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 Wednesday 29th April, 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. She shared a story about opening our eyes and seeing the world around us. The children were asked to observe beauty and colours in nature around them.




We enjoyed a second visit from Karen Berry on Wednesday 10th June. She brought her dog, Jack, along with her, who was feeling nervous about visiting Townlands. Karen shared a story about being afraid, reminding us of the importance of being brave and asking Jesus for help. We also reflected on the changes ahead as the academic year comes to an end, encouraging everyone to try their best to be courageous, even when they feel scared.

Child led worship




Year 3 led a thoughtful and confident collective worship based on the story of Sampson and Delilah. They retold the story clearly through speaking, actions, and reflections. Both classes worked together to plan the collective worship and encouraged the rest of the school to think about how our actions can affect ourselves and others.




Year 2's child-led collective worship told the Bible story of David and Goliath, teaching children that it's okay to be brave even if they are not big or strong.

Suggestions for Home Activities – Beautiful flowers

There are beautiful flowers in bloom around Earl Shilton. The volunteers at 'Earl Shilton in Bloom' have put together colourful floral arrangements around town. Go for a walk as a family and talk about what they look like and smell like. Talk about reasons why God made flowers. Discuss what flowers do for us, and that we are grateful for the flowers in the world. Together, you could make a piece of art inspirated by the flowers in Earl Shilton.




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

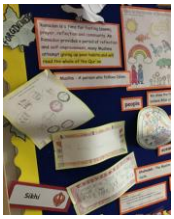
EYFS



During this half term, the children have been learning all about which places are special and why. So far, the children have explored their own special places, as well as discovering which places are special to Christians. They explored different photos of churches from around the world, focusing on how stained-glass windows make Churches special and sacred places. They've really enjoyed exploring how different places can be special to different people.

Year One & Two

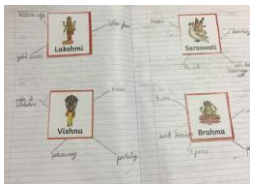




In RE this half term, Year 1 and 2 have been learning about the Muslim faith and exploring the importance of Allah. The children enjoyed discovering how Muslims celebrate special occasions such as Ramadan and Eid, learning about traditions including fasting, prayer, giving to others and spending time with family. The children also discovered the Holy Qur'an as a special book and learned about mosques as places where Muslims go to pray. It has been wonderful to see the children develop their understanding and appreciation of different beliefs and celebrations.

Year Three





Last term, Year 3 pupils have been learning about Hindu beliefs around God (Brahman) and the idea that God can be represented in many different forms. They explored how Hindus use images of different deities, such as Vishnu and Shiva, to help them understand the qualities of God. Through discussion and reflection, pupils developed an understanding of how these beliefs influence Hindu worship and daily life.

Year Four





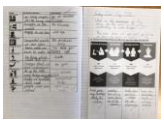
Year 4 began their learning journey by discussing and understanding the Five Pillars of Islam. They talked about what these are and how Muslims may choose to follow them. They also discussed the Qur'an and how this is a sacred and important text. They discussed the ritual of Islamic prayer. The children also observed the different prayer actions and how Muslims may feel when they pray. Next, they took a virtual tour of a mosque and considered the different features. They listened to the call to prayer and discussed the words used.

Year Five









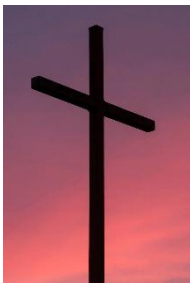
This term, Year 5 have enjoyed exploring Hinduism in RE, learning about key beliefs such as karma, dharma and the idea of life as a journey. They discussed how these beliefs influence the way Hindus live, encouraging kindness, responsibility and respect for others. The classes reflected on the story of the man in the well, making thoughtful links to Hindu teachings about choices and understanding life's deeper meaning. They also considered the global impact of Hindu beliefs and how ideas like karma shape actions and communities.

Year Six



This half-term, Year 6 have considered the question, 'creation and science: conflicting or complementary?' After studying the scientific theory of the Big Bang and evolution, alongside the Christian belief in the Creation, as told in Genesis 1, they raised 'big' questions about both viewpoints, showing deep and critical thinking. They explored the similarities and differences between them, and whether they complement or conflict each other. Year 6 concluded their learning by reflecting upon their own views and beliefs and shared these through words and pictures.

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



Summer has arrived and we've had some really hot weather. I hope that you are able to get a bit of a break from the usual routines over the coming weeks.

Shortly after half-term it was great to welcome Year 3 to St Simon and St Jude's Church for a visit. They explored the different areas of the church, looking at the beautiful stained-glass windows and other things that you only find in a church. Coming with a fresh eye, they helped me to look more closely at things that I take for granted. I find that is a great gift that children give to adults; their ability to see things in different way or ask questions that challenge us to think about why we do things a certain way.

We hope to do more class visits next year, but you don't have to wait until then. If your child(ren), or you, would like to visit the church you are always welcome to our services which take place on a Sunday morning at 10.45am. On the first Sunday of the month, we have an 'All-age' service which is particularly suited to children of primary school age.

Even if you simply wanted to pop in at around midday on a Sunday to have a look round after one of our services you would be very welcome, and to join us for refreshments which we serve after each service.

May you have a good and enjoyable summer.

God bless,

Martin Castle (Priest-in-charge)

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

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Faith Ambassadors and Child-Led Worship




Faith ambassadors across Key Stage 2 gather weekly at lunchtime to decide on the best way to share a specific worship, message or Bible story. Last half term they were given the Christian celebration of Pentecost. In the Bible it is shared that Jesus' disciples were waiting for 'a helper' who was promised by Jesus and that this helper arrived unexpected as the Holy Spirit. The disciples were given the gift of other languages to speak in order to share the gospel message with the multitudes who were in Jerusalem at the time.

Our Townland faith ambassadors chose to record themselves speaking in different languages saying various phrases they knew (but that others might not understand). They managed phrases in 8 languages and shared this with their classes in order to help their peers imagine themselves in Jerusalem surrounded by people speaking in different tongues. They then went on to unpick the importance of Pentecost for the Christian faith and how Jesus' message was shared far and wide.

Well done to the faith ambassadors for another thoughtfully planned and prepared collective worship and for their dedication to the role.

Minster Community

This year, Townlands have been completing a project created by the Diocese. This project invited all children and staff to share their thoughts, ideas, and reflections about the Church. It also involved staff working together to create a school storyboard. This storyboard celebrates the journey and history of Townlands and explores key questions about the Church.

- Who are we?
- Where have we come from?
- Where are we going?
- What are we doing now?
- (How) Can we see that God is with us?
- What do we hope for?
- What do we fear, or worry about?
- How could other people pray for us?



Year 3 Church Visit




Year 3 had a wonderful visit to our local church where they met Reverend Castle and explored the building together. The children learned about important Christian practices, including Holy Communion and baptism, and enjoyed seeing the baptismal font up close. They were especially fascinated by the beautiful stained-glass windows and the stories they tell. It was a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding in a fun and engaging way.



