiveness, respect, hope, love and honesty. Through stories, reflections, and shared experiences, we aim to highlight how our school community grows together in spirit and character. Whether through collective worship, assemblies, classroom discussions, or quiet moments of thoughtfulness, our pupils continue to show how faith and values shape their everyday lives.

Community Links – Karen Berry

On Thursday 29th January, we welcomed Karen Berry from Earl Shilton Methodist Church, and she led our collective worship. The children are always excited to see her and her puppet friend. This time, Karen shared a story about the importance of saying two small words, 'Thank you,' and the children were quick to remember these throughout the story. We had time to reflect on kindness and manners and that using these gestures show someone else that we care about them and what they do to help us.



We enjoyed a second visit from Karen Berry on Thursday 26th February. She introduced us to Barney the Bear. He had been tempted to make bad decisions. Karen shared a story with us about Lent and how Jesus ignored temptation from the Devil. She reminded us to think about and reflect on making good choices and consider this important time before Easter.

Singing through Worship

As a school, we gather weekly for singing through worship. Key singing and music skills are taught alongside the meaning of the words in hymns. Hymns taught and sung are either linked to a seasonal theme for example Harvest or a different theme. As a school this term, we have been focusing on the importance of recycling and protecting our planet. To support this learning, we have been singing songs and hymns linked to our planet.

These hymns are:

Who put the colours in the rainbow?

If I were a butterfly.

Think of a world without any flowers.



The theme of all of these songs is the importance of looking after our planet, caring for animals and also a clear message thanking God for the living things in our world. Each of the above songs have words including, "We thank you Lord for flowers and trees and sunshine," and, "He gave me a heart and he gave me a smile," we used our time in singing through worship to reflect on these words and how they link to our school Christian values of respect for our planet.

Suggestions for Home Activities - Family Singing

At home, you could help your child/children by discussing with them their favourite hymn that we sing in school or Church. As parents and carers, you may also have your own favourite from your time at school. Can you listen to it and sing it together? Most can be found on Spotify and YouTube. As a family, discuss the meaning of the lyrics and children can draw a picture to represent the hymn. Your child can share their favourite hymn during our weekly singing through worship.

Religious Education (R.E.) learning this term across the school

EYFS

This half term the children have been considering who God might be, where they think God might be found, what God might look like and how God might act. The children drew their personal thoughts and showed respect for the opinions of their friends. We have also spent several weeks learning about the story of creation, the children created posters depicting the distinctive creations over the biblical 7 days. They look so unique!



Year One & Two

This term, the children have been learning about the Christian belief that Jesus brings the 'good news', also known as the Gospel. They explored how the word *Gospel* means 'good news' and discovered that Christians believe this good news is that God loves everyone and offers forgiveness, hope and new life through Jesus. The children listened to Bible stories such as the birth of Jesus, which Christians see as good news because it shows God coming to be with people; the calling of the disciples, where Jesus invites ordinary people to follow him; and the story of Zacchaeus, which shows that anyone can change and be forgiven. Through these stories, the children have recognised that Christians believe the Gospel is the good news that God's kingdom is open to all.



Year Three

This term, Year 3 have been exploring the question "What do Christians learn from the creation story?" In our R.E. lessons, we have discussed the Christian creation story, thought about who takes care of the world, and explored the ideas of faith and belief. We also created our own rules and lists to show how we can help look after the world. As a class, we listened to Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World and reflected on what God might have intended when creating the world.



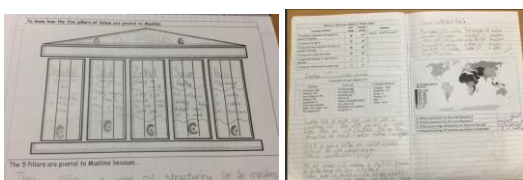
Year Four

This term, Year 4 have been considering the question, "How and why do people mark the significant events of life?" through learning about celebrations in Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism. They compared wedding ceremonies in these faiths and learnt about Baptism, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and the sacred thread ceremony. The children also considered their own lives and any significant celebrations and ceremonies that they are been involved in.



