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.

St Philip's Centre Religion and Belief Roadshow





St Philip's Centre visited Townlands and transformed the hall into a Religion and Belief Roadshow. The hall was a vibrant multi-faith marketplace where pupils could learn about a number of different faiths. We welcomed speakers from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Pagan, Jain and Bahá'í faiths. This immersive experience allowed the children to ask and answer questions about different beliefs, try on clothing and discuss different religious festivals. Our pupils showed respect when learning about different religions and they reflected on the importance of showing tolerance and understanding towards all faiths.





Suggestions for Home Activities – Dark nights and starry skies

It gets dark so early this time of year – the longest night and shortest day is 21st December. Cold nights can be very clear, so it's a good time to see the stars. It's a wonderful way to let children experience awe and wonder.

Why not go for a walk on a clear evening so you can look at the stars together? When there's no cloud, it's amazing what you can see in the sky at night.

These are some suggestions for explaining the night sky to your child:

- You could use books and the internet to learn which star is which and find the planets.
- There are far too many stars to count – try it with your child. The universe is bigger than we can possibly imagine, and we are so small – yet God still notices and loves each one of us.
- Tell or read the story of the wise men who followed a star to find the Christ child. You can find it in the Bible in the gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12.

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

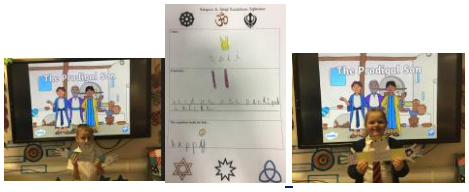
EYFS





In EYFS, the children have been thinking about the word 'belonging'. Starting at Townlands, the children have been learning what it means to be part of our school community. They have looked at the word 'special' and learnt about special places for Christians.

Year One



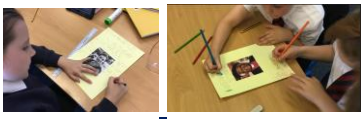
In RE this term, Year 1 have been exploring an important parable in Christianity, learning how its message teaches Christians about the importance of forgiveness. We have also been discovering what Christians believe God is like and how they express their love, thanks and praise to Him. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in a Religion and Belief Roadshow, where they had the opportunity to explore different religions and beliefs and learn more about the world around them.

Year Two



In RE this term, Year 2 have been learning about who Christians say made the world. We explored what a creator is and learned that many Christians believe God created the world. The children listened to and discussed the Creation story, thinking carefully about what it teaches Christians about God. We also learned about why Christians are thankful for the world and celebrated Harvest, reflecting on the many gifts that people are grateful for. The children enjoyed sharing their ideas and developing their understanding of Christian beliefs about creation and thankfulness.

Year Three and Four



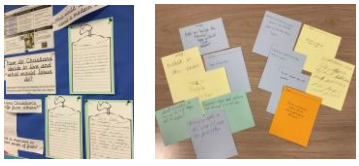
In RE, Year3/4 learnt about how people try to make the world a better place. We looked at Christians, Muslims, Jewish people and non-religious people to see how their beliefs guide their choices to improve the world. As part of this, we researched Rosa Parks and Desmond Tutu who overcame adversity to make important, long-lasting changes to the world. We made posters to celebrate their achievements. Finally, we reflected on our own choices and how we can try to make the world a better place.

Year Five



In R.E, Year 5 have been looking at the question 'What does it mean if God is holy and loving?'. We have looked at vocabulary such as omnibenevolent and omniscient and have understood that many Christians believe getting to know God is like getting to know a person rather than learning information. In our books, we designed stained glass windows to share qualities we have learned and how they can be represented in a place of worship.

Year Six



This half-term, 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



Christmas is coming round again and with it our own, and others' expectations for the festive season. It isn't always an easy time of the year, because that expectation can bring with it a mix of excitement, uncertainty, delight, fear and disappointment. It can be hard to manage our own expectations, let alone those of the whole family!

If you would like to take a pause and find some peace during all of this, then you are warmly invited to the following services at St Simon and St Jude's Church. They are services which all ages will enjoy.

Sunday 13th December at 10.45am – Christingle Service:
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.

Tuesday 15th December at 10am – Townlands School Christmas Service:
A school celebration of Christmas, led by the children.

Sunday 20th December at 6pm – Carol Service:
A traditional carol service with favourite carols and Bible readings.

Christmas Eve at 3pm – Crib Service:
Come and join us as we re-tell the Christmas story and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day at 10.45am – Christmas Morning All-age worship
A short half-hour celebration of Christmas on the day itself.
At Christmas we celebrate God coming, in the form of Jesus, to be with us in all of life's ups and downs. Do join us as we seek his peace and joy.

May God bless you,

Martin

For all our service and other information about the church see: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Simon-St-Jude-Earl-Shilton

If you would like to get in touch or chat about something, please contact me on 07759 002660.



Remembrance



Our School Council placed a wreath at the War Memorial in Earl Shilton.



Our Faith Ambassadors and speakers led collective worship on 11th November. They wrote prayers and shared the importance of Remembrance. Townlands sang the song 'Remember' and observed a two-minute silence with Mrs Whittaker playing 'The Last Post' on the trumpet.



Harvest



Years 2-6 really enjoyed celebrating Harvest at St Simon and St Jude's Church. The children spoke and sang beautifully. We expressed how thankful we are for our food and the people who provide it. We also considered others who are in need. Food was donated to Lawarence House and a local food bank.





Community Links – Karen Berry



Thank you to Karen Berry from Earl Shilton Methodist Church for leading collective worship. She shared the story of God creating the world and gave us the opportunity to reflect on how we should look after the planet.