



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 - Harvest

On Tuesday 7th October Year 2-6 took part in our Harvest Church Service at St Simon and St Jude's Church. The children sang harvest hymns with enthusiasm and celebrated the many gifts of harvest. The children spoke clearly and we reflected on the word, 'Thankful,' and how important it is to share with others at this time of year. Our food donations to Lawrence House in Hinckley were gratefully received and Reverend Castle gave us time to reflect upon how we can help others.



Remembrance Service

The School Council attended the local cenotaph to take part in a Remembrance ceremony on 11th November. They laid a wreath on behalf of the school, paying tribute to those who have served and sacrificed in times of war and conflict. The event was a thoughtful opportunity for reflection, and the council members represented the school with respect and sincerity.

Year 5/6SL led a thoughtful Remembrance assembly in school, sharing a poem, readings, and reflections to honour those who have served in times of conflict. Their assembly encouraged the school to pause and reflect on the importance of remembrance and the values of peace and gratitude.



Suggestions for Home Activities - Family Reflection

At home, you could help your child/children by discussing with them the importance of family and family time. This could include creating a family prayer/reflection jar or decorate a small box or envelope where family members can "post" their prayers or thoughts. Open it together at the end of the week to read and reflect.

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

EYFS

During the first few weeks of their school experience, the EYFS children have been learning about what R.E. stands for. They began considering how they themselves are special, and from there we asked which people and places they also consider special. The children have been introduced to the term "Christians" and have begun learning how churches are special places and when people may attend church even if they are not a Christian. Most children recognised the appearance of a traditional church from the outside, and they have started to discover the features found inside a church by creating their own using superb scissor skills.



Year One & Two

Year 1 and 2 have been exploring what Christians believe God is like. The children have been learning about parables and finding out that these are special stories with important messages. They listened to different parables and thought carefully about what the stories mean to Christians today, discussing how they teach people about kindness, forgiveness and love. The children learned that some Christians believe God is always with them, and that He is caring and forgiving. They explored how these stories teach important lessons about compassion, responsibility and second chances. The children used drama, artwork, and discussions to explore how Christian values connect to everyday life.



Year Three

Year 3 have been exploring the deeper meaning behind the concept of the Holy Trinity. Through the story of John the Baptist, they investigated the ceremony of baptism and its significance, including the role of Godparents. They made thoughtful connections with biblical texts and reflected on the symbolism of the Trinity. To express their understanding creatively, the children designed beautiful stained-glass windows, each representing their own interpretation of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Year Four

Year 4 have been learning about how different religions care for the world. They explored the 'Golden Rule' and discovered which religions follow this principle, as well as learning about Humanists, who choose to set their own moral guidelines. The children compared how various faiths aim to repair and improve the world in order to make it a better place.



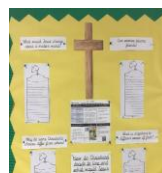
Year Five

Year 5 have been exploring the question: What does it mean that God is holy and loving? Through a range of engaging activities, pupils have investigated the vocabulary Christians use to describe God and discussed the meanings behind terms such as 'holy', 'loving', 'eternal', and 'just'. They have identified different types of biblical texts and explored how cathedrals reflect Christian beliefs about God's nature. The children also reflected on guidelines for living from both Christian and Humanist perspectives, before creating their own personal values for life.



Year Six

Year 6 have explored the questions, 'How do Christians decide how to live? What would Jesus do?' They have investigated how the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, such as The Wise and Foolish Builders, The Sermon on the Mount and Peter denying Jesus, might guide Christians on foundations for living. Their learning included studying artwork and discussing key themes, such as betrayal and forgiveness. Year 6 have also considered the role of prayer in Christian worship and how Christians might choose to help in the wider world to make it a better place.



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

It's been great to be in Townlands School over the last few weeks, leading collective worship and taking part in an afternoon where we were asking children to imagine what they would like the church to be like in 15 years' time. This will help shape the future of the church.

During that afternoon we remembered that St Simon and St Jude's Church is not just 'my' church as the vicar, but everyone's church. That means that everyone, young and old, is welcome whether you attend church regularly or have never done so.

As Christmas draws nearer, we would like to invite you to our Christingle Service on Sunday 14th December at 10.45am. During this service we each light a Christingle, which is a decorated orange with a candle in the top, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world, who overcomes the darkness. It is a beautiful service, and a time to pause in the busyness of the season and find some peace.



You are of course welcome to any of our services, which are on the church website. Finally, life can be tough so do feel 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

07759 002660

Whole School Friendship Day

Townlands held a special day which focused on celebrating friendship, which is one of our Christian values. Children from all year groups came together to take part in inclusive activities that encouraged kindness, teamwork, and respect. It was a joyful reminder that friendship is a gift from God and something we can all share every day in school.

In addition, every child was invited—alongside their families—to take part in a special project by decorating a ‘friendship stick’ to represent what friendship means to them. Each stick was unique, as children were encouraged to interpret the theme in their own way. Some chose bright colours to show joy, others added words or symbols that reflected kindness, trust, or shared experiences. The result was a beautiful and diverse display of how friendship is understood and celebrated across our school community.

Our friendship display showcases the learning both in school and at home, and stands as a lasting reminder of how friendship is valued and celebrated across our school community.



Faith Ambassadors and Child-Led Worship

As the academic year has begun, Townlands now have a new group of Faith Ambassadors who have volunteered to help their peers reflect more deeply on the meaning of faith and spirituality in today's world. Each Key Stage 2 class has selected a Faith Ambassador, chosen by their peers, to take on this important role and contribute positively to the life of the school.

During their lunchtime club sessions, the Faith Ambassadors have demonstrated their dedication to their new position by planning and preparing a special collective worship which they have shared with their class. The focus for this worship was the Hindu festival of Diwali. Overall, 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.