Year Five

Year 5 have been learning about what life is like for Muslims in Britain. They explored where Muslim communities live across the UK and learned why the Qur'an is such an important source of guidance. The children also discovered how the Five Pillars shape daily life, including the meaning of Zakah and why generosity is central to the faith. They looked at the significance of Ramadan for families and communities and learned why many Muslims aspire to go on pilgrimage to Makkah.



Year Six

This half-term, Year 6 have considered the big question, 'What matters most to Humanists and Christians?' Within their learning, they have explored faith and how it may or may not be linked to religious beliefs. They have also discussed the values and principles that guide individuals in their lives and influence the decisions that they make and linked this to the similarities and differences between the beliefs of Humanists and Christians.



St Simon and St Jude Church, Earl Shilton - Faith Newsletter



I hope that you are keeping well and that you have been enjoying the sunnier weather that we have been having and the longer days of early spring. I have enjoyed turning to face the sun and feeling it's warmth on my face.

Easter will soon be here. It is my favourite celebration, even more than Christmas, because the death of Jesus on Good Friday and his rising from death on Easter brings new life and hope to the world. No situation that we find ourselves in, however hard it might be, is beyond God's reach to bring hope from it. Just as the sun rises on a new day, the light of Jesus Christ rises upon us, driving away the darkness and bringing the life of God into our lives, families and communities. Easter invites us to turn and face the 'sun'.

If you are around, I hope that you will be able to attend the school's Easter service at St Simon and St Jude's Church on Tuesday 24th March at 10am. You are welcome to our Easter Day All-age service at church on Easter Day at 10.45am (and any of the services). Also, keep a look out as the churches in Earl Shilton get together for the walk of witness and service outside the Methodist Church on the morning of Good Friday. More details of this can be found on our website.

Finally, free to get in touch if you would like to chat with someone or would like prayer for a situation you are facing.

May God bless you,

Martin

www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Simon-St-Jude-Earl-Shilton

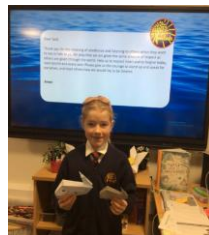
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Faith Ambassadors and Child-Led Worship

Our Faith Ambassadors have continued to meet weekly to plan a whole school collective worship to share in class. They have contributed a wide range of thoughtful ideas regarding the content they wished to include and carefully considered the most effective ways to encourage peer participation and ensure that the time spent together would be as meaningful and beneficial as possible.

The Faith Ambassadors have recently enjoyed sharing the Bible story about Jonah. They were so engaged with planning a quiz for their classmates and they thoughtfully considered the best way to spend time reflecting on the meaning of the story afterwards. The faith ambassadors chose to ask the class to create an origami whale by following a simple tutorial video, a take-away reminder for their peers about obedience and forgiveness. In class, children reflected on times when they can show forgiveness and kindness.



Minster Community

This year, Townlands have been completing a project created by the Diocese. This project involves all children to contribute thoughts, ideas and reflections about the Church. These reflections are answers to several questions. These questions included:

What would you love to find in the church of the future?

What are your hopes?

If you could ask God a question, what would you ask?

Have you got a prayer or a wish about our schools?

Where do you see love, peace, hope, faith and goodness in life these days?

In class, the children worked together to write down thoughtful answers including, "I see goodness in people being kind," and, "I see love in my friends and family."

All the answers and reflections have been placed together to complete a whole picture of the Church. This Church will be displayed in school.



Parent survey

Thank you to the parents and carers who answered the survey question "Where do you see things of joy or hope, prayer or faith at Townlands?" Answers included:

"As soon as you enter Townlands, you are greeted with prayers, displays and faith comments."

"As a parent, I see joy and hope at Townlands through the caring relationships between staff and pupils, the strong sense of community, and the school's focus on children's wellbeing."

"Through my child's learning."